baldessamat - F/RF

with 45 mm f/2,8 Color-Baldanar

Owner's Manual

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CONGRATULATIONS — — —

With your new BALDESSAMAT camera you can get fine daylight and flash pictures like an expert — *automatically*. Here are just a few of the advanced built-in features to make the camera a splendid all-in-one outfit:

Automatic Exposure — coupled photoelectric exposure meter sets the proper lens opening for your daylight pictures with any film. No need to think about exposure — — just snap the picture!

Automatic Flash — simple setting gives you fine flash pictures with clear or blue flash bulbs. Nothing to calculate — — just flash!

Retractable Flash-Flector with built-in flash gun, always ready at the flip of your finger. Nothing to carry, nothing to forget!

Color-Coded Distance Zones — exclusive color coding for easy distance setting for SCENE, GROUP, PORTRAIT or NEAR.

Automatic Zone Signals or Coupled Rangefinder. The Zone Signals in the Baldessamat F tell you, right in the viewfinder, if the lens is properly set for SCENE, GROUP, PORTRAIT or NEAR. It's easy to get sharp pictures every time. (Instead of Zone Signals, the Baldessamat RF has a built-in coupled rangefinder for critical focusing.)

Built-in Lens Shade and Filter Holder. Twist-out shade protects lens against stray light for clearer, more sparkling pictures. Holds standard Series 5 filters.

These and many other automatic features of your BALDESSAMAT are ready to go to work for you the moment you load your first film into the camera.

For your greater enjoyment — please take a few minutes to follow the simple operating steps described in these pages. Once you know how easily your BALDESSAMAT gives you good results, you'll be rewarded with fine pictures year after year!

LOADING

Use Film Size No. 135 in 20 or 36 exposure magazines.
SHIELD CAMERA AND FILM FROM BRIGHT LIGHT WHILE
LOADING.

Open the camera back by pressing
down on both CATCHES at the same
time.

Insert the narrow film end into the
slot of the TAKE-UP spool, and hook
a perforation hole of the film securely
on the TOOTH in the slot; hold
the TAKE-UP spool while you
place the film magazine over
the spindle in the empty film
compartment at the other end
of the camera. Let the maga-
zine drop all the way into the
compartment.

Slowly rotate the TAKE-UP spool until the narrow end of the film is
nearly wound on, and the perforation of the full width „leader" part
of the film is engaged on the SPROCKET. The film must run between
the edge GUIDES.

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Close the back: Insert the LIP at the narrow end of the camera back cover into the channel on the camera body near the take-up spool. Press down the other end of the cover until it clicks into locked position.

Fold out the film transport KEY and give it a half turn clockwise until it comes to a stop. Press down the shutter release lever on the front of the camera. Now give the KEY another half turn. The camera is now ready for the first exposure, and the exposure COUNTER is automatically set at "1".
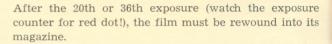

Each half turn of the KEY moves the next film frame into position, winds the shutter for the next exposure, and advances the COUNTER. (Dots between numerals indicate *even* numbers.)
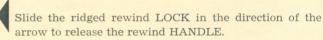
In the center of the rewind handle is a SIGNAL of proper film advance; its rotation shows that the film is transporting correctly.

After the 20th or 36th exposure (watch the exposure counter for red dot!), the film must be rewound into its magazine.

Slide the ridged rewind LOCK in the direction of the arrow to release the rewind HANDLE.
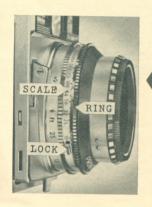

Crank the HANDLE clockwise until a resistance is felt; the film is now rewound into its magazine.
Fold the HANDLE back into closed position and press it down until the rewind LOCK clicks into place.

Open the camera back and take out the film magazine. If necessary, unhook the perforation from the tooth of the take-up spool. Opening the camera back automatically returns the exposure counter to starting position "A". Exposed film should be developed as soon as possible.

AUTOMATIC DAYLIGHT EXPOSURE

The only thing *you* need to do about correct exposure is to set the camera for the ASA number of the film you are using; (you will find the ASA number in the instructions packaged with the film.) Once that's done, the Automatic Exposure Control of your BALDESSAMAT takes over to give you correctly exposed pictures all day long outdoors. (See page 15 about flash pictures).

Set the ASA number: Depress the ridged LOCK while you rotate the speed RING until its red mark is opposite the ASA number of the film. The numbers and dots on the SCALE represent these ASA numbers:

(400) 200 160 125 **100** 80 **64 50** 40 **32 25** 20 16 **10**

Thus, if you use Kodachrome II, set the red mark at '25'; for Kodachrome X, set it at '64'; for Plus-X Pan (ASA 160), set it at the dot to the right of '200'.

NOTE: When using ASA 400 film, set the red mark at '200' and use a 2x neutral gray filter in front of the lens.

Set the Selector Ring to "AUTO".

Depress the selector LEVER while you rotate the SELECTOR ring clockwise to bring the word AUTO to the top of the shutter, in line with the INDEX of the lens.

