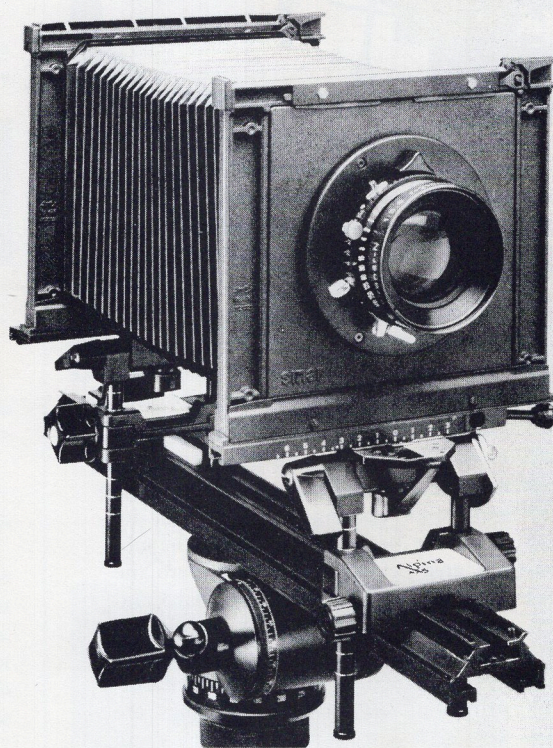


**Look what**  
**popular**  
**photography**

**says about the Alpina 4 x 5  
with patented 2-point focusing!**

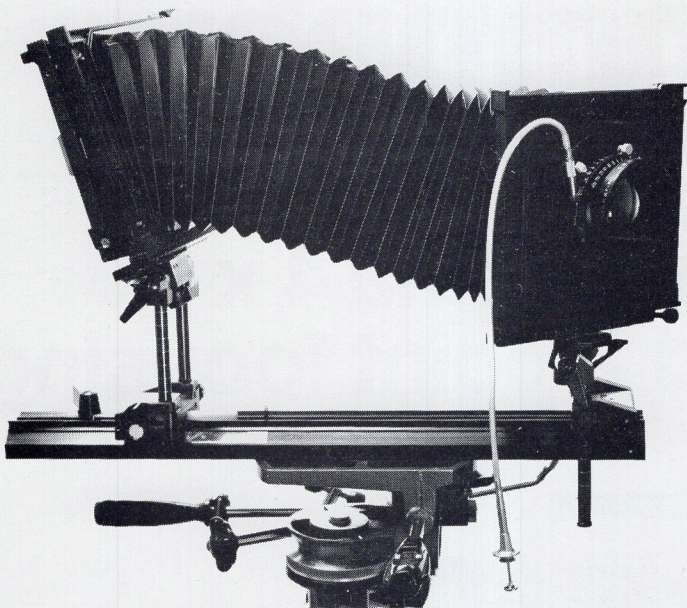


**“...a lot easier...more foolproof  
...remarkably simple...easy to understand  
...has a lot going for it.”**



## ALPINA 4x5

It simplifies view-camera controls



*Alpina 4x5 shows its Sinar heritage.*

- Monorail-type 4x5 view camera
- Swings, tilts, rise, fall, and lateral-shift movements on both standards
- Bubble levels on both standards
- 18-in. rail
- Accepts lenses from 65- to 300-mm
- Angle and depth-of-field scales work with two-point groundglass-focusing system for sharpness control, full-aperture focus determination
- Calibrated groundglass, movement scales
- Sliding tripod mount
- Cast-aluminum construction
- Compatible with most Sinar-system accessories
- Size: 18x12 $\frac{1}{4}$ x7 in.
- Weight: 6 lb. 4 oz.

**C**amera movements are the principal advantage of the view camera—but they can be intimidating for the beginner and irksome for the busy pro. The lightweight Alpina 4x5 monorail features some built-in controls to remove the difficulties and save time.

One look at the camera and controls, and it is obvious that the Alpina is really a moderately priced Sinar-bred camera. It might pass for a Sinar f+, except that the rail supporting the two standards is styled differently. However, it is quite a bit less expensive, yet compatible with the extensive Sinar system.

