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a.k.a www.butkus.org/chinon

MIRANDA dx-3

OWNERS' MANUAL

READ THOROUGHLY BEFORE USING YOUR CAMERA

THE STORY BEHIND YOUR MIRANDA dx-3

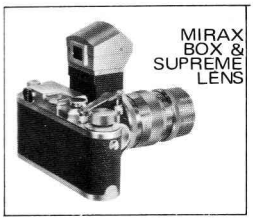
MIRANDA T'

In 1946 Miranda Camera Company, Ltd.'s predecessor firm was established in Tokyo. Initially it manufactured a limited line of photographic products, but most of its business was as a top notch service center for professional photographic equipment. The company continued to produce photographic accessories for 35mm rangefinder cameras, but in 1948 they very quietly began investigation and development of a revolutionary 35mm SLR. While this development continued, the company consistently made news with pioneering products such as an adapter which allowed owners of Leica type cameras to use Contax or Nikon lenses with it.

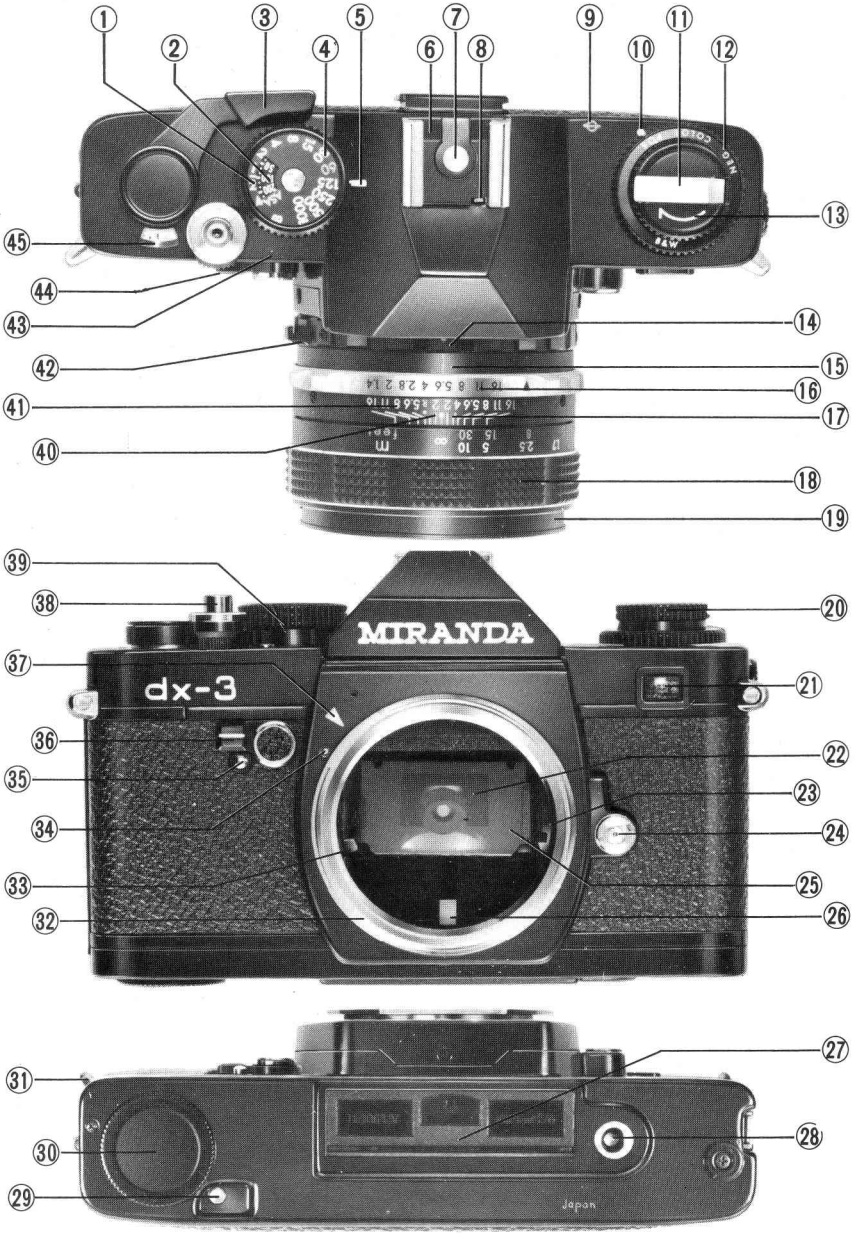
Probably the first product that earned the company a worldwide reputation was the revolutionary MIRAX mirror box with an interchangeable reflex waist-level viewfinder. This advanced product with its unique engineering gave owners of Leica, Canon, Contax, and Nikon 35mm rangefinder cameras a very versatile system with TTL viewing of an upright image. When the MIRAX box was put on the market in 1950 it was an immediate hit. Not to rest on its laurels, in 1952 the MIRAX box was made more versatile with the offering of a pentaprism viewfinder which could be interchanged with the waist-level finder. Surely this was a peek into the future. To further enhance this amazing invention a telephoto lens was designed to couple with it. This lens was marketed under the name SUPREME and offered a 105mm lens with a speed of f2.8 something quite unbelievable in 1951. With the introduction of a revolutionary bellows system, the FOCABELL, the owner of a 35mm rangefinder camera / MIRAX box / SUPREME lens / FOCABELL combination could now focus anywhere from ∞ to extreme macropositions. Shades of the modern SLR!