The AUTO setting automatically assigns a shutter speed to the film as follows: ASA 10 = 1/30th sec.; ASA 25 = 1/60th sec.; ASA 50 = 1/125th sec.; ASA 100 = 1/250th sec.; ASA 200 = 1/500th sec. Intermediate ASA numbers are assigned corresponding shutter speeds. For example, if you set the SCALE for Kodachrome X (ASA 64), the shutter speed is 1/160th sec. These shutter speeds apply only to the AUTO setting.

The Automatic Exposure Control sets the correct lens opening for proper exposure.

ADDING YOUR "PERSONAL TOUCH"

When you aim your BALDESSAMAT at a scene or subject, the built-in exposure meter "looks" at the entire picture area; it averages the light reflected by the brighter and darker portions and sets the exposure accordingly. Therefore, you will always get better results with scenes in which bright and darker areas are of about equal importance, and with flat lighting, with the sun behind your back or over your shoulder while you take the picture.

Because the Automatic Control cannot judge what *you* consider important in a scene, there may be times when you will get better results by changing the ASA setting of the camera, especially for scenes with great contrast. For back-lighted subjects, or for pictures of people against a bright background (light-colored building, snow, etc.) move the ASA setting *3 steps lower*. (Example: Kodachrome X (ASA 64); adjust to '32'). In the opposite situation, for a light subject against a dark background, move the ASA setting *3 steps higher*. (Example: Kodachrome X (ASA 64); adjust to '125').

When you use a filter with black-and-white film, simply divide the normal ASA number of the film by the filter factor, and change the ASA setting of your camera to the nearest setting. (Example: Plus-X ASA 160 film with 2x filter. Divide 160 by 2 = 80. Adjust ASA setting of camera to '80').

Always return the ASA SCALE to the normal setting for the film for regular exposures!

How do you like your color slides? You don't have to use the ASA settings recommended by film manufacturers. If you prefer your color slides darker, use a slightly higher ASA setting: with a lower ASA setting you will get lighter slides.

DISTANCE SETTING

Distance setting for sharp pictures is a simple matter with your BALDESSAMAT.

The Color-Coded Distance Zone system of your camera automatically gives you the proper setting for the type of picture you want to take. No need to read distance scale numbers — it's fast and convenient even if you wear glasses. The colors were purposely chosen so that their first letter agrees with the Zone setting:

SCENE = **S**ky-blue zone; **GROUP** = **G**reen zone; **POR-TRAIT** = **P**ink zone; **NEAR** = **N**eutral zone.

Zone Setting: Rotate the LENS MOUNT until the desired zone is opposite the white INDEX.

The Automatic Zone Signal

in the viewfinder (BALDESSAMAT F only) tells you instantly if the lens is set for SCENE, GROUP, PORTRAIT or NEAR as extra assurance of sharp pictures when you are "shooting". Each zone name is fully visible when the lens is set in the middle of the Color - Coded Zone on the LENS MOUNT; with the middle setting, your BALDESSAMAT automatically gives you sharp pictures covering all objects within the following ranges:

SCENE	from 20 ft to Infinity	
GROUP	7 ft to 13 ft	
PORTRAIT	$4^1/_2$ ft to $6^1/_2$ ft	
NEAR	$3^1/_4$ ft to $4^1/_4$ ft	

These ranges apply for pictures of average subjects in sunny or bright daylight.

DISTANCE SCALE SETTING.

Under heavy overcast sky, in deep shade, and in similar poor light conditions, you will get sharper pictures by setting the lens for the actual camera-to-subject distance: Rotate the LENS MOUNT until the distance (number of feet on the scale) is opposite the INDEX. It is also necessary to set the actual distance for flash pictures. (See page 15)

Rangefinder Focusing with Baldessamat RF.

Instead of a Zone Signal, the viewfinder of the Baldessamat RF has a critical rangefinder in its center circle. Aim the center circle at the subject while looking throught the viewfinder; rotate the LENS MOUNT to the left or right until the two images in the center circle merge into one. The lens is now sharply focused on the subject.

S-t-e-a-d-y does it! Hold the camera steady, with the viewfinder close to your eye. Have your finger "at the ready" on the shutter RELEASE, but be careful not to obstruct the exposure meter window or lens. When you are ready to take the picture, *squeeze* — don't jab — the RELEASE all the way down.

The Viewfinder is your "Control Center"

When you look into the viewfinder, the small window in the lower left corner tells you immediately if there is sufficient light for Automatic Exposure; when the red flash symbol (⚡) is visible, the available light is inadequate and the use of flash is indicated. The Automatic Zone Signal (Baldessamat F) shows you if the lens is properly set for SCENE, GROUP, PORTRAIT or NEAR. In the Baldessamat RF, you can check accurate focus with the rangefinder in the center circle. The large luminous frame contains the entire scene or subject that will be in your picture. The Baldessamat F has short lines near the top of the frame which indicate the top edge of a horizontal picture when the subject is closer than 5 feet. The luminous frame of the Baldessamat RF automatically corrects for parallax at any distance and always shows exactly what will be in your picture.