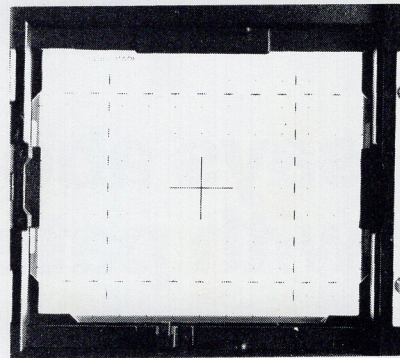
The Alpina uses simplified versions of Sinar's unique two-point scale/groundglass controls to facilitate camera movements and focusing. Both are performed

with the rear standard, which has a rack-and-pinion focusing movement. For determining the tilt angle, focus on the subject area behind the H' line, zero the angle scale against the rear standard, and refocus the same standard to the subject area behind the H line. The scale will now indicate the degree of tilt and the direction of the movement. Swings are done in the same manner using the V and V' lines. For sharpness control in both planes, set the horizontal tilt first and then the vertical swings.

Focus is controlled by a nearly identical two-point method. You focus on the farthest subject you want sharp, zero the aperture scale against the rear standard, and refocus to the closest area of desired sharpness. Read the f-stop off the scale,

set it on the lens, and then simply refocus halfway between the working-aperture and maximum-aperture markings on the scale.

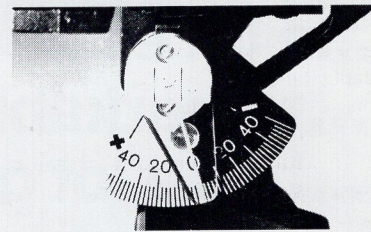
While these operations may seem complicated, they are a lot easier in practice after just a few tries. It is a lot more foolproof than the usual efforts, which depend on one's ability to judge a good



*Groundglass' broken lines are for use with two-point angle scales to help set direction and degree of tilt and/or swing.*

compromise tilt or swing, and then stopping down to gauge focus of a murky groundglass image. It is also quite fast to execute. An experienced view-camera user does not usually require such assistance for simple sharpness control; however, these Sinar techniques are very useful when working with extensive back movements to modify perspective. This frequently raises a lot of optical mischief that, to overcome, needs compensating front movements and relatively small apertures. On the Alpina, you do the back movements to suit, and then use the scales as described above. The scales automatically compensate for your pre-set movements.

The Alpina will always give you the widest possible working aperture for a given situation. This makes it easier to take advantage of optimum lens apertures, because you don't need the insur-



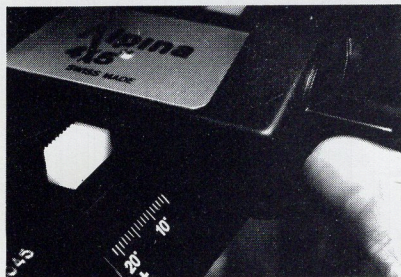
*Front and rear standards have degree-calibrated movements and bubble levels.*



ance of stopping down a little more just to be sure of adequate depth of field. The exposures are also shorter in duration. Selective focusing is easier to control on the Alpina because of its two-point system that lets you exploit movements and yet employ a large f-stop.

As helpful as these controls are, you may find some of this system's quirks annoying. After tilting the Alpina base, you'll have to recenter. The same locking control on the swings is used for the lateral shift. One might set one and accidentally misadjust the other. The ground-glass' cut-off corners let you check image vignetting from extreme movements or lens shades, but they also prevent you from seeing the complete image unless you shift the standards for viewing and then reset them. None of this is serious; much more expensive cameras present more problems and can't do what the Alpina offers.

All things considered, the Alpina has a lot going for it. It is very light, yet quite



As photographer focuses, second scale shows how much rear and/or front standards should be angled.

rigid. It also folds flat to fit an attaché-style carrying case that comes with it.

I found that it makes a lot of routine work remarkably simple—even without a focusing magnifier. Complex setups, with extreme back movements, did not require several sheets of instant film. In fact, I almost stopped making these quick tests except to judge lighting.

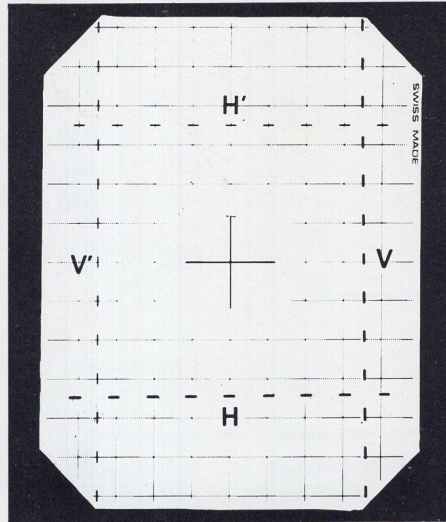
The Alpina should be a good choice for someone who wants to take advantage of the Sinar system, needs an easy-to-understand view camera, or wants a second or third model to round out a Sinar-based commercial studio.

Price, with the aforementioned case, is \$650. It is distributed by Sinar Bron, Inc., 23 Progress St., Edison, N.J. 08820.

Mike Ballai

## Simple 6-step procedure for sharpness-distribution control

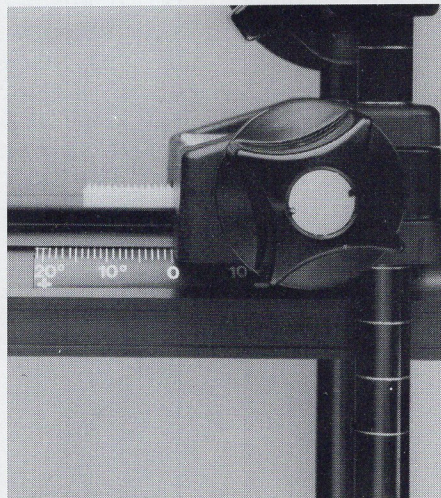
1. Set all camera movements to zero.
2. Use the coarse or fine adjustment to focus a suitable image point sharply on the horizontal H line. (Or use the V line for a depth control swing about a vertical axis.)



To simplify the control of sharpness distribution in depth, the **Alpina** has unique aids which are based on the patented SINAR two-point focusing principle with great effective base length from one edge of the image to the other. The horizontal tilt axes H and H' as well as the vertical swing axes V and V' are marked on the focusing screen.

3. Slide the angle-indicator scale until the "O" mark is aligned with the edge of the fine-focus movement.

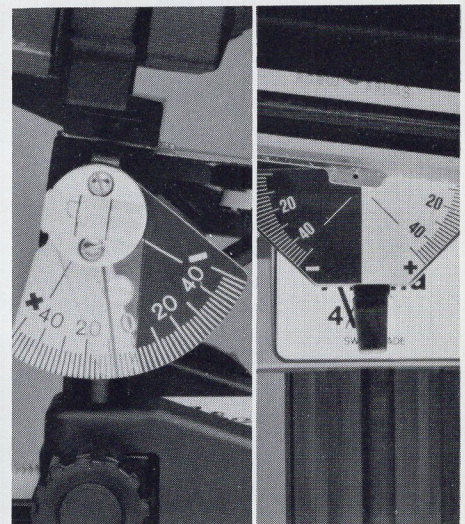
Turn the fine focusing drive to focus sharply on the H' (or V') line.



The built-in angle indicator does away with trial-and-error fiddling for sharpness distribution control.

4. Read off the required tilt degrees (8° as shown) and tilt direction (+ above).

Note: + indicates a tilt **increasing the extension**,  
— indicates a tilt **decreasing the extension**.



5. Set the tilt angle (8°) and direction (+) on the tilt scale — either of the rear or the lens standard.\*

6. Now reset the overall sharpness by movement of the rear standard (image standard).

Carry out final tilt or swing corrections by repeating 1. to 6.



# Alpina 4x5 Specifications:

**Format:** 4x5"

**Construction:** All cast metal

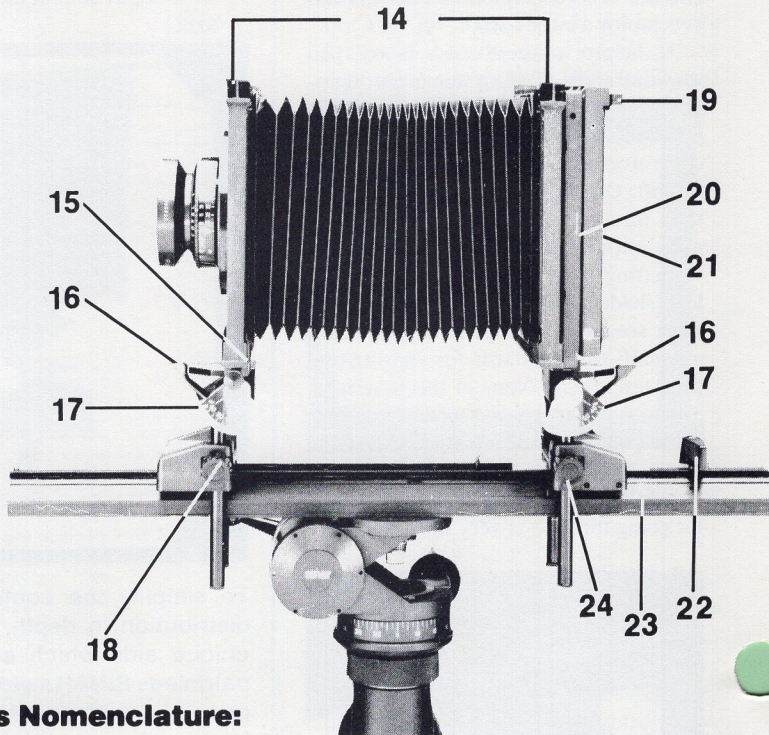
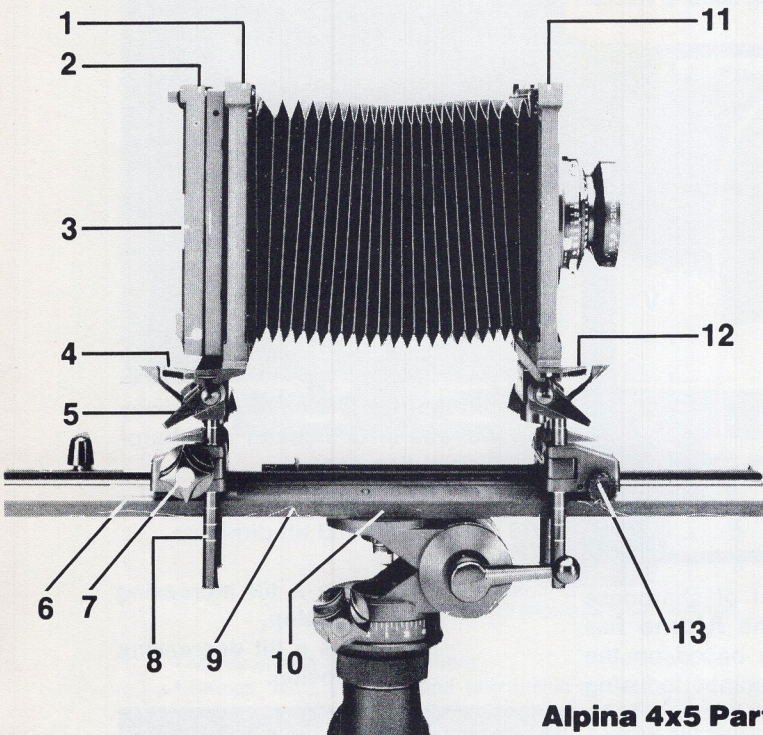
**Dimensions:** 18 x 12¼ x 7" (l x h x w)

**Weight:** 6 lbs. 4 oz.

**Range of lenses:** Over 100 lenses available in focal lengths from 65 to 300mm. Lens boards available for mounting up to #3 shutter.

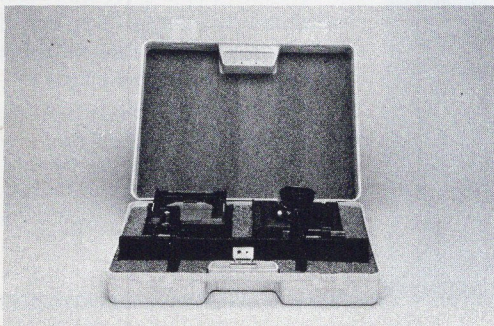
**Accessories available:** Accepts a variety of Sinar accessories including viewing aids, auto-aperture and electronic shutters, film-plane metering and exposure modules, bellows, filters, lens shades and masks.

**Warranty:** Full five years — the best warranty in the field.



## Alpina 4x5 Parts Nomenclature:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Image or focusing-screen standard.</li> <li>2. Film holder and focusing-screen holder.</li> <li>3. Focusing-screen frame lock.</li> <li>4. Swing scale (rear standard).</li> <li>5. Tilt clamping lever.</li> <li>6. Angle scale.</li> <li>7. Fine-focusing drive.</li> <li>8. Vertical displacement scale.</li> <li>9. 18" base rail extendable to 24".</li> <li>10. Rail clamp (not visible) slides beneath base rail, has 3/8" and 1/4" threads.</li> <li>11. Lens standard.</li> <li>12. Swing scale (front standard).</li> <li>13. Coarse-displacement locking screw (front standard).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14. Locking strips.</li> <li>15. Filter-holder-rod locking knob.</li> <li>16. Locking levers for swings and lateral displacement.</li> <li>17. Tilt scales (front and rear standards).</li> <li>18. Vertical-displacement locking screw (front standard).</li> <li>19. Lock for film-holder accessories.</li> <li>20. Image-plane index.</li> <li>21. Attachment system for focusing-screen accessories (not shown—recessed).</li> <li>22. Coarse-displacement locking screw (rear standard).</li> <li>23. Depth-of-field scale.</li> <li>24. Vertical-displacement locking screw (rear standard).</li> </ul> |
|--|--|



The Alpina 4x5 comes complete with a handsome and rugged carrying case.

Sinar Bron, Inc., 23 Progress St., Edison, NJ 08820; (201) 754-5800.

Available at:

