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PRAKTICA nova i



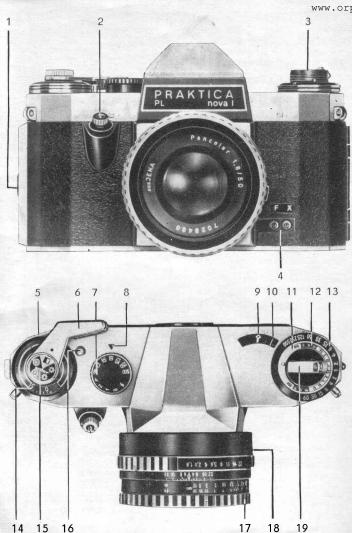
PRAKTICA nova l

KOMBINAT VEB PENTACON DRESDEN

Deutsche Demokratische Republik

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE





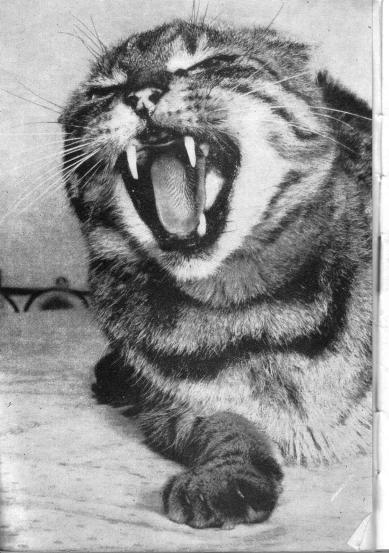
Controls of the PRAKTICA nova I

- 1 Latch for camera back
- 2 Shutter release
- 3 Rewind knob
- 4 Flash socket
- Camera back
- Cocking lever
- 7 Setting knob for shutter speeds
- 8 Speed marking index (red triangle)

C

re

- 9 Follow pointer
- 10 Meter needle
- 11 Stop value dial
- 12 Window
- 13 Setting ring for follow pointer
- 14 Exposure counter
- 15 Film type reminder dial
- 16 Rewind release knob
- 17 Distance setting ring
- 18 Manual stop down lever
- 19 Rewind crank
- 20 Carrier catch
- 21 Transport sprocket
- 22 Take-up spool
- 23 Supporting piece
- 24 Marking point



While congratulating you on having acquired a PRAKTICA nova I we, at the same time, request you to treat your camera kindly. Please take your time and read these Instructions for Use carefully. Although of very rigid construction, the PRAKTICA nova I/ nova I B is, nevertheless, a mechanical-optical precision instrument. Handled carefully, your camera will reward you, even when subjected to rigorous conditions, by giving you beautiful pictures.

On the inside cover pages you will find specified illustrations. The reference numbers given in the text are printed in parentheses.

Special features of the PRAKTICA nova I

- The PRAKTICA nova I is a single-lens reflex camera for the 24 x 36 mm picture format.
- Prism viewfinder with bright, unreversed, and parallax-free finder image which, through the instant return mirror, is permanently visible and blacked out only for the short moment of exposing.
- Fresnel lens with two different methods of focusing.
 Warning signal in viewfinder.
- Conveniently placed rapid wind lever, smoothly working, obliquely mounted finger tip shutter release with locking device against inadvertent tripping.
 Shutter wind and film transport are coupled and locked against double exposures and blanks

- Focal-plane shutter for speeds from 1 sec. to ¹/₅₀₀ sec. and B.
- Non-rotating shutter-speed setting knob with click stops.
- Synchronization for bulbs and electronic flash.
- Hinged camera back. Automatic exposure counter. Swing-out rewind crank. Self-locking rewind release knob.
- Interchangeable lenses with focal lengths from 20 mm to 1000 mm with PRAKTICA fitting, mostly equipped with automatic pressure diaphragm — APD. Wide range of accessories for special activities,
- Subsequent model developed from the PRAKTICA nova I is the PRAKTICA nova I B with built-in photoelectric exposure meter.

Abridged Instructions and Contents

Full particulars

A Open camera back

Page 8

Inserting the film: Pull out rewind knob (3) as far as it will go. Place full cartridge into cartridge chamber. Push rewind knob in again. Push lower perforation of film from above underneath the little support (23) over the transport sprocket (21), place beginning of film strip on to the core of take-up spool (22) as far as marking point (24). Wire bracket of take-up spool must not stand upward.

