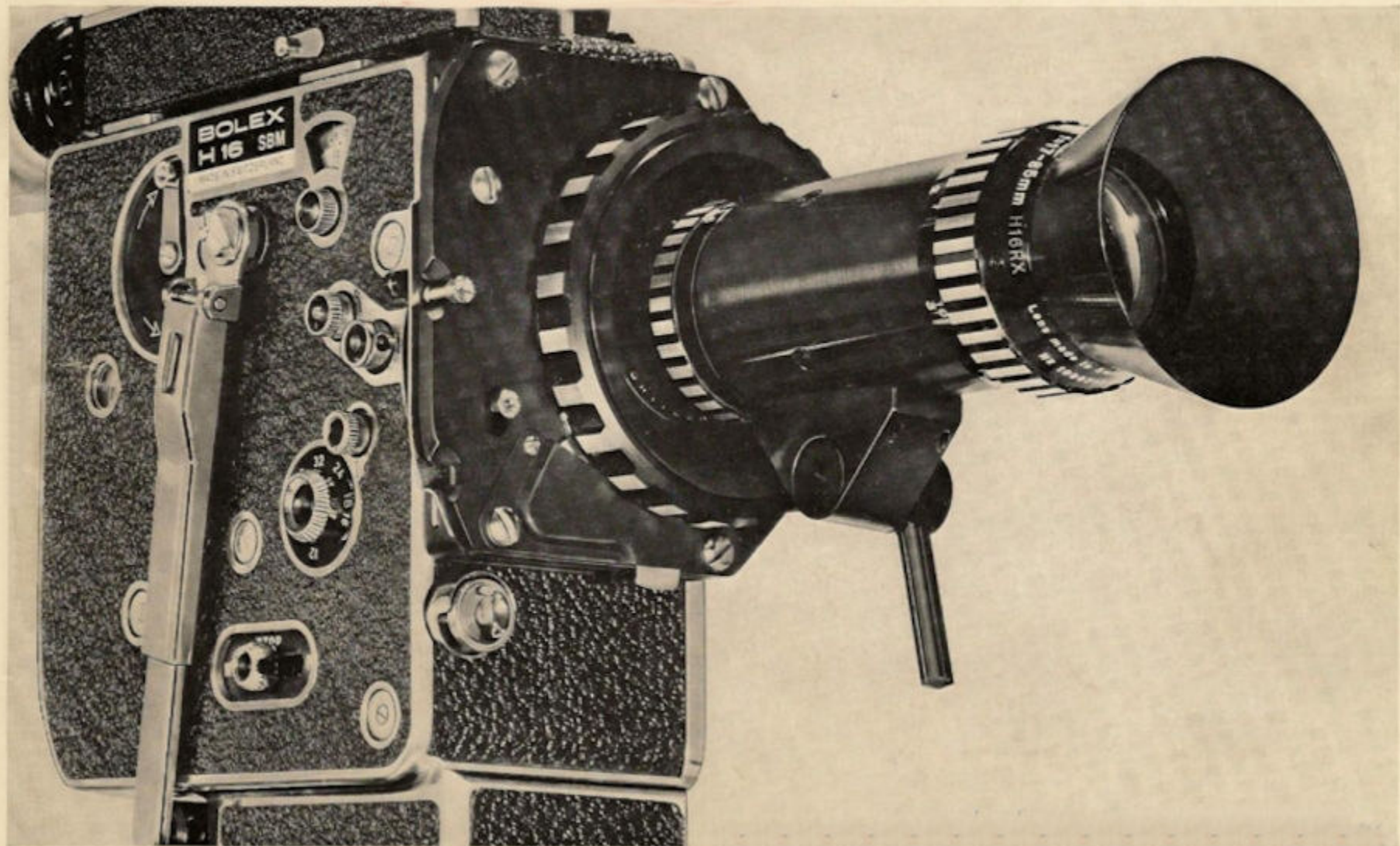


Instruction manual

# BOLEX

H 16 SB/SBM



Your motion picture camera is supplied with:

- 1 filter-holder on the camera
- 1 set of 3 filter-holders
- 4 gelatin filters
- 1 rewind crank
- 1 rubber eyepiece
- 1 empty spool
- 1 cover for the bayonet mount

Throughout the world, Bolex cameras have acquired a reputation for unrivalled quality. The H 16 model is appreciated not only by discerning amateurs and explorers but also by many professionals, scientists and those in the fields of industry and education. Its robust construction ensures excellent performance under all conditions.

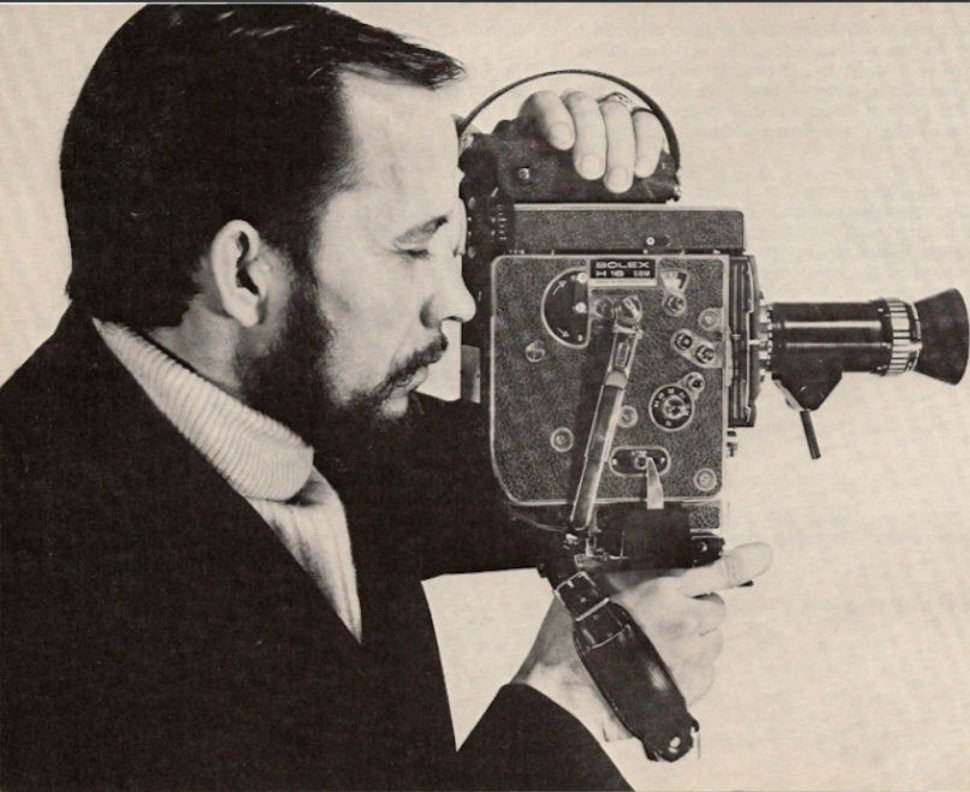
With a world-wide network of agents, Bolex offers impeccable after-sales service in practically every part of the world. If service is required, return your camera to the Bolex distributor in the country concerned. He is authorized to carry out repairs, adjustments and maintenance work. By so doing, you will benefit from the guarantee. In any correspondence, please remember to quote the serial number engraved on the base of your camera.

**Note**

The Bolex H 16 SB is designed for 100' reels only. The H 16 SBM can be equipped with the 400 ft. magazine.

The specifications of the two models are otherwise identical.

The illustrations in this manual always show the H 16 SBM model; the operating instructions, however, apply to both. The use of the 400 ft. magazine is covered in a separate booklet and is therefore not described here.