MIRAX BOX & FOCABELL

The world was unaware when Orion Camera Co. introduced the PHOENIX in 1953. Although only a few hand made samples were available, word spread like wildfire that a new type of camera had been born. The actual production model rolled off the assembly line shortly thereafter, and was marketed in 1954 as the model 'T'. Instead of Phoenix the name MIRANDA was emblazoned on the viewfinder. The MIRANDA T was the pioneer of a new breed of camera, a 35mm SLR with a built-in mirror housing and upright image pentaprism. It was the first modern Japanese SLR camera as we know it today.


MIRAX BOX & SUPREME LENS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



MIRANDA dx-3
CAMERA NOMENCLATURE

1. FILM SPEED INDEX
2. FILM SPEED DIAL (ASA OR DIN)
3. FILM ADVANCE LEVER
4. SHUTTER SPEED DIAL
5. SHUTTER SPEED INDICATOR
6. ACCESSORY SHOE
7. HOT SHOE CONTACT
8. ACCESSORY STOPPER (W/LED CUT-OFF SWITCH)
9. FILM PLANE INDEX
10. FILM MEMORY INDICATOR
11. FILM REWIND CRANK
12. FILM MEMORY DIAL
13. REWIND DIRECTION ARROW
14. LENS POSITIONING MARK
15. APERTURE INDICATOR
16. APERTURE SCALE
17. DISTANCE INDICATOR
18. FOCUSING RING
19. MIRANDA AUTO EC LENS
20. FILM REWIND KNOB
21. SELF-TIMER OPERATING INDICATOR
22. EXPOSURE SENSING AREA
23. F/NUMBER ADJUSTMENT LEVER
24. X/FP FLASH TERMINAL
25. QUICK-RETURN MIRROR
26. DIAPHRAGM CONTROLLER
27. QUICK-CHANGE BATTERY CHAMBER
28. TRIPOD SOCKET (W/DC MOTOR DRIVE CONTACT)
29. FILM REWIND RELEASE BUTTON
30. MOTOR DRIVE ATTACHMENT CAP
31. NECKSTRAP EYELET
32. BAYONET MOUNT (W/44ϕ MM SCREW MOUNT)
33. MAXIMUM APERTURE LEVER
34. F/STOP PIN
35. SELF-TIMER SETTING BUTTON
36. SELF-TIMER LEVER
37. LENS POSITIONING ARROW
38. SHUTTER RELEASE BUTTON (W/INSIDE SCREW SOCKET)
39. FILM SPEED SETTING RING
40. INFRARED DISTANCE INDICATOR
41. DEPTH OF FIELD SCALE
42. LENS RELEASE LEVER
43. SHUTTER RELEASE LOCK MARK
44. SHUTTER RELEASE LOCK
45. AUTOMATIC FILM FRAME COUNTER

MIRANDA dx-3

How to...and Where

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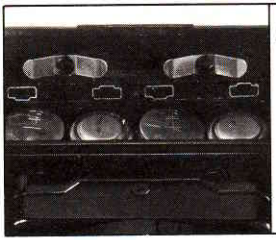
CONGRATULATIONS on purchasing the world's first electronically controlled compact 35mm SLR camera, the Miranda dx-3. World renowned, Miranda Camera Co., Ltd., has always striven to produce the camera systems that photographers want and trust. Truly an advanced camera designed with the most up-to-date space age technology, the Miranda dx-3 offers you an expansive system of accessories that will never fail to expand your photographic horizons. Carefully read and study this owners' manual, and then go out and experiment. The outstanding features of the compact dx-3 especially its amazing QIS (pat. pend.) rangefinder, ease in handling, quick and easy metering, LED readout, and large color-coded markings will constantly reaffirm your wise choice in purchasing the Miranda dx-3 system. One without equal.

Through proper care and handling, your camera will provide you with many years of photographic pleasure. Should any questions or problems arise, we urge you to first consult your local Miranda dealer for quick response and service, the distributor, and then, if necessary, Miranda Camera Co., Ltd. at the address on the rear of this manual.

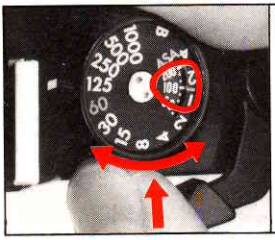
OPERATING THE MIRANDA dx-3 IS AS SIMPLE AS A·B·C.....



A

Load the batteries.

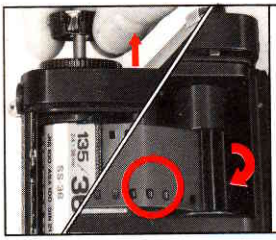
(See page 8)



B

Set the film speed.

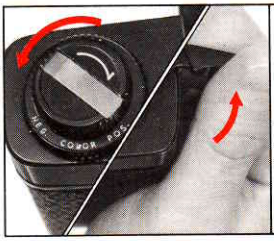
(See page 9)



C

Load the film.

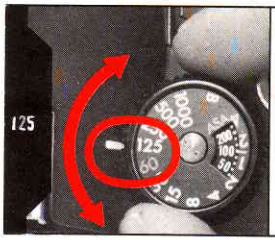
(See page 10 & 11)



D

Advance the film to cock the shutter.

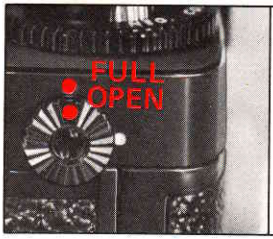
(See page 11)



E

Determine and set the shutter speed.

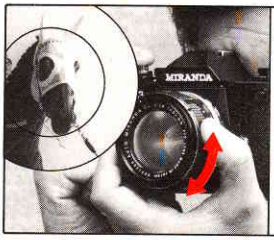
(See page 12)



F

Select the light metering mode.

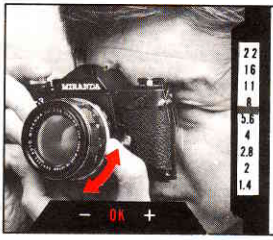
(See page 18)



G

Compose the picture and focus.

(See page 20 & 21)



H

Adjust the diaphragm for correct exposure.

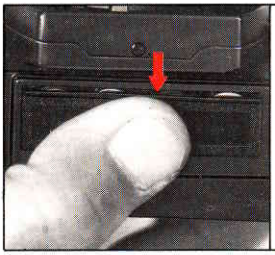
(See pages 18, 19, 22 & 23)

I

Release the shutter.

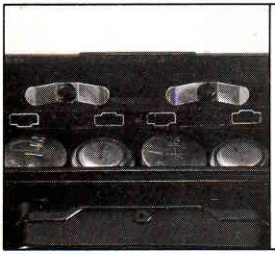
(See page 13)

LOADING THE BATTERIES



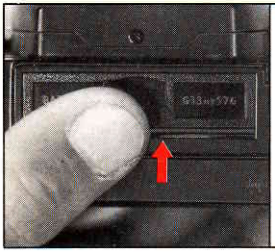
A 1

To open the QUICK-CHANGE BATTERY CHAMBER (27) press down and back, in the direction of the arrow molded into the chamber cover.



A 2

Insert four 1.5 volt silver oxide batteries (Eveready S76, Mallory MS 76, or equivalent) into the chamber in the direction shown on the cover. MAKE SURE THE BATTERIES ARE INSERTED PROPERLY.



A 3

To close the QUICK-CHANGE BATTERY CHAMBER (27) press down and forward on the cover until it clicks shut.

A 4

One set of batteries (four) is supplied in a special plastic case with the camera. DO NOT discard this plastic case. There is a specially designed pouch built into the camera case to hold this plastic battery case.