Page 8

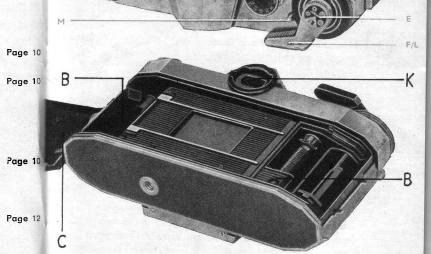
- C Close camera back
- Setting speed of film:

 (Only on PRAKTICA nova I B)

 Set film speed by means of stop value dial (11) in window (12).
- Setting type of film:

 Rotate film type reminder dial (15) until symbol required meets the red dot.
- Preparing for the exposure:

 Actuate shutter release (2) and cocking lever (6)
 until exposure counter (14) stands on number 1.



Abridged Instructions and Contents

Full particulars

Full particulars

Finding and setting the shutter speed:

Releasing and cocking the shutter:

Page 28

Rotate speed setting knob (7) until the desired speed number coincides with red triangle (8).

Actuate shutter release (2). Red signal in viewfinder indicates that shutter has to be cocked. Swing cocking lever (6) around as far as it will go.

After the last exposure, depress rewind release

knob (16). Swing out rewind crank (19) on rewind

Finding and setting the aperture:

Page 20

Changing the film:

Page 30

Rotate diaphragm setting ring on lens mount until the desired numeral meets the red mark.

knob (3). Rewind film in direction of arrow. Open camera back (5). Remove cartridge from camera.

Measuring the exposure time:

Page 20

(Only on PRAKTICA nova I B) Direct camera towards object. Rotate setting ring (13) for follow pointer until pointer (9) coincides with meter needle (10). Read the appropriate aperture / shutter speed value and adjust speed setting knob (7) and aperture setting ring on lens mount accordingly.

Exchanging lenses

Page 32

Flash exposures

Page 38

Maintenance of camera and lens

Page 40

Page 40

Focusing:

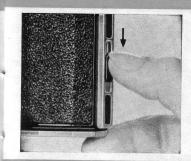
Rotate distance setting ring (17) until the two part images in the rangefinder lens meet, or the image in the circular micro-prism screen is perfectly sharp.

Please also read the complete Instructions for Use!

A

Opening the camera back

Push latch (1) for camera back in direction of arrow. Open camera back (5). Exposure counter (14) jumps automatically to zero.



В

Inserting the film

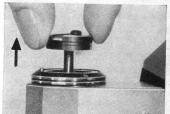
The PRAKTICA nova I accepts all commercially available types of perforated 35 mm film in standard cartridges. The cartridges with perforated 35 mm film yield 36 or 20 exposures in the 24×36 mm picture format — either on black-and-white film, on color negative film for color prints, or on color reversal film for color transparencies. The cartridges are light tight. Nevertheless, we would advise you not to insert or exchange films in direct sunlight — the shade given by your own body will suffice.

Pull out rewind knob (3) as far as it will go.

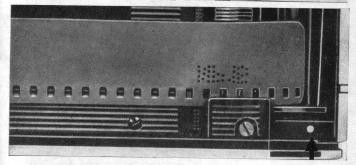
Insert cartridge into cartridge chamber and push rewind knob (3) with slight backward and forward movements right back into the camera.

Push lower perforation of film from above underneath the little support (23) over the transport sprocket (21), place beginning of film strip on to the core of take-up spool (22) as far as marking point (24).

Wire holder of take-up spool must not stand upwards!



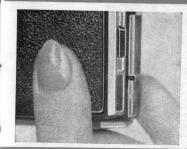






Closing the camera back

Close camera back (5) and press it on tightly (it locks automatically).





Setting speed of film

(Only on PRAKTICA nova I B)

Rotate stop value dial (11) until the film speed stands against the mark in window (12).

15 DIN, 25 ASA 27 DIN, 400 ASA

In the PRACTICA noval, the stop value dial (11) operates as a film speed indicator. The DIN or ASA value on the film reminder dial (speed of the film in the camera) has to be set against one of the figures, 12, 20 or 36 (number of frames on the film strip in the camera).