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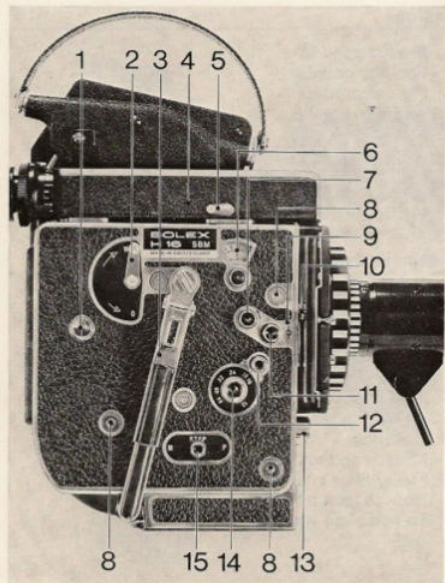
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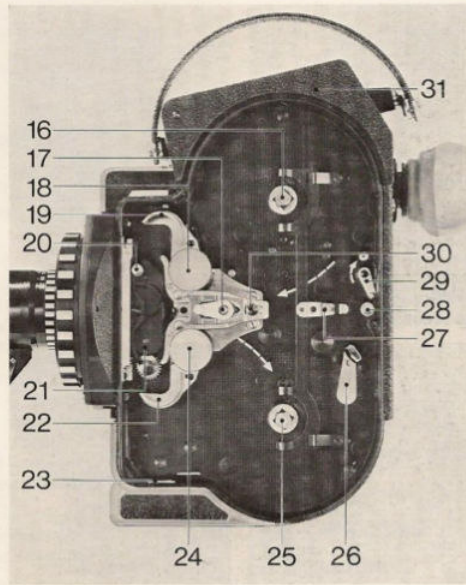
# Get to know your camera

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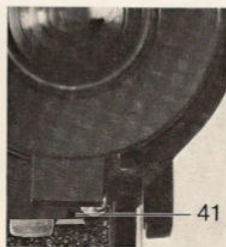
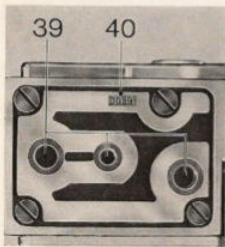
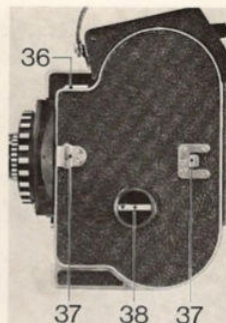
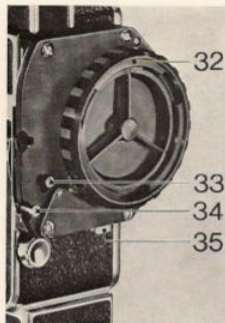


- 1 Footage counter
- 2 Lever for disengaging spring motor
- 3 Spring motor winding handle—spring run: 28 sec. at 24 f.p.s.
- 4 Reflex viewfinder
- 5 Reflex viewfinder closing lever
- 6 Frame counter
- 7 Shaft for film rewind crank
- 8 Threaded holes for various accessories and motors
- 9 Film plane guide mark
- 10 Variable shutter dial and control lever
- 11 Coupling spindle for electric motor MST
- 12 Exposure control knob for instantaneous (I) or time exposures (T) (single frame filming)
- 13 Front release for normal running
- 14 Filming speed selection knob
- 15 Side release for normal running, continuous filming (M) and single frame exposures (P). Can be operated by cable

- 16 Upper spool shaft for feed spool
- 17 Loop former locking lever and opening knob
- 18 Upper sprocket
- 19 Upper loop former
- 20 Pressure pad locking pin
- 21 Pressure pad
- 22 Lower loop former
- 23 Film knife
- 24 Lower sprocket
- 25 Lower spool shaft for take-up spool
- 26 Retaining arm
- 27 Spool ejector
- 28 Feet setting on footage counter
- 29 Lever for suppressing audible signal
- 30 Knob for opening loopformer\*
- 31 Saddle for 400 ft. magazine\*



\* Only on H 16 SBM



- 32 Locking ring (bayonet)
- 33 Knob for locking the filter-holder
- 34 Gelatin filter-holder
- 35 Bayonet locking lever
- 36 Shoe for attaching exposure meter
- 37 Brackets for multifocal viewfinder
- 38 Lid opening knob
- 39 1/4" and 3/8" threaded tripod sockets
- 40 Serial number
- 41 Cap for clapstick lamp housing of MST motor

Camera H 16 SB is identical, except for the parts required for attaching the 400 ft. magazine (indicated by an asterisk).

## 16 mm films

The H 16 SB and SBM cameras take 100 or 50 ft. spools of single or double perforated 16 mm film. H 16 SBM cameras equipped with the 400 ft. magazine can also take 200' films on spool or 400' films on core. Films with a single row of perforations are used when a magnetic track is to be added to the original film.

At each extremity of the film there is a leader—approximately 6 ft. at the beginning and 3 ft. at the end—to prevent the sensitive film being exposed to light during loading or unloading. These leaders are usually removed by the processing laboratories.

Black-and-white and colour films come in various sensitivities, which are expressed in ASA or DIN degrees and indicated on the instructions leaflet accompanying each film. The date before which the film should be exposed is normally stamped on the film pack. 16 mm film is available in the unprocessed condition with a magnetic stripe for sound recording. We would advise you against using this film; the magnetic layer can cause premature wear on the parts which come into contact with it, particularly the pressure pad, and metal particles may find their way into the camera mechanism.

### Film running times at the following filming speeds

f.p.s.	12	18	24	32	48	64
1 m (≈ 3 ft)	10.9 sec.	7.3 sec.	5.5 sec.	4.1 sec.	2.7 sec.	2 sec.
15 m (≈ 50 ft)	2 min. 44 sec.	1 min. 49 sec.	1 min. 22 sec.	1 min. 1 sec.	41 sec.	30 sec.
30 m (≈ 100 ft)	5 min. 28 sec.	3 min. 38 sec.	2 min. 44 sec.	2 min. 3 sec.	1 min. 22 sec.	1 min. 1 sec.

## The reflex viewfinder

The optical system of the H 16 SB and SBM cameras allows for through-the-lens viewing during filming as well as when the camera is not running. The picture formed on the ground glass of the reflex prism is absolutely free from flicker.

The reflex viewfinder enables framing and accurate focusing. In addition, it enables you to estimate the depth-of-field, to check on the filter being used and to evaluate the illumination of the scene.

The reflex prism deflects, into the viewfinder, an average of 25 % of the light passing through the lens. This factor has been taken into account in the table of exposure times on page 12.

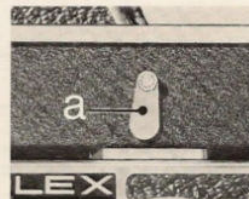
**Closing the viewfinder.** If the reflex viewfinder is not used during filming, close it by moving the small lever (a) into a vertical position. If it is left open, there is a risk of sunlight or artificial light from behind the camera entering the viewfinder eyepiece and fogging the film.

**Focusing.** Open the diaphragm wide, then turn the distance setting ring until the picture is in sharp focus on the ground glass. Then close the diaphragm to the correct setting.

**Adjusting the viewfinder eyepiece to the operator's eyesight.** This adjustment adapts the viewfinder to the operator's eyesight, whether or not he wears spectacles, and remains the same for all lenses used on the camera. It is advisable to check this adjustment from time to time.

1. Remove the lens.
2. Loosen the eyepiece locking screw.
3. Point the camera at a well-lit subject (sky, white wall, etc.).
4. Turn the milled ring of the eyepiece until the grain of the ground glass appears perfectly sharp.
5. Tighten the locking screw.

If this adjustment is correct, a subject at infinity should appear perfectly sharp at full aperture, with the distance setting ring on the lens to infinity ( $\infty$ ).



## Optical equipment

Bolex H 16 SB and SBM cameras can be equipped with:

- a) Lenses in Bolex bayonet mount.  
Diameter: 60 mm.  
Distance from film plane to lens seat: 23.22 mm (26.46 mm with reflex prism).
- b) "C" mount lenses by means of a special adapter (Vario-Switar 100 POE and certain bulky lenses excluded).  
Thread diameter: 1" (25.4 mm).  
Maximum length of thread: 4.06 mm.  
Distance from film plane to lens seat: 17.52 mm (20.76 mm with reflex prism).

With short focal length "C" mount lenses, best image quality is obtained by using lenses marked H 16 RX, which are specially corrected for the characteristics of the reflex prism used in the camera.

## Attaching bayonet mount lenses

- Press down locking lever and turn milled ring as far as it will go.
- Remove the bayonet mount cover
- Insert the lens (with the index mark on top).
- Turn milled ring.

To remove the lens:

- Turn milled ring until it is stopped by the locking system: the lens cannot fall out.
- Press locking lever and turn milled ring as far as it will go: the lens will then pull out easily.