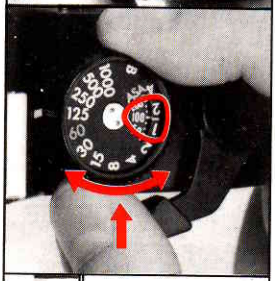
It is suggested that you purchase an extra set of batteries, put them into the empty plastic case, and store them in the camera case pouch.

NOTE: The LED's act as a battery check. When they do not light it is time to replace the batteries.

SETTING THE FILM SPEED

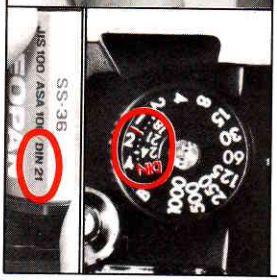
B1

Check the film speed (ASA or DIN) recorded on the 35mm film cassette.



B2

Lift the FILM SPEED SETTING RING (39) up, and rotate it until .....

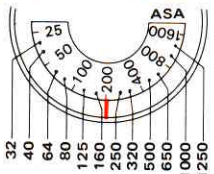


B3

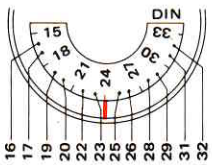
the orange FILM SPEED INDEX (1) is lined up with the ASA or DIN number you read on the film cassette.

FILM SPEED EQUIVALENTS

ASA FILM SPEED DIAL SETTING

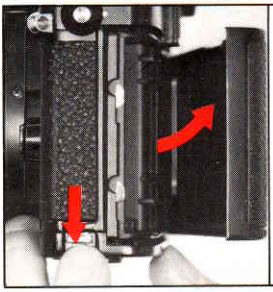


DIN FILM SPEED DIAL SETTING



ASA & BSA	German DIN	European Scheiner	Gost	Weston
25	15/10	26	22	20
32	16/10	27	32	24
40	17/10	28	32	32
50	18/10	29	45	40
64	19/10	30	65	50
80	20/10	31	65	64
100	21/10	32	90	80
125	22/10	33	130	100
160	23/10	34	130	125
200	24/10	35	180	160
250	25/10	36	250	200
320	26/10	37	250	250
400	27/10	38	350	320
500	28/10	39	500	400
650	29/10	40	500	500
800	30/10	41	700	650
1000	31/10	42	1000	800
1250	32/10	43	1000	1000
1600	33/10	44	1500	1250

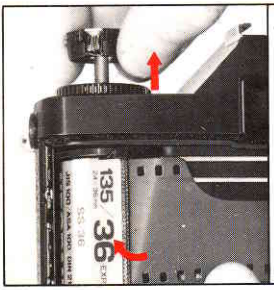
LOADING AND WINDING THE FILM



C1

ONLY load or unload film in the shade, never in the sunlight.

To open the back cover, pull the BACK COVER LOCK LEVER (51) down. The back cover will automatically swing open and the film counter will return to the starting position 'S'.

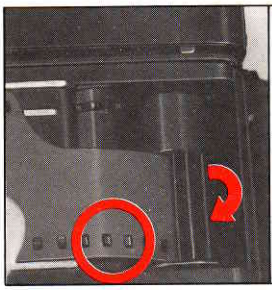


C2

Lift the FILM REWIND KNOB (20) all the way up, and then insert the film cassette into the FILM CASSETTE CHAMBER (63) as shown at left.

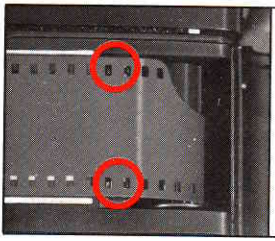
C3

Push the FILM REWIND KNOB (20) all the way down to its original position. If it doesn't go down, rotate it a little left or right. The film cassette is now engaged by the FILM REWIND SHAFT (64).



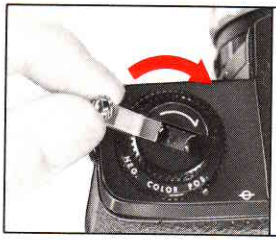
C4

Insert the film leader into one of the slits in the RAPID LOAD TAKE-UP SPOOL (55). Make sure the SPROCKET WHEEL (56) engages one of the perforations in the film leader.



C5

Using the FILM ADVANCE LEVER (3), advance the film to check that both top and bottom film perforations are engaged by the SPROCKET WHEEL (56). Snap the back cover closed.