Setting type of film

Film type setting dial (15) is to remind you which kind of film you have inserted into your camera. The symbol corresponding to your film is set against the red marking point. You will thus always know on which film you are taking your pictures.

- 1 Black-andwhite film
- 2 Color reversal film for daylight
- 3 Color reversal film artificial light
- 4 Color negative film for daylight
 - 5 Color negative film artificial light

















Preparing for the exposure

Swing cocking lever (6) around as far as it will go and let it glide back.

(Move cocking lever only in winding direction. Forced movement in opposite direction will cause damage!) Actuate shutter release (2).

The shutter release (2) is provided with a locking device to avoid inadvertent tripping. The release mechanism is locked when the red dots on the knob and on the outer ring meet. The mechanism is unlocked by rotation of the knob through 90 degrees.

To show that the film has been inserted correctly and is being transported accordingly, the rewind knob must rotate in the opposite direction of the arrow while the shutter is being cocked.

Cock shutter and release it a second time and then cock it again. The automatic exposure counter (14) now stands on number 1.

Special setting of the exposure counter is not necessary; it starts working automatically when the camera back is closed.

Attention!

Be careful when cocking the shutter not to depress rewind release knob (16); this would cause overlapping of frames.

The coupling of shutter wind and film transport eliminates double exposures and blanks.

After the exposure, a red signal appears in the upper left-hand corner of the viewfinder. This means that cocking lever (6) has to be actuated to make the camera ready for the next picture. The signal disappears when the shutter is cocked.



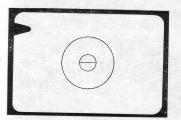




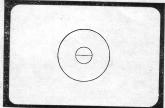




Releasing of shutter possible



Releasing of shutter not possible! Camera ready for exposing Actuate cocking lever





When taking your picture we would advise you to hold your PRAKTICA nova as shown in the illustrations. The camera can, of course be held in a different position — but it must lie firmly in both hands and you must be able to actuate the shutter release comfortably.







G

Finding and setting the shutter speed

Determine shutter speed and aperture with the aid of a photoelectric exposure meter or an exposure table. Set the speed by turning knob (7) and move the lens ring to the desired diaphragm numeral.

For PRAKTICA nova I B: Direct camera towards the object. Rotate setting ring (13) for follow pointer until pointer (9) coincides with meter needle (10).

The speed values on the setting ring stand opposite the diaphragm numerals on the stop value disk (11). The speed values are combined into groups and marked by colors.

Red numbers mean longer exposure time (use a tripod)

White numbers mean short exposure time

They correspond in color to the values on the scale of speed setting knob (7).

Green numbers mean exposure time in full seconds.

These are not marked on the scale of speed setting knob (7).

At the "B" setting, time the exposure by the second-hand of a watch. Read the most suitable aperture / shutter speed combination and set the values on speed setting knob (7) and aperture lens ring accordingly.

Setting the exposure speed: Rotate speed setting knob (7) until the desired speed numeral stands against marking point (8).

White numbers = short exposure time $30 = \frac{1}{30}$ sec., $60 = \frac{1}{60}$ sec., $125 = \frac{1}{125}$ sec., $250 = \frac{1}{250}$ sec., $500 = \frac{1}{500}$ sec.

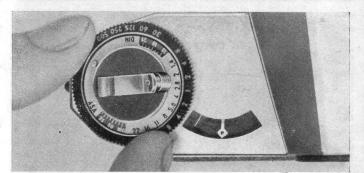
Red numbers = long exposure time

B,
$$1 = 1$$
 sec., $2 = \frac{1}{2}$ sec., $4 = \frac{1}{4}$ sec.,

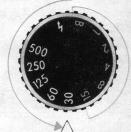
$$8 = \frac{1}{8}$$
 sec., $15 = \frac{1}{15}$ sec.

The speeds are graduated so that each figure indicates double, or one half of the speed marked by the next figure on the scale.

The exposure speeds can be set either before or after the shutter has been cocked.