## Attaching «C» mount lenses

“C” mount lenses can also be attached by means of an adapter, which is available in two versions:

- without protective ring, for light lenses (fig. 1);
- with a protective ring which prevents the bayonet from being distorted if the camera is accidentally bumped. This adapter is suitable for heavy or bulky lenses (fig. 2).

In both cases, the lens should be attached to the concave side of the adapter.

The lens, fitted with the adapter, is attached to the lens mount of the camera as described above.

After removing the lens, attach the bayonet mount cover to protect the reflex prism from dust.

### Field of view

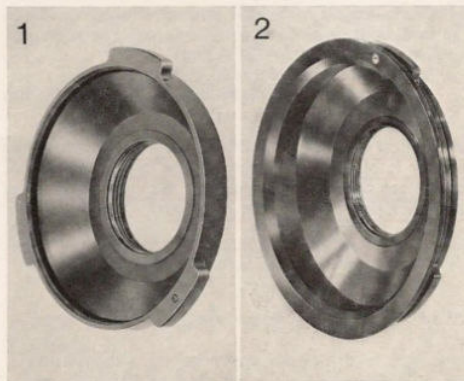
The field of view of a lens depends on its focal length.

**Standard lenses** (26 mm) are suitable for most shots.

**Wide-angle lenses** (10 mm) are used for general views or when it is difficult to move back from the subject (buildings, interiors, etc.). They give heightened perspective.

**Telephoto lenses** (75-150 mm) are used for long distance shots and are ideal for filming sports scenes, children, animals, etc.

**Zoom lenses** permit changing the focal length and therefore the field of view (see page 44).



## Focusing

The reflex viewfinder of the H 16 SB and SBM cameras shows you the picture as it will appear on the film, with its sharp and blurred areas faithfully reproduced. It is thus simple to focus accurately and, at the same time, to estimate the depth-of-field.

**The depth-of-field** is the area within which the picture is in focus. It varies according to the focal length of the lens, the diaphragm opening and the filming distance. The longer the focal length, the wider the diaphragm opening or the shorter the filming distance, the shallower the depth-of-field will be. Focusing must therefore be especially accurate.

Conversely, the shorter the focal length, the smaller the diaphragm opening or the longer the filming distance, the wider the depth-of-field will be—and the greater the margin for focusing inaccuracy.

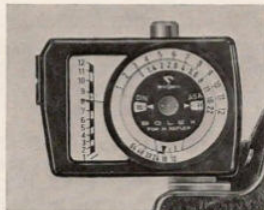
On most lenses, a depth-of-field scale indicates the distances within which the picture will be in focus. Lenses are also supplied with a depth-of-field chart. Distances are calculated from the film plane, marked  $\phi$ .

## Diaphragm setting

The lens diaphragm controls the amount of light reaching the film and is adjusted according to the lighting conditions, the film sensitivity, the filming speed and the position of the variable shutter. The amount of light admitted by the diaphragm is doubled at each successive setting, starting from the highest figure. For instance, moving the diaphragm setting from f/11 to f/8 doubles the amount of light passing through the lens.

**The Bolex exposure meter** was designed and calibrated especially for your camera and allows for the fact that about 25% of the light is deflected into the viewfinder by the reflex prism. The exposure meter fits on to a special shoe (see page 6).

**The use of the exposure meter** safeguards against exposure errors. In the chart opposite, the figures listed in the column under "adapted exposure times" take into account the light deflected by the reflex prism.



Exposure times (in fractions of a second)

Filming speed	Shutter open Lever up		Shutter ¼ closed Lever on ¼		Shutter ½ closed Lever on 1	
	Real	Adapted	Real	Adapted	Real	Adapted
12 f.p.s.	1/33	1/40	1/45	1/55	1/75	1/94
16 f.p.s.	1/45	1/55	1/60	1/75	1/100	1/125
18 f.p.s.	1/50	1/60	1/70	1/87	1/110	1/137
24 f.p.s.	1/65	1/80	1/90	1/112	1/150	1/188
32 f.p.s.	1/90	1/110	1/120	1/150	1/200	1/225
48 f.p.s.	1/130	1/160	1/180	1/225	1/300	1/375
64 f.p.s.	1/180	1/220	1/240	1/300	1/400	1/500
Speed control knob on 18-64 f.p.s.	Single-frame exposure 1/30 1/40		(selector in position T) — —			

## Filters

Bolex H 16 SB and SBM cameras are supplied with a gelatin filter-holder (a) which slides into the lens holder, in front of the reflex prism.

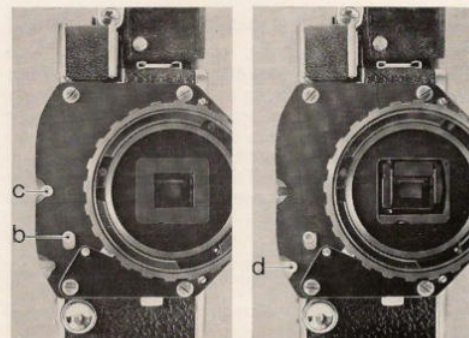
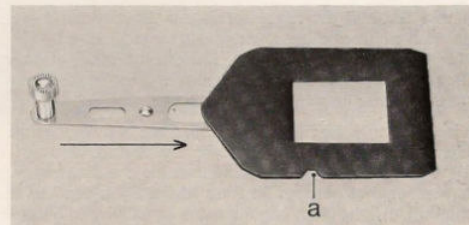
This filter-holder is removable and can be set to two positions:

Filter-holder pushed in completely, lever in slot (c); the gelatin filter is in the filming position.

Filter-holder half-way; lever turned back into slot (d); the gelatin filter is not in use.

To remove filter-holder, push knob (b) downward and pull lever (c) horizontally.

When the filter is not used, pull the lever and turn it to position (d).



### Note

A filter-holder should always be in the camera to prevent stray light from fogging the film.



**The 1 A Skylight filter** for colour films, tones down excessive blue and improves colour reproduction (in the shade or overcast weather, for distant shots, when filming in snow or at high altitudes). This filter requires no diaphragm correction.

**The 85 Daylight filter** for colour films is a conversion filter. It is used for filming in daylight with Kodachrome II Type A artificial light film. When setting the diaphragm, remember that colour film for artificial light, used with the 85 Daylight filter, has the same sensitivity as a daylight colour film used without filter.

**The Yellow 8 filter** is used for increasing contrast in black-and-white films.

**The 96 Neutral Density ND 0.60 filter** can be used with both black-and-white and colour films and in no way affects colour reproduction. As the ASA sensitivity is reduced four times, the diaphragm can be opened two stops. This filter is used:

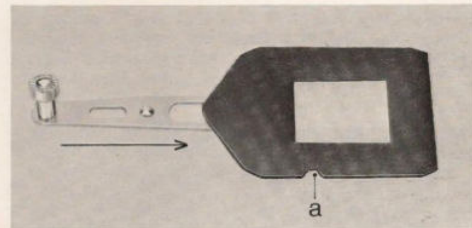
1. When the lighting conditions and the film sensitivity require an aperture lower than the smallest stop on the lens.
2. When it is desired to reduce the depth-of-field in order to achieve special effects (sharp foreground against blurred background).

Type	Open diaphragm	or divide ASA rating by
Kodak Wratten 1A Skylight	—	—
Kodak Wratten 85 Daylight	$\frac{2}{3}$ stop	1.6
Kodak Wratten 8 Yellow	1 stop	2
Kodak Wratten 96 ND 0.60	2 stops	4

The filter effect depends on the type of film, its sensitivity and the lighting conditions. The diaphragm corrections indicated above should therefore be used only as a guide.

**To insert or replace a gelatin filter, proceed as follows:**

- Open the filter mount by pushing the lever in the direction shown by the arrow.
- Trim the gelatin filter to the required size (simply divide a filter 2" square into 4 sections of 25 × 25 mm).
- Separate the two sides of the filter mount, slide the filter into position and replace the lever, making sure that this is correctly angled in relation to the filter mount notch (a).



**Focusing adjustment.** Placing a filter behind the lens slightly alters the lens focusing. However, the necessary correction is automatically made when the reflex viewfinder is used.