C6

Turn the FILM REWIND CRANK (11) clockwise (in the direction of the engraved arrow) until all the slack in the film cassette is taken up. This occurs when there is resistance to further turning of the crank.

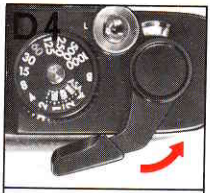
D1

Wind the FILM ADVANCE LEVER (3). When it is being operated, the FILM REWIND KNOB (20) should turn in a direction opposite the engraved arrow indicating that the film is moving properly.

D2

Wind the FILM ADVANCE LEVER (3) and release the shutter until the pointer in the FILM COUNTER (45) is aligned with '1'. You are now ready for taking the first photo.

Lock Position

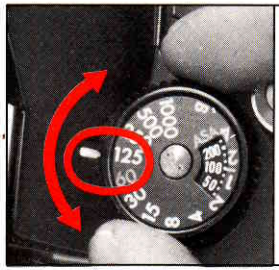


Start Position

Incompletely Wound

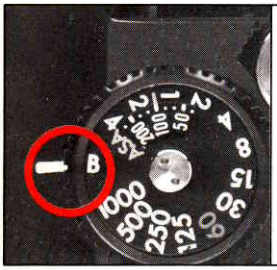
Shutter Cocked

SETTING THE SHUTTER SPEED



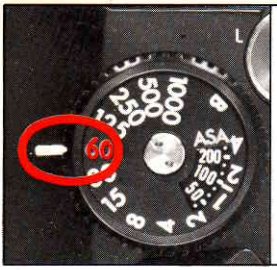
E1

Rotate the FILM SPEED SETTING RING (39) until the desired shutter speed on the SHUTTER SPEED DIAL (4) lines up with the SHUTTER SPEED INDICATOR (5). Note that the speeds are in fractions of a second .... 1/2, 1/4, 1/8, etc. except for the yellow 2 and 4 seconds. The RING click stops in both directions, but goes only as far as 'B' one way, and '1000' the other way.



E2

The 'B' or bulb setting allows you to keep the shutter open as long as you keep the SHUTTER RELEASE BUTTON (38) depressed. Your camera should be mounted on a tripod when long exposures, 1/15 sec. or longer, are used. A cable release should also be used to avoid shaking the camera.



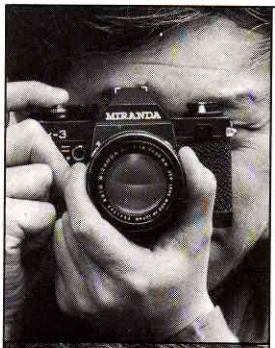
E3

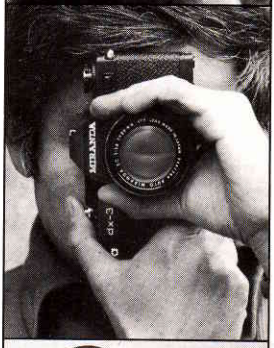
Set the SHUTTER SPEED DIAL (4) at 1/60 second for synchronization with electronic flash units. See page 25 for further instructions.

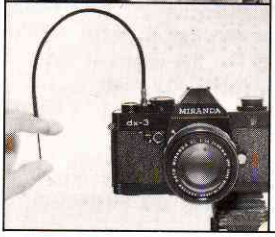
Turn the FILM MEMORY DIAL (12) until the type of film lines up with the FILM MEMORY INDICATOR (10).

B&W – black and white film
Neg. – color negative film (color prints)
Pos. – color reversal film (35mm slides)

HOLDING THE CAMERA



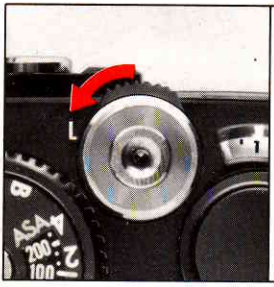




I 1

To avoid blurred photos the camera must be held firmly. The sharpest pictures can be taken only when the camera does not move while the shutter is released.