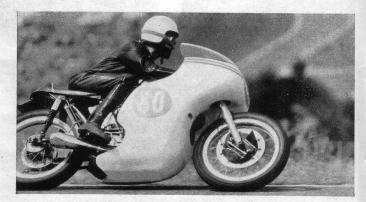








Long time exposure made on a tripod. Shutter speed setting B, exposure time about 4 secands, f/8 aperture.



Subject displaying especially fast movements. Shutter speed $^{1}/_{500}$ sec., aperture f/4.



Snapshot at a speed of $\frac{1}{125}$ sec., aperture f/5.6.



Finding and setting the aperture

On the modern lenses with automatic pressure diaphragm in the PRAKTICA nova I/nova I B the desired aperture numeral need only to be clicked in on the aperture setting ring.

The diaphragm closes down automatically when the shutter release is depressed.

Most lenses can be stopped down before the exposure by a manually operable lever (18) to the preselected value to check the depth of field.

Attention!

When using lenses with pre-set diaphragm please note special reference made in Section N — "Exchanging Lenses".

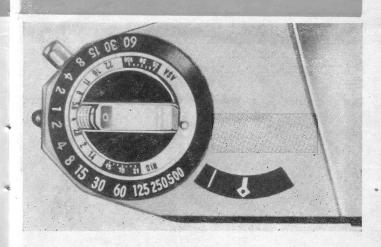


Measuring the exposure time

To find the correct exposure time it usually suffices to direct the PRAKTICA nova I B from its taking position towards the subject. Then rotate setting ring (13) for the follow pointer until the pointer (9) coincides with meter needle (10). Read the most suitable aperture/shutter speed combination on setting ring (13) and adjust speed setting knob (7) and aperture setting ring on lens mount accordingly.

This method of measuring may be applied to all average scenes not showing excessive light contrasts.





In some cases this method of measuring the subject has to be command rected by taking "close-up measurement", as for instance:

- + with light subjects in front of a dark background, and vice versa
- + and essentially in portraiture and persons in general

For close-up measurement, approach your subject quite closely so as to measure only the important parts of the scene. Make sure that neither the shadow of your body nor the shadow of the camera covers the parts to be measured.





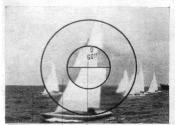




Focusing

To brighten up the finder image, the prism viewfinder of the PRAKTICA nova I/nova I B is provided with a Fresnel lens. This Fresnel lens is not to be used for focusing.

There are two different systems for determining image sharpness:



Fresnel lens Rangefinder lens



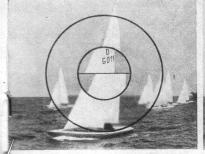
Fresnel lens Circular groundglass Micro-prism screen area

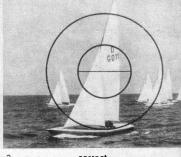
Focusing on the rangefinder screen

The rangefinder screen is used when the subject shows distinct upright lines in the horizontal or horizontal lines in the vertical format. On rotation of distance setting ring (17) the upright lines in the horizontal image will move to the left or right (as shown in example 1).

In the vertical image the horizontal lines move up or down. When the two part images meet precisely at the line of intersection the lens is in correct focus (as shown in example 2).

Also lenses without automatic diaphragm release must be opened to full aperture for focusing (diaphragm numeral not greater than 5.6), otherwise the rangefinder area would be partially or totally obscured.





incorrect 2 correct

Focusing on the micro-prism screen

The image is out of focus if it looks fuzzy or crumbles into screen elements (as shown in example 3).

Correct focusing is achieved as soon as the image in the microprism screen appears distinct and free from fuzziness (as shown in example 4).

Focusing is extremely reliable owing to the rather quick transition from unsharpness to sharpness and vice versa. It is advisable also in this case to work with the lens opened to a wider aperture.



incorrect



Focusing on the circular ground-glass area

The ground-glass area encircling the rangefinder lens or the microprism screen may be used for focusing on subjects not having significant lines characteristic for rangefinder focusing.

The circular ground-glass area is applicable also in the field of macrophotography. This part of the viewfinder can be used in combination with a small lens aperture (large diaphragm numeral) or in case of greater scales of reproduction as, for instance, in close up or macro work. The remaining section of the viewfinder (Fresnel lens) is not meant for focusing.