**Important.** Because of its distance from the film plane, the filter mount cannot be used as a mask holder for trick effects, such as keyhole and binocular cut-outs. The shape of the mask will not appear on the film and it will only darken the scene.

# Camera operation

## Winding the motor

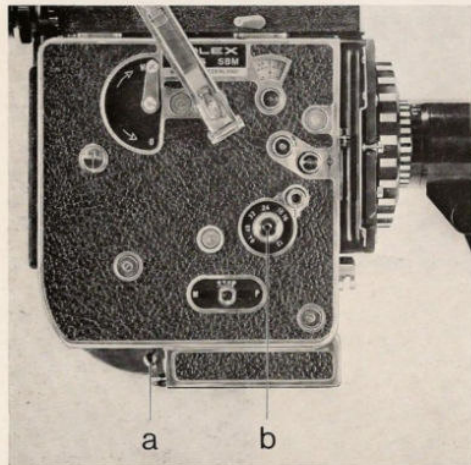
Move the side release to STOP and the motor disengaging lever to MOT. Lift the motor winding handle, which automatically engages with the spindle, and turn anti-clockwise. Wind the spring motor fully but without forcing it, then lower the handle and secure it on catch (a). Otherwise, there is a risk of it turning with the motor during filming.

Fully wound, the motor drives nearly 18 ft. of film, i.e. 28 seconds' filming time at the speed of 24 f.p.s. Make a habit of rewinding the motor after each take, regardless of how much power is still in reserve.

## Filming speeds

The camera has seven filming speeds: 12, 16, 18, 24, 32, 48 and 64 frames per second.

To select the desired speed, turn the control knob (b) until the corresponding figure is opposite the red dot. When the film is projected at normal speed (18 or 24 f.p.s.), a lower filming speed will produce an accelerated motion effect while a higher filming speed will give a slow motion effect. When changing filming speed, do not forget to alter the diaphragm setting. When changing from 24 to 32 f.p.s., the diaphragm should be opened half a stop, from 24 to 48 f.p.s. by a whole stop and from 24 to 64 f.p.s. by 1½ stops (see page 12).



**Important.** When the camera is not loaded, it should not be run at speeds over 32 f.p.s. as this could damage the mechanism.

## Release selector

The H 16 SB and SBM cameras can be used for normal, continuous or single-frame filming. These different operations are controlled by the **side release**.

**Normal filming.** This filming method is suitable for most general shots. The camera runs as long as the operator depresses the front release or pushes the side release towards M (generally by using a cable).

**Cable release.** For maximum stability, when the camera is mounted on a tripod, it is advisable to use a cable release which fixes, by means of an adapter, onto the side release knob.

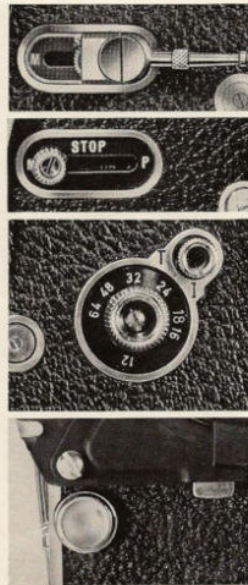
**Single frame filming.** Push the side release to P.

**Instantaneous:** turn the knob until the guide mark is in position I. **Time exposures:** guide mark in position T (for use in poor lighting conditions, such as indoors).

When making time exposures, open the variable shutter fully or one of its blades may mask part of the picture.

You can also use the electric motor and the Bolex Variotimer single-frame control unit which ensure absolutely constant exposure time for every frame at the selected speed. This prevents the slight flicker which inevitably results from using a spring motor.

Single frame filming is used for titles, cartoons, scientific films and various trick effects, particularly accelerated motion (clouds, sunsets, comic effects, etc.). Use a cable release to prevent any risk of camera movement.





**Continuous filming.** Push the side release to M.

The camera will continue running as long as the motor is wound. To stop the camera, move the side release back to STOP.

**Disengaging the spring motor.** The spring motor can be disengaged as described on the following page.

**The MST motor** is a constant-speed motor which drives the film, at a specific rate, by the coupling spindle (1 frame per revolution). For filming with synchronized sound as well as for industrial and scientific work. Various models are available as follows:

- 24 f.p.s.: films for commercial use and American TV stations. Pilot generator, 50 or 60 ~ incorporated; automatic or remote-controlled clapstick.
- 25 f.p.s.: films for European TV stations. Pilot generator, 50 or 100 ~ incorporated; automatic or remote-controlled clapstick.

The MST motor is powered by a portable cadmium-nickel battery with an incorporated rectifier which can be recharged from the mains, or powered from a 12 V accumulator, such as a car battery.

**Hand cranking.** The mechanism of the H 16 SB and SBM cameras can operate in reverse as well as forward motion by means of a small auxiliary crank. The spool can thus be fully rewound and a partly exposed film removed from the camera. This is particularly useful for special effects, such as lap dissolves, double exposures and trick effects.

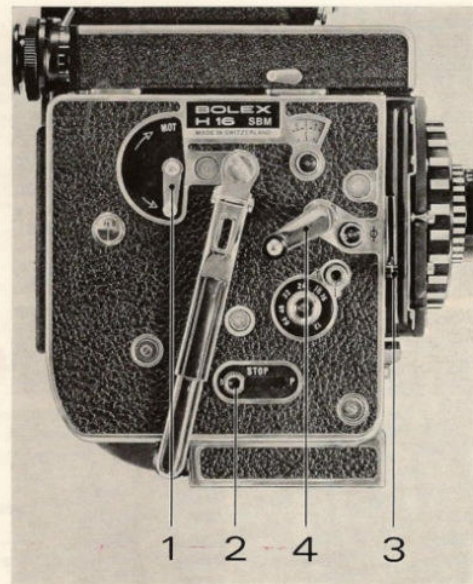
To rewind the film:

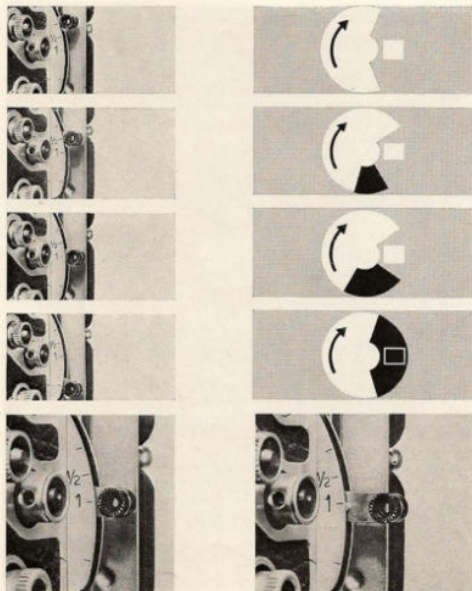
1. Disengage the motor by moving lever (1) to O. If you feel a slight resistance towards the end, do not force the lever but press the front release while continuing to move the lever.
2. Move the side release (2) to M (continuous filming).
3. **Close the variable shutter** by lowering lever (3) so as not to fog the film (see page 20).
4. Turn the hand crank (4) in the direction of the engraved arrow but do not try to rewind the film faster than allowed by the speed governor.

To resume normal motor-driven operation, move the side release to STOP and the disengaging lever to MOT.

Do not forget to re-open the variable shutter.

**Important.** The reverse system is designed for rewinding only and should not be used for filming.





## Variable shutter

The H 16 SB and SBM cameras are equipped with a shutter whose aperture can be varied both when the camera is running and when it is stopped. This enables you to reduce exposure time without changing the filming speed. In dazzling light, such as snow and water scenes, the variable shutter can be used to reduce exposure, thereby often eliminating the need for a neutral density filter.

The shutter can be locked in each of its four positions by pushing the lever inwards. The  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 1 closed positions are marked on the face of the lever by the figures  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 1, which signify:

$\frac{1}{2}$  closed position (marked  $\frac{1}{2}$ ): the diaphragm should be opened half a stop to compensate for the reduced exposure time, due to the shutter being  $\frac{1}{2}$  closed.

1 closed position (marked 1): the diaphragm should be opened one stop.

A triangular warning signal appears in the reflex viewfinder when the variable shutter is not in the fully open position.



**Use of the variable shutter.** The variable shutter enables you to achieve various effects, without the need for any other accessories. Some are described below.

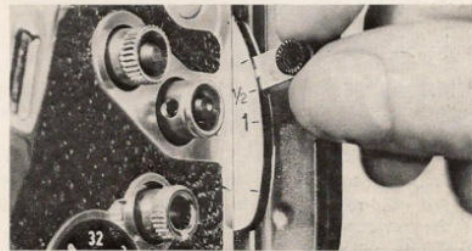
## Dissolves

**Fade-in.** A film beginning abruptly with a title or a brilliantly lit scene may dazzle the eyes of an audience in a darkened room. The eye needs only between  $\frac{1}{2}$  second and 2 seconds to become adapted to the brightest screen image, if the transition is gradual. In such cases, it is a good idea to introduce the opening scene with a fade-in, using the variable shutter, as follows:

1. Close the variable shutter without locking the control lever.
2. Start the camera with the left hand while simultaneously opening the shutter with the right, using the lever. To ensure a smooth movement, press the middle finger against the edge of the turret and, holding the small black lever knob firmly between thumb and index finger, move the lever gently forward (see picture opposite).

Before beginning to film, practice making this movement smoothly and, particularly, making it last the desired time. Duration can be checked by repeating aloud a previously timed phrase. Alternatively, you can use the audible signal (see page 30).

3. Continue filming until the end of the first sequence.
4. For safety's sake, lock the lever in the "open" position before filming further sequences.



**Fade-out.** A gradual darkening at the end of the last scene avoids an abrupt finish. The fade-out can be slower than the fade-in and is achieved in the same way, only in reverse order.

**Transitional fade.** If you cannot avoid linking two scenes with an appreciable difference in light, the transition will be smoother if you end the first scene with a fade-out and begin the second with a fade-in. To avoid a break in continuity, these two fades should not last longer than two or three seconds.

**Lap dissolve.** A lap dissolve is unquestionably one of the most pleasing ways of linking two sequences. It is made by superimposing a fade-in on a fade-out so that one picture gradually disappears as the next gradually appears. This makes for a very smooth transition during which the picture brightness scarcely varies.

To produce a lap dissolve:

1. Close the sequence with a fade-out, without interrupting filming and without regard to the frame counter.
2. Lock the shutter in the "closed" position.
3. Set the two dials of the frame counter to zero.
4. Disengage the motor and rewind the film in reverse until the frame counter indicates the figures corresponding to the duration of the fade-out. An example is shown on the table opposite (page 23).
5. Move the side release to STOP and the lever to MOT.
6. Frame the second sequence and release the shutter lever.
7. Press the release and simultaneously make a fade-in of the same length as the previous fade-out.

22 8. Continue filming.

**N. B. Producing these fades is greatly facilitated by using the variable shutter automatic control, the RX-FADER (see page 45).**

Duration of fade in seconds	Filming speed	
	18 f.p.s.	24 f.p.s.
1½	973	964
2	964	952
2½	955	940
3	946	928

### Double exposures

In order to enhance the artistic effect of a sequence, the professional cameraman sometimes uses double exposures, i.e. the superimposing of two different scenes filmed on the same length of film.

#### To double expose the whole sequence:

1. Set the lens diaphragm according to the lightmeter reading.
2. Half close the variable shutter by locking the lever in position "1".
3. Set the frame counter to zero.
4. Film the first scene.

5. Note the reading of the frame counter.
6. Fully close the variable shutter and lock the lever in that position.
7. Disengage the motor and wind the film back until the frame counter again reads zero.
8. Engage the motor.
9. Free the variable shutter lever and lock it in position "1".
10. Film the second sequence until the frame counter reaches the figure noted under point 5.
11. Open the variable shutter and lock its lever in that position.

**To double expose only part of the sequence:**

1. Set the lens diaphragm according to the lightmeter reading.
2. Film the beginning of the scene, stopping when you reach the point where you intend to introduce the double exposure.
3. Set the frame counter to zero and free the variable shutter lever.
4. Continue filming. Start with a semi fade-out of about 1½ seconds, by lowering the lever to position "1". Lock the lever in that position without stopping filming.
5. Stop filming where you want the double exposure to end and note the frame counter reading.
6. Free the variable shutter lever.
7. Continue the sequence with a semi fade-in of about 1½ seconds and end it with the lever locked in the "open" position. Note the frame counter reading.
8. Fully close the variable shutter and lock the lever in that position.
9. Disengage the motor and wind the film back until the frame counter reads zero.
10. Engage the motor and free the variable shutter lever.
11. Film the superimposed scene, beginning with a semi fade-in of about 1½ seconds, by moving the lever to position "1" and locking it without stopping filming.
12. Stop filming when the frame counter reaches the number noted under point 7.

**Choosing a more favourable diaphragm opening.**

As a rule, very small diaphragm apertures should be avoided, as there is a risk of diffraction affecting picture quality. Moreover, with some film sensitivities and lighting conditions, even the smallest diaphragm opening cannot prevent over-exposure. As the variable shutter permits reduced exposure time without changing the filming speed, both these risks are greatly minimized and a neutral density filter is unnecessary.

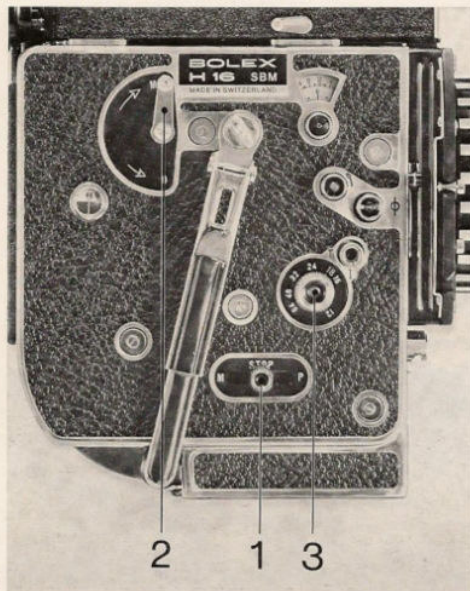
**Increased picture definition.** Closing the variable shutter reduces exposure time and thereby increases the sharpness of moving subjects. However, if the filming speed is not increased, this procedure can result in jerkiness on the screen.

In special cases, where picture sharpness is more important than steadiness (such as frame-by-frame analysis of scientific phenomena, sports contests and motion studies), it is an advantage to be able to reduce exposure time, without changing filming speed, as this diminishes the blur caused by a moving subject.

Increased picture sharpness is especially useful for projection on wide screens. To safeguard against the risk of jerkiness, due to the shutter being partially closed, the filming speed should be increased—for instance, to 24 f.p.s. or over when filming with the shutter half closed.



# Loading



Now that you are familiar with the various features of your camera and know how they are operated, you are ready to start loading.

To avoid exposing the edges of the film to light, the camera should be loaded in a dimly lit place, well away from sunshine.

Before loading the camera:

1. Set the side release (1) to STOP.
2. Set the disengaging lever (2) to MOT.
3. Move the selection knob (3) until the number corresponding to the desired filming speed faces the red dot.
4. Wind the camera (page 16).

## Inserting the film

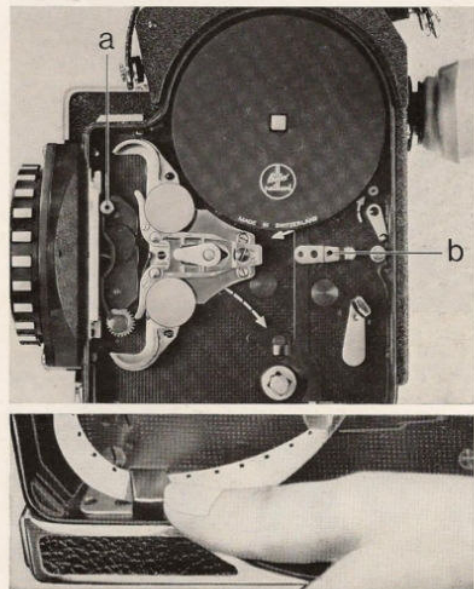
Turn the lid opening knob in the direction marked by the arrow O, then lift off the lid. The inside of the camera is as shown in the illustration.

