

"MINIATURE" NOTES

Each week two pages or more will be devoted to the special interests of the miniature camera user.

The Minox Miniature Camera

IT has sometimes been said that although miniature photography deals with small negatives, the cameras themselves are often anything but miniature in size. Some instruments may perhaps deserve this reproach, but no such criticism could possibly apply to the newly introduced Minox camera.

This little instrument, which was mentioned in our pages many months ago, is very like an ordinary cigarette lighter, both in appearance and size. The accompanying illustration, in which it is shown open, gives a good idea of its construction, and is a little over three-quarters of the size of the actual instrument, which measures, when closed, $3\frac{1}{8} \times 1\frac{1}{8} \times \frac{5}{8}$ inches. The external parts are made of

In spite of its small size, Minox is by no means a toy. On the precision of the highest grade — as indeed, any very small instrument has to be if the results are not to be disappointing. The little negatives of size 8×11 mm., enlarge up amazingly well, and can be relied upon to yield excellent album-size prints of any subject.



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The lens fitted is a high-grade anastigmat of 15 mm. focal length, giving a normal angle of view. As the lens gives extremely crisp definition at full aperture, there is no need to stop it down to increase sharpness, while the short focal length ensures that depth of focus at full aperture is already phenomenally great. The makers have therefore very sensibly fitted no diaphragm at all; the lens is permanently set at $f/3.5$.

The focussing movement, operated by the smaller of the two dials seen in the illustration, runs from infinity to 8 ins., and operates by moving the lens forward. Parallax correction is automatically made, so that the view included in the finder accurately corresponds, even at the nearest distance, to that registered on the film. A short line indicates the range of depth of focus; with the dial set at 13 ft., all objects from 7 ft. to infinity are simultaneously rendered sharp.

The larger dial controls the shutter, which operates in front of the lens, and has gear-controlled speeds from $\frac{1}{2}$ sec. to



Enlarged from the Minox negative of which a contact print is in the first column.

$\frac{1}{1000}$ th sec., as well as "Time" and "Bulb." The small button near the front edge of the camera is the shutter release, which requires only the lightest possible touch to fire the shutter.

The lens is protected by the glass window on the front edge of the camera below the focussing dial, and is recessed far enough to require no lens hood. Behind the larger window is the viewfinder lens, the eyepiece of course being oppo-

site to it and consequently invisible in the illustration. The finder is one of the best we have seen. It includes a much wider angle of view than the camera, but the actual field of the picture is quite unmistakably marked off.

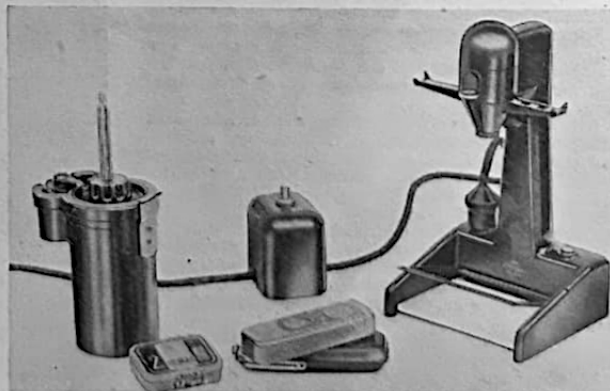
When the camera is closed, the sliding cover protects the lens, as well as both the mask and eyepiece of the viewfinder. Pulling it out into the position shown sets the shutter and winds on the film, operating the counter at the same time, so that on removing the camera from the pocket it is made ready for use simply by opening it. If several exposures are to be made in succession, the cover can be pushed back and re-opened in much less than a second without even removing the viewfinder from the eye. The Minox may thus be regarded as belonging to the class of "quick-fire" cameras.

Film for the Minox is sold in magazines that include both a full spool and a take-up spool, linked together by a short metal bar.

To load the camera the magazine is simply dropped into place, and when the film is exposed it is lifted out again apparently unchanged. No threading of film is required. Each magazine contains film for 50 pictures, and the counter shows at any instant the number of exposures made.

The results of a test-film made it very clear that the Minox is capable of producing really excellent photographs. It is unostentatious in action, and is far more pocketable than the average photo-cell meter.

The Minox, which sells at £25 complete with pigskin purse, is made at Riga, in Latvia, as also are the panchromatic films used in it. These are priced at 3s. 6d. per magazine of 50 exposures, and can be had in two speeds. For those who undertake their own processing, there is a special tank, taking 1 oz. of developer, at £1 10s., and a fixed-focus enlarger giving $3\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ prints costs £9 complete. Camera and accessories can be had through any dealer, and the fullest details can be had on application to the importers, Minox, Limited, 29, King William Street, E.C. 4.



A Minox outfit. Left, tank; centre, film, camera, and case; right, enlarger.