The Built-in Lens Shade.

You will get clearer pictures, especially in very bright scenes, if you always use the lens shade. To put the shade in position, rotate its knurled rim counter-clockwise as far as it will go. When you replace the camera in its case, simply rotate the lens shade clockwise all the way in.

Filters.

For special effects with black-and-white films, and under certain conditions with color film, a Series 5 filter can be fitted in front of the lens. Remove the filter retaining ring by screwing it out counter-clockwise. Place the filter in front of the lens and replace the retaining ring. Always open out the lens shade after a filter has been put in place.

CHECK LIST FOR DAYLIGHT PICTURES

Use this simple check list when you start using your new BALDESSAMAT. With only a little practice you will follow this sequence naturally.

> Make sure the ASA scale is set for the film you are using.
> Check if the selector ring is set at AUTO.
> Set the lens mount for the proper distance zone (or the accurate distance).
> Hold the camera steady, with the viewfinder close to your eye.
> Check the light signal, zone signal, proper framing in the viewfinder.
> When ready, *squeeze* the shutter release all the way down; the shutter release will go down only if you have turned the film transport key to the next frame.
> After each exposure, turn the film transport key a half turn.

Do not force the transport key beyond the 20th or 36th exposure (depending on film length), as this may tear the film from its magazine and require unloading of the camera in complete darkness.

FLASH

Your BALDESSAMAT has a built-in flash gun for AG-1 bulbs and exclusive retractable Flash-Flector to give you fine flash pictures without fuss and bother. You'll have fun taking flash pictures at home, at parties, on vacation, without needing to carry an extra accessory.

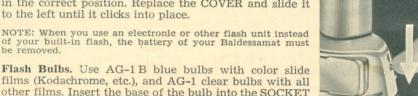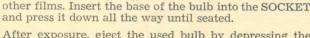**Battery.** Push the COVER of the battery compartment to the right. Insert a 15 volt battery (Eveready No. 504 or equivalent), making sure that the + and — ends are in the correct position. Replace the COVER and slide it to the left until it clicks into place.

NOTE: When you use an electronic or other flash unit instead of your built-in flash, the battery of your Baldessamat must be removed.

Flash Bulbs. Use AG-1 B blue bulbs with color slide films (Kodachrome, etc.), and AG-1 clear bulbs with all other films. Insert the base of the bulb into the SOCKET and press it down all the way until seated.

After exposure, eject the used bulb by depressing the EJECTOR at the side of the camera.

Flash-Flector. Push the ridged SLIDE below the battery compartment to the right to snap up the Flash-Flector. After use, push the Flash-Flector straight down into camera until it clicks into locked position.

Keep the polished reflector of the Flash-Flector clean and free of finger prints.

GETTING SET FOR FLASH PICTURES.

Set the camera for the ASA number of the film which you
are using. — — The AUTO setting cannot be used with
flash. Rotate the SELECTOR RING counter-clockwise until
the FLASH SCALE faces up.

TAKING FLASH PICTURES

Focus the camera. Estimate the distance from the camera to the subject, and set this
distance by rotating the lens mount until number of feet on the distance scale is
opposite the INDEX. With the Baldessamat RF, focus accurately by rangefinder.

Set the Flash Scale. Turn the SELECTOR RING until the camera-to-subject distance
on the FLASH SCALE is opposite the blue arrow (for blue bulbs) or opposite the white
arrow (for clear bulbs). The ASA number of the film determines the nearest or farthest
distance at which the FLASH SCALE can be set.

Now-FLASH! Look at the subject through the viewfinder and — when ready — *squeeze*
(don't jab) the shutter release all the way down. The shutter release will go down only
if you have turned the film transport key to the next frame.

NOTE: The flash settings are for use in rooms of average size with medium-colored walls. When
pictures are taken in surroundings which differ greatly from the standard conditions, the flash
setting may be adjusted as follows: In larger rooms or for outdoor scenes at night, set the ASA
number of the film one step l o w e r than normal. (Example: Kodachrome X [ASA 64]; adjust
to '50'.) In smaller rooms with very light colored walls, change to one step h i g h e r than
normal. (Example: Kodachrome X [ASA 64]; adjust to '80'.)

Care and Service of your Camera.

Your Baldessamat camera was carefully tested and checked before leaving the factory. It was made by West Germany's Balda Company, famous since 1908 for the sound engineering and fine workmanship of its cameras. The precision die-cast all metal body of the camera is your assurance of rugged construction. Yet you should protect it, like any precision instrument, from dust, sand or salt water spray, and avoid rough treatment. Use its DeLuxe eveready case for convenient carrying and extra protection.

If your camera should become damaged, or fail to operate, please send it for adjustment or repair direct to us, or through your dealer, **together with the Guarantee Card** which accompanies each new camera, and give a brief description of the reason for sending it.

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