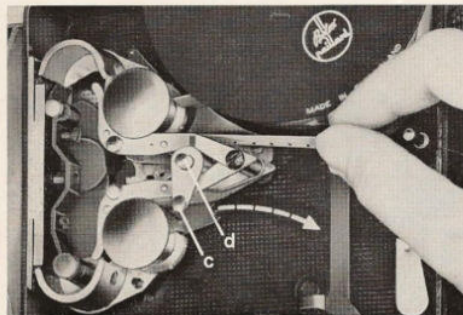
Prepare to load the film as follows:

1. Check that the pressure pad pin (a) is locked and that the pressure pad cannot open.
2. Remove the empty spool from its spindle by pressing ejector (b) and place the spool holding the film on the upper spool shaft (film should run in the direction indicated by the engraved arrow).

**In the film gate, the dark, shiny side of the film (the backing) should face towards the back of the camera and the light matt side (sensitized) towards the lens.**

3. Using the film knife, cut off the end of the film diagonally between two perforations, as shown in the illustration. Remember to remove the piece which has been cut off.
4. Close the loop formers by moving the control lever (c) parallel to the pressure pad. (See page 28.)





5. Press the release while simultaneously pushing the end of the film against the sprocket (illustration opposite). **The film is automatically threaded into the camera.**
6. Continue to depress the release until 10 to 12" of film have passed through the drive mechanism.
7. Open the loop formers by pressing knob (d). (If you accidentally leave them closed, they will automatically open when the camera lid is replaced.)
8. Insert the end of the film into the slot in the core of the take-up spool. Rotate until about three turns of film have been taken up and place the spool on the lower spool shaft.
9. Turn the take-up spool by hand, clockwise, to take up any slack film.

**Final check.** Press the release and run the camera for several seconds to ensure that the film is advancing normally and the loops at either end of the film gate are forming correctly.

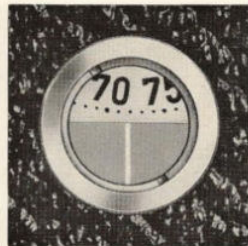
Replace the lid and lock it by turning the knob in the direction indicated by the arrow F. If it does not lock, do not force the ring! The spools or the pressure pad may be incorrectly positioned.

Finally, press the release until the film leader has been taken up. The camera is now ready for use (see following pages).

## Footage counter

The footage counter shows the length of film that has been exposed. Once the camera is loaded, this counter reads **ft.** Run the camera until the figure 0 arrives opposite the white line in the centre of the red mask. This indicates that the film leader has been taken up and you can start filming. The counter automatically returns to **ft.** when the camera lid is removed for loading or unloading film.

The footage counter is sufficiently accurate for ordinary filming. For special effects that require absolute precision, the frame counter should be used.

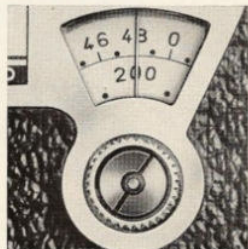


## Frame counter

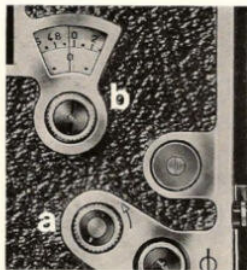
By indicating the exact number of frames exposed, this counter is invaluable for scientific studies, as well as various effects, such as lap dissolves and double exposures. It is also very useful for single frame filming (animation technique, see page 37).

**The upper dial** adds the frames in forward run and subtracts them in reverse run, from 0-50 frames.

**The lower dial** totalizes, in units of 50, the frames in forward run and subtracts them in reverse run, up to 1000 frames.



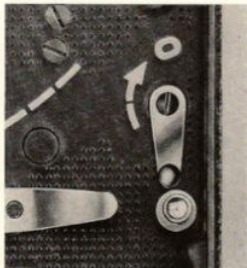




Beyond this figure, the cycle starts again and the figures shown on both dials should be added to the 1000 frames already totaled. Take no notice of the relative positions of the dials but only of their readings.

You can easily check if the figures shown on the frame counter refer to the first or second cycle, by looking at the footage counter. 1000 frames of 16 mm film correspond to 25 ft.

To set the frame counter to zero, use knob (a) which controls the upper dial and knob (b) which controls the lower "totalizer" dial.



### Audible signal

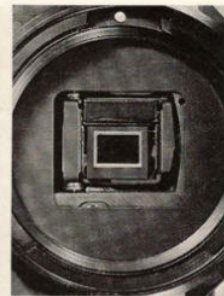
A clicking sound marks the passage of each 8" of film and is heard approximately every second at the speed of 24 f.p.s., every 1½ seconds at 18 f.p.s. The length of a scene can thus easily be estimated while timing. To reduce the strength of the audible signal, or to eliminate it altogether, move the small lever inside the camera, next to the counter pin, towards zero.

## Unloading

### When the film is fully exposed

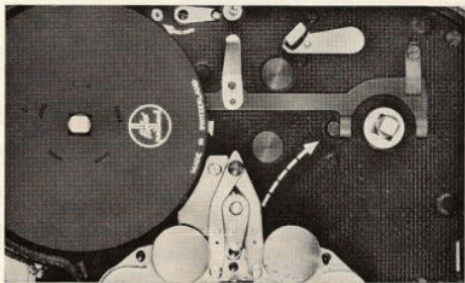
When the footage counter shows that the film is entirely exposed, run the camera for about 10 seconds to wind the end leader on to the take-up spool. Before opening the camera, make sure there is no film left in the gate, as follows:

Move the exposure knob guide mark to position T and remove the lens to reveal the aperture. Then push the side release to P to open the shutter. If any film remains, it will be seen, as an ivory coloured rectangle, in the aperture. Only one frame will be lost by making this check. Do not open the camera in bright light or the sensitive film may be fogged.



**Spool ejector.** This device simplifies spool changing.

A slight pressure on the ejector lever frees both spools, which can then easily be removed from the camera. Holding it firmly so that the film cannot unwind, place the full spool in its metal container.



### When the film is only partly exposed

A partly exposed film can be removed from the camera as follows:

1. Note the figure on the footage counter.
2. Close the variable shutter.
3. Disengage the motor and rewind the film until the sign **ft.** appears opposite the white line in the mask.



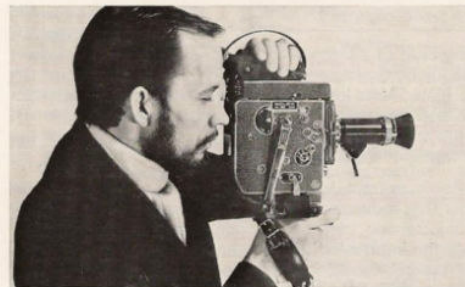
4. Open the camera lid and unload the camera in a dim light.
5. Do not forget to open the variable shutter before beginning the new film.

### To replace a partly exposed film in the camera:

6. Load the camera as described on page 26.
7. Close the variable shutter.
8. Press the release until the footage counter reaches the figure already noted.
9. Before beginning to film, it is advisable to press the release and run the camera for a second or two, to avoid the risk of double exposure.

**N. B.** For greater accuracy, use the frame counter which enables you to recommence filming from exactly the frame where you left off.

## Practical advice



Do not start filming before having thoroughly read this booklet and studying the operation and various settings of your camera. Here are several rules we suggest you follow when shooting your first films.

### Camera stability

The camera should be held absolutely steady for the slightest jerk is amplified on the screen and results in unsteady pictures.

Rest the camera against the forehead or cheek, stand with the legs wide apart and, where possible, lean against a firm support, such as a wall or tree trunk.

Move the camera slowly and smoothly. It is advisable to use a grip and, if possible, a tripod. A tripod is essential when using a zoom or telephoto lens.



## Film composition

A good film is generally composed of a smooth and coherent succession of short scenes. Depending on the subject, scenes should average between five and ten seconds. If the action to be filmed lasts longer, divide it into several shots, taken from different angles and distances (long shots, medium shots and close-ups). In this case, use a zigzag approach rather than advancing in a straight line or the resulting impression will be that the subject is leaping towards the camera.

Never film rapidly moving subjects from a right angle but from a three-quarter angle or head on. Remember that movement makes a film lively and interesting. Avoid lingering on static objects and vary the shooting angles. A zoom lens, operated by a lever, can give the impression of smoothly approaching or moving away from the subject (an optical travelling effect) or of following a moving subject (a follow-on travelling effect), but such effects should be used in moderation.