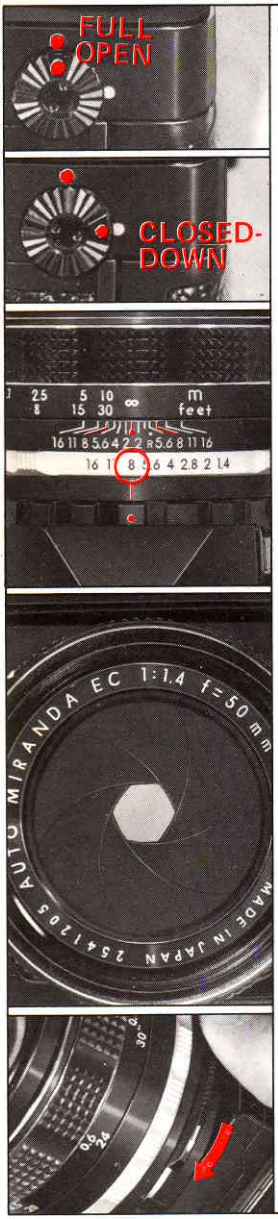
- Firmly hold the camera with both hands.
- When the camera is utilized in a horizontal position, comfortably brace your elbows against your body. Rest the camera on your extended right thumb. Take a deep breath, and release half. Then while holding in the rest, smoothly depress the SHUTTER RELEASE BUTTON (38) with the tip of your right index finger. The camera is further steadied by pushing the camera in towards your nose with the last three fingers of the right hand. Your left hand should serve to focus and support the lens barrel.
- When the camera is held vertically your right hand is essentially in the same position with the elbow braced against the body. The left hand should either function as above or grasp the end of the camera gently pulling in.
- The camera should be mounted on a tripod and a cable release used when taking pictures with a telephoto lens and/or at slow speeds (1/15 second or slower). It is also recommended for microphotography.



I 2

If you don't want to take a picture after cocking the shutter, turn the SHUTTER RELEASE LOCK (44) until it covers the SHUTTER RELEASE LOCK MARK (43). This prevents accidental release of the shutter. After finishing with the camera set the LOCK so any pressure on the SHUTTER RELEASE BUTTON (38) will not cause the LED's to light and thereby drain the batteries. Do not keep the SHUTTER cocked for any great length of time.

PREVIEWING DEPTH OF FIELD



G1

The Miranda dx-3 offers both full open and closed-down metering. When using the dx-3 in its closed-down mode you will preview the depth of field while you are determining the proper exposure. In the full-open mode, previewing depth of field, and determining the proper exposure are done independently.

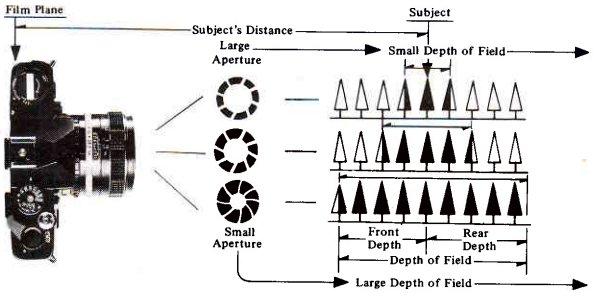
Provision for DEPTH OF FIELD PREVIEW is made on the lens, not on the camera body. For this reason the method for previewing the depth of field will vary with the lens mounted on the camera.

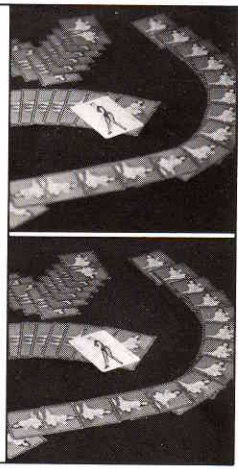
Miranda Auto EC lenses have a PREVIEW LEVER (50) on the lower left, next to the X/FP FLASH TERMINAL (24) when mounted on the dx-3. Each Miranda Auto EC lens also features a DEPTH OF FIELD SCALE (41) on the top of the lens. To read the approximate depth of field, note the aperture number indicated on the APERTURE RING (67). The same numbers to the left and right on the DEPTH OF FIELD SCALE (46) point to the depth indicated on the DISTANCE SCALE (69).

For example: On the Miranda Auto EC 50mm f/1.4 lens as shown at left; when the aperture is at f/8 and the subject is at 5 meters (16.25 ft), the depth of field extends from approximately 4 meters (13 feet) to 10 meters (32.5 feet).

To visually see the depth of field, stop the aperture down (close the diaphragm) by sliding the PREVIEW LEVER (52) downward.

DEPTH OF FIELD: APERTURE VISUALLY



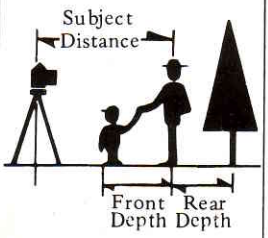


G2

Very frequently the composition of a picture can be enhanced by having the main subject in sharp focus while the surrounding objects in the scene are soft and out of focus. This will de-emphasize distracting background objects, and concentrate the viewer's attention on the principle subject.

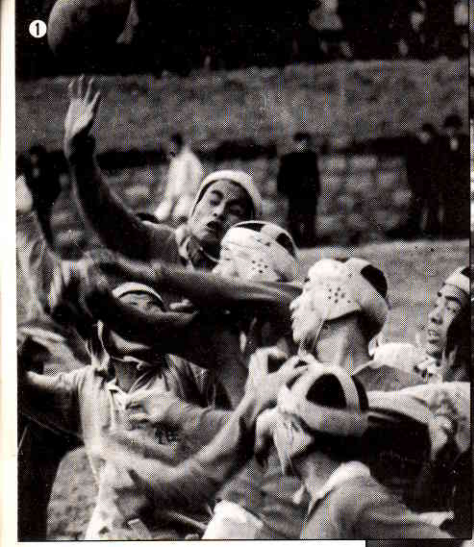
Three factors determine depth of field:

DEPTH OF FIELD	← APERTURE +	SUBJECT DISTANCE +	FOCAL LENGTH OF LENS
small	large	near	long
large	small	far	short



G3

DEPTH OF FIELD is the zone of diminishing, but still acceptable, sharpness in front of and behind the image plane on which the lens is focused. Usually the front depth is smaller than the rear depth.



EXPERIMENT WITH YOUR MIRANDA dx-3

① High-speed Action Shots With A Telephoto
② Evening Long Exposure ③ Macrophotos
④ Silhouette By Under Exposing Backlit Subjects
⑤ Aim The Sensing Area High For Drama.

MIRANDA dx-3
TECHNICAL DATA

CAMERA TYPE
Compact 35mm single-lens reflex (SLR) camera with electronically controlled focal plane shutter, TTL meter, and IC-LED circuitry.

FILM FORMAT
35mm—24 x 36mm, 43.3mm film frame diagonal.

STANDARD LENSES
Miranda Auto EC 50mm/f 1.8 or f 1.4, 46° Angle of View.

SHUTTER
Electronically controlled rubberized cloth blind focal plane shutter with speeds from 4 to 1/1000 second and B. Top shutter release button with cable release remote control socket. 8 second delay self-timer with flashing indicator. Built-in provision for motor drive — 20/30/bulk exposure.

VIEWFINDER SYSTEM
Bright, full display viewfinder which displays focus, aperture readout shutter speed, and LED exposure indicators. Three IC controlled LED's (OK, +, —) which read when shutter release button is partially depressed. Fixed pentaprism with 0.83x image magnification when using 50mm lens at ∞. 94% field of view.

EXPOSURE METER SYSTEM
TTL, zone (lower center-weighted) light measuring at open or closed-down aperture, CdS cell built into mirror assembly, IC circuitry comparator cross-coupled to shutter speed/aperture/film speed controls, readout by LED's, meter system activates by depressing the shutter release button. Light measuring range EV 2-18 (ASA 100), ASA: 25-1600, DIN: 15-33, Apertures: f 1.4 to f 22.

FOCUSING SYSTEM
Rapid, unique QIS (Quadrascopic Image System) rangefinder combining 360 degree multimicroprism split-image center with ground glass ring, and matte Fresnel field.

LENS INTERCHANGEABILITY
Accepts all Miranda lenses. Dual Miranda mount: four-claw bayonet, and inside 44mm φ screw mount.

FLASH SYNCHRONIZATION
Single flash terminal on front for PC cord accessory shoe w/hot shoe on top, X synchronization at 1/60 sec. or slower, FP at 1/125 sec. or faster.

FILM ADVANCE/COUNT SYSTEM
Rapid-load spool, auto-resetting advance counter, single stroke 185° film advance lever, plastic tipped.

DIMENSIONS
134.6 x 89 x 86 mm (w/50mm f1.8 lens)
5-1/4 x 3-1/2 x 3-1/3 inches.

WEIGHT
800 grams (w/50mm f 1.8 lens) 28.2 ounces.

POWER SOURCE
Four 1.5V silver oxide batteries (Mallory MS 76, Eveready S76)

* Specifications in this manual are subject to change without notice due to ongoing technological advances.