

# ZEISS HISTORICA

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## ON THE COVERS

*FRONT COVER.* Very early Contaflex I with rare Opton lens.  
*BACK COVER.* Zeiss Ikon films from pre-war catalog.

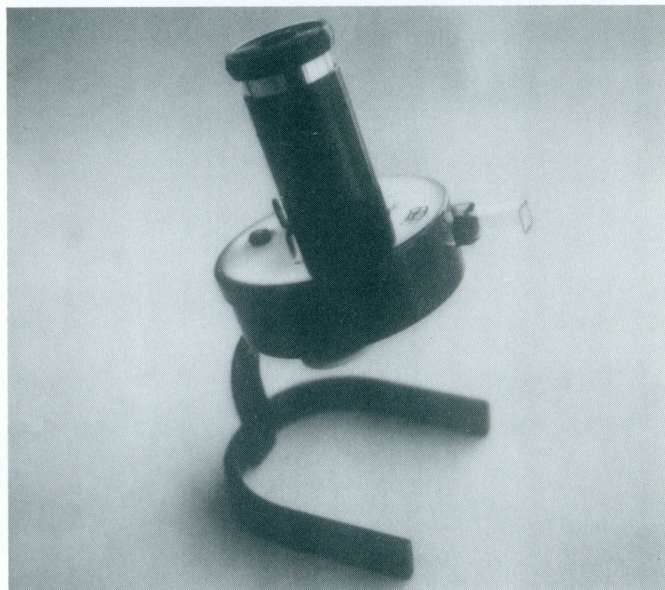
## ILLUSTRATION SOURCES

*Front cover and Contaflex I article,* Paul Edstrom. *Haemometer,* the editor; *Polytest,* Nick Grossman. *Zeiss/B&L binoculars,* Paul Neupert. *Contamatic/Bessaflex, Curiosities from Jena,* and *photos of equipment in Zeiss Ikon archives* by Juergen Kuc, courtesy of Charles Barringer, Jr.

## SMALL ZEISS IKON LAB INSTRUMENTS

Both of the small instruments shown here were designed for performing blood or other tests in medical laboratories of doctors' offices. The one shown at the top is called a "Haemometer", stands about 6" high, and dates from prior to World War II.

It apparently performs only a single test: blood sugar content. A sample of blood is treated with picric acid and caustic soda. The



ZEISS IKON A.G. GOERZWERK · BERLIN

### Gebrauchsanweisung

für das

**ZEISS IKON Kolorimeter  
zur Blutzuckerbestimmung**

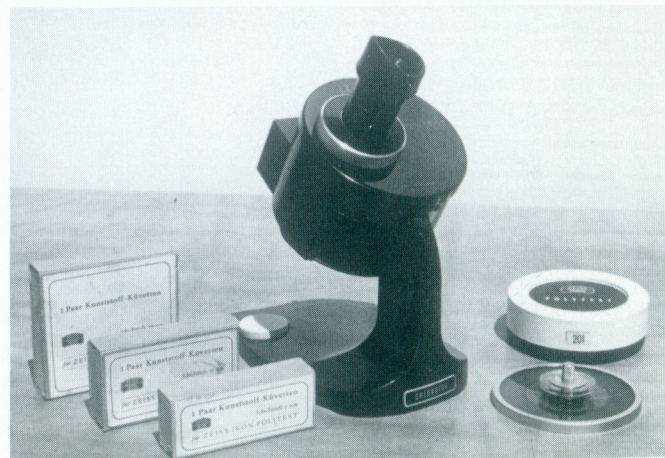
nach Crecelius-Seifert

**Modell D**



sample is then inserted into the small test tube shown in the instrument, and its color compared with an existing variable color scale by means of a rotating wheel. Part of the instructions for a similar instrument, dated 1937, are shown here.

The instrument shown with its accessories in the lower photo is called a "Polytest", and so must obviously be capable of performing more than one type of test. Label on the base reads "Chlorator".

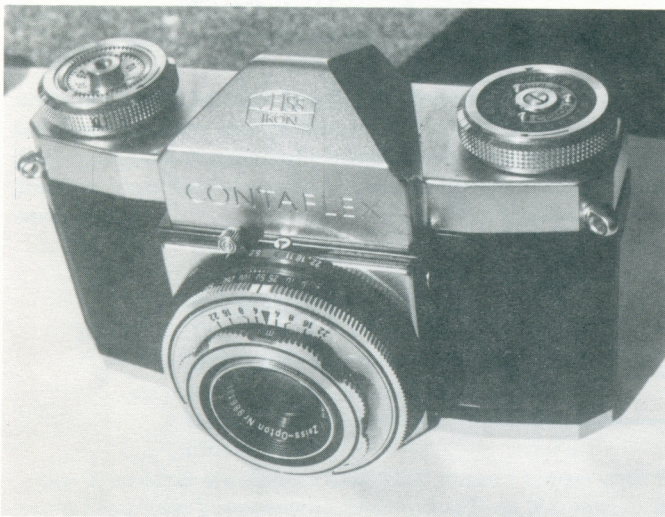


# IDENTIFYING CONTAFLEX I VARIATIONS

*Paul Edstrom, Blaine, Minnesota*

This is a follow-up to Jan Bisschops' story "Two Compurs for the Contaflex I" in the Autumn, 1986 issue of "Zeiss Historica" (Vol. 8, No. 2). His conclusion, after researching many Zeiss stories, was that the very earliest version of the Contaflex I (MX sync only) was produced for only a short time. My research indicates the same. What we don't know yet is this version's production volume or time. The dates of magazine articles and advertising brochures seem to indicate approximately 6 months.

In addition to the MX and MXV shutter versions, a number of other production changes were made during the years Zeiss marketed this model. I will identify some of these changes: those that can be seen. Internal changes — those that the user can't easily get to — are not considered here. Several sources have been used including



*Very early Contaflex I with scarce Opton lens. This example is in excellent working condition which is also not very common. The body is serial A65856 with lens 986131.*

advertising brochures, instruction books, Zeiss price lists, and of course the cameras themselves. One more very useful document has been the repair manual "Contaflex I List No. 861/24" which describes three major early variations of the Model I.

I've attempted to catalog the Model I in two ways. First, by differences in the main body casting. These can be seen by looking inside with the back removed. Second, by differences in the f-stop lever which is located on the top front of the camera. The various constructions for both of these are shown in the accompanying line

drawings. The castings are roman numeral series I-IV while f-stop levers are letter series A-D.

The casting differences are many. I've elected to make the division between types on the position and shape of the post holding the mirror positioning screw. I hope other collectors and researchers will