If the camera stops while you are filming, change your position before continuing with the same scene so that the interruption will be less obvious. Get into the habit of rewinding the camera after each scene, however short.



## Panning shots

A panning shot is made by swivelling the camera vertically or horizontally to embrace a landscape, a building or any other extensive scene. Panning should be kept to a minimum—continual sweeps of the horizon make for very dull viewing.

Start panning with a static view of the subject, then move the camera slowly and smoothly, finishing the movement by again holding the camera steady on the subject for a second or two. Never pan back over the same subject. The longer the focal length used, the slower the movement should be. At 16 or 18 f.p.s., a movement of 45° should take at least 15 seconds with a standard 26 mm lens and 45 seconds with a 75 mm telephoto lens. More simply, allow seven seconds to move from one side to the other, or from top to bottom, or the picture seen in the viewfinder, whatever focal length is used. These times should be reduced by one third when filming at 24 f.p.s.

If no tripod is available, use a grip and rest the elbows on a firm support.

## Lighting

Front or side lighting gives excellent results with colour films, back lighting can be awkward. On the other hand, backlighted subjects are easier to shoot with black-and-white film. The best times for filming are shown in the instructions leaflet accompanying each film. Fairly bright, but not overhead light is required for colour films while morning and evening are the best times for shooting with black-and-white film.

**Indoor filming.** Interiors can be filmed, even in daylight, with a fast lens. When the light is insufficient, artificial light must



be used. We recommend Bolex-Lites with halogen-quartz lamps, which are especially bright, light-weight and long lasting. When shooting colour sequences, use artificial light type film. For good colour reproduction, it is advisable not to mix natural and artificial light.

**Night sequences.** With a very fast lens, fireworks and lighted neon signs can be filmed with excellent results. Film at 12 f.p.s. if the light is not strong enough (use of tripod recommended).

### **Editing and titling films**

After shooting several films, you will probably want to "edit" them, i.e. cut out those sequences which are lacking in interest or poor in quality, reduce the length of others and arrange the scenes in a logical and artistic order. The interest of your film will be enhanced by adding a main title and sub-titles where appropriate. It is also a good idea to show where the action took place. For this, you can make use of maps, road signs, or design your own titles.

**Adding sound to films.** A commentary of musical accompaniment will add to the interest and enjoyment of viewing your films.

16 mm films can take an optical or magnetic sound track. If you intend adding a magnetic sound track, make sure that the film you will use has only one row of perforations. For good sound reproduction, shoot the film at 24 f.p.s. For speech on magnetic sound stripe, a filming speed of 18 f.p.s. is satisfactory.

The Bolex sound projectors enable you to record sound on films equipped with a magnetic stripe as well as to project films with either optical or magnetic sound track (see page 48).



### **Animation technique**

Still subjects, such as articulated dolls or fluffy animals can be animated by single frame filming. After shooting one frame of the subject, move it by a fraction of an inch and take a second shot. Move the subject yet again, or slightly change its position, expose a third frame, and so on.

**The speed and smoothness of a movement depends on the number of frames used to animate it.** Before beginning to film, calculate the number of frames required for the available projection time. For instance, if you want a movement to last 10 seconds on the screen, when projected at 18 f.p.s., you will need to shoot 180 frames.

Single frame filming is also used for titling, for animating a route on a map, for effects such as the growth of a plant, the spontaneous blooming of flowers and comic effects, such as people moving at an unnaturally rapid pace.

For all these effects, you should use the Bolex tripod with its platform that locks into position for maximum stability. A cable release ensures absolutely steady and unchanging framing of the subject.

## Cartoons

This technique gives full scope to your imagination but requires some artistic ability. Each movement of the subject is broken down and reproduced in a series of drawings, each showing a fractional part of the movement. These drawings are made on sheets of acetate then placed, in order, on the animation table and filmed frame by frame.

Each frame must be sharply drawn. If you are making a colour film, hatch the backs of the acetate sheets to make the drawings stand out. The position of the drawings must be carefully matched by means of punched holes to ensure good continuity.



## Macro- and microcinematography

Every day, scientists, businessmen, engineers—and countless amateur movie makers—use micro- and macrofilming techniques for studies and research. The movie camera has proved invaluable for recording actions and phenomena which are normally impossible to observe.

Macrofilming is the filming of minute subjects, still or moving, at very short range. This is achieved by increasing the distance between the film plane and the lens seat with extension tubes placed between the camera and the lens. Bolex produce a set of four extension tubes which increase the lens seat/film plane distance from 5 mm to 75 mm. For maximum definition, the lens focusing must be adjusted with extreme accuracy. Here again, the reflex viewing system will ensure perfect framing and distance setting.

Microcinematography consists of filming with the aid of a microscope and is principally used to record various chemical and biological processes.



# Faulty films and their possible causes

## **Film all black**

Variable shutter left closed.

## **Film under-exposed, pictures reversed, general orange tint**

Film incorrectly loaded with dark side facing towards the lens.

## **Pictures too dark and flat**

Under-exposure (too small a diaphragm opening for the filming speed, film sensitivity and shutter aperture).

## **Pictures too clear and washed-out**

Over-exposure (too wide a diaphragm opening for the filming speed, film sensitivity and shutter aperture).

## **Blurred pictures**

Inaccurate distance setting.

## **"Jumpy" pictures**

Camera unsteadiness or panning too rapidly.

## **Unnatural colouring**

Using filters designed for black-and-white film when shooting in colour.  
Too long a delay between exposure and development.  
Films poorly stored before or after exposure.

## **Dominant red-orange tint**

Filming too early in the morning or too late in the evening.  
Using tungsten lamps with a daylight type film or an under-powered lamp with "artificial light" film.

## **Dominant blue tint**

Filming distant subjects at high altitudes or on water without the appropriate filter. Water scenes with strong reflections, filmed without polarizing filter.

## **Partly obscured pictures**

An object, such as a finger or a long telephoto lens, in front of the taking lens.

## **Parallel scratches on the edge of the film**

Dust or particles of emulsion in the film gate.  
Camera badly loaded.

## **Fogged film**

Direct light entering through the reflex viewfinder.

## **Film fogged at edges**

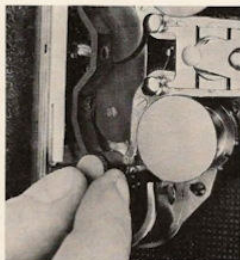
Careless loading or unloading of the camera so that sensitive film was accidentally exposed to light. The filter-mount left out of its slot.

## **Out-of-focus or distorted picture**

Pressure pad incorrectly locked.

Carefully following the instructions in this booklet, you will help to avoid the above mistakes and produce excellent films.

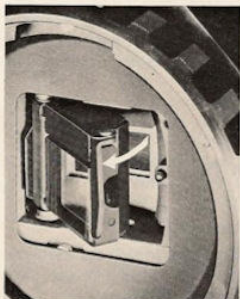
# How to look after your camera



The interior of the camera, housing the film drive mechanism, must be kept spotless.

Gelatine deposits and dust sometimes accumulate in the gate and on the pressure pad when unexposed film is run through the camera and should be removed as follows:

- Open the pressure pad by lifting its pin.
- Unscrew the shaft and remove the pressure pad by pulling it towards you.
- Gently clean the gate and pressure pad, paying special attention to the aperture, using a clean cloth wound round the end of a small stick. If the gelatine deposit is hard to remove, damp the cloth and thoroughly dry the part after cleaning.
- Replace the pressure pad.



**Reflex prism.** The reflex prism in front of the aperture can be reached by removing the lens. As it is mounted on hinges, it can be swung out for cleaning the back and the ground glass. Use a soft, dry brush or special paper for cleaning these parts. The prism can be cleaned even when the camera is loaded (preferably in the shade).

**Important! The reflex viewfinder must not be dismantled.**

**Lenses.** Keep the outer surfaces of your lenses absolutely clean with the special soft tissue paper sold in photographic shops. Avoid rubbing the lens more than necessary as this could damage the anti-reflection coating. Screw on the lens caps between takes. Special care should be taken to avoid dust or fingerprints (perspiration attacks glass).

The complete your equipment

**Special care of the camera in tropical regions.** Various precautions should be taken to protect both camera and film against heat and humidity.

Airtight boxes are available to store films in the tropics. Never leave film in the camera longer than the time necessary to expose it.

The camera and all accessories should be cleaned regularly and thoroughly. Leather and the carrying cases should be treated with special product available from leather merchants.

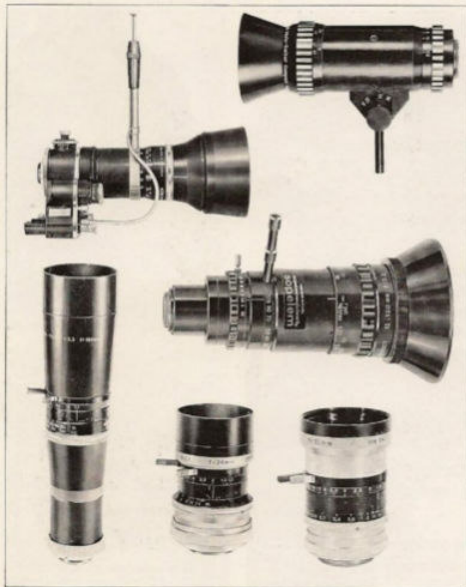
To prevent hot, moist air from condensing and aiding the formation of bacterial growths, do not place your equipment in its cases between takes, but leave it freely exposed to the air.

However, for storing your equipment, especially during the monsoon season, use airtight tin boxes with a silica gel or calcium chloride humidity absorber. Avoid using these chemicals too liberally, however, to prevent excessive drying, which might damage leather and film. A relative humidity of 35 to 40 % is satisfactory. Care should be taken to prevent any of the chemical coming into contact with your equipment.

**Precautions against cold and sand.** If you are going to film at high altitudes or in very cold climates, send your camera to the Bolex agent for special greasing and winterizing.

Guard against getting sand or dust in your camera, which could scratch or damage its mechanism. Where necessary, put the camera in its case between each take and, for extra protection, put the case in a plastic bag.

## To complete your equipment



Several high quality zoom lenses are available, such as:

**Vario-Switar 100 POE** (f/1.9 16-100 mm)  
With power-zoom, automatic diaphragm control and light measurement through the lens.

**Vario-Switar 85 "Compact"** (f/3.5 17-85 mm)  
Built by Kern, combines excellent performance with light weight and compact size.

**Pan-Cinor 120 "Hunting Zoom"** (f/3.3 12-120 mm)  
A compact and light weight 10:1 zoom lens.

**Angénioux 10×12 C** (f/2.2 12-120 mm)  
An outstanding lens for its focal length ratio (10:1!). The focal length can be changed smoothly from 12 to 120 mm by a crank handle.

Among the fixed focal length lenses, the **Macro-Yvar f/3.3 150 mm**, the **Macro-Switar f/1.1 26 mm** and the **Switar f/1.6 10 mm** are equally suitable for filming distant objects, close-ups and extreme close-ups.

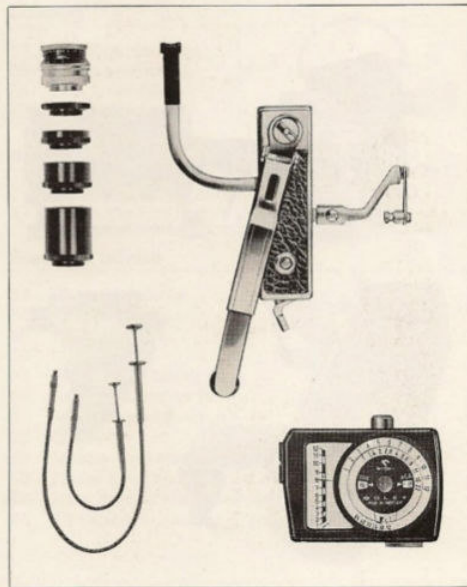
**Extension tubes.** Used in macrocinematography to achieve magnification of minute subjects, such as insects, filmed at very short range. The reflex viewing system of the H 16 SB and SBM cameras permits highly accurate framing and distance setting. The tubes are supplied with a calculator table.

**RX-Fader.** Automatically and smoothly opens and closes the variable shutter, thus permitting professional quality fades and lap dissolves.

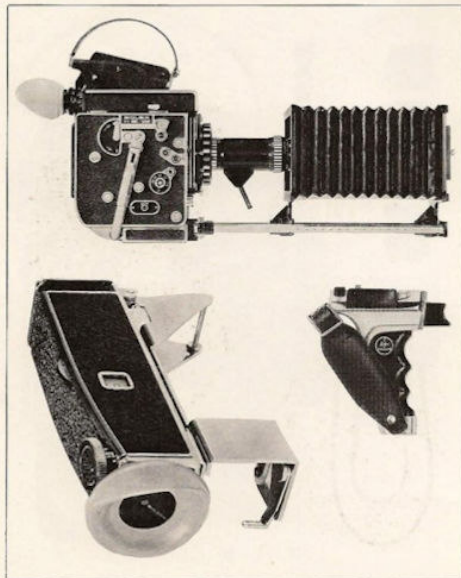
**Electric motor.** See page 18.

**Cable releases.** Recommended for normal or single frame filming when absolute steadiness is required. Two lengths available: 21" and 40".

**Bolex lightmeter.** It is always advisable to use an exposure meter, particularly when filming in colour. The Bolex lightmeter is designed for motion filming and especially calibrated for use with your camera.







**Bolex matte box.** Acts as a highly efficient lens hood and can also be used as a portable accessory for titling and trick effects, such as entering a room through the keyhole, making the same character appear several times on the same picture, framing a landscape in binoculars, etc.

**Hand grip.** Gives a good firm grip on the camera, thereby increasing camera stability. Quickly mounted on the camera by its fixing device.

**Electric H grip.** Similarly designed, can be used for releasing the different electric motors.

**Auxiliary multifocal viewfinder, with bracket.** Its field can be instantly adjusted for focal lengths of 10-16-25-35-50-63-75-100 and 150 mm. It is easily and quickly mounted on the camera or removed for pre-viewing a scene.

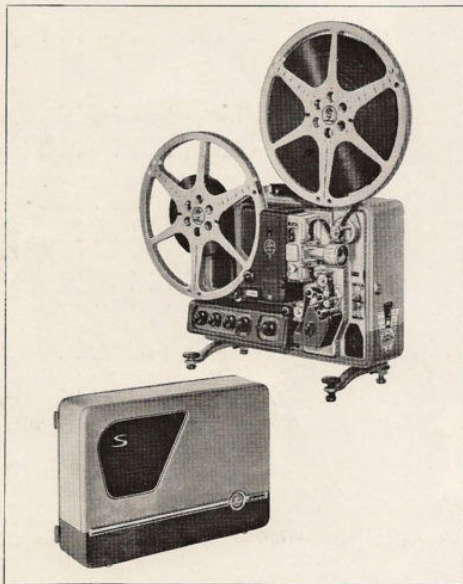
**Bolex tripod.** A tripod ensures picture steadiness and is essential when using lenses with focal lengths over 75 mm. The Bolex tripod, especially designed for your camera is strong, very easily adjusted and quickly fitted up.

The Bolex swivel-joint complements the tripod by enabling rapid camera levelling, a great advantage when filming on uneven ground.

**Underwater housing.** Enables the diver to film down to a depth of 300 ft. Absolutely watertight, highly stable and very simple to handle under water. The camera is quickly removed and fitted into the housing without tools.

**Carrying cases.** Several models available in good quality leather and in aluminium.





**Bolex S-321 sound projector.** This projector is engineered with the same high precision as your camera. It makes the perfect partner for your camera and does full justice to your sound and silent films. Furthermore, it ensures complete film protection and permits recording of sound on films with magnetic stripe.

Frequency range:  
 Magnetic sound: 50 to 10,000 cycles/sec.  $\pm$  3 decibels  
 Optical sound: 50 to 7,000 cycles/sec.  $\pm$  3 decibels

**Amplifier:**

Frequency range: 30 to 16,000 cycles/sec.  $\pm$  3 decibels  
 Power output: 15 W

**Loudspeaker:**

Built into the projector lid, power output: 6 W  
 Auxiliary (available as accessory), power output: 20 W

**"Hi-Fi" lens:**

3 focal lengths available: 35 mm f/1.3 — 50 mm f/1.3 — 70 mm f/1.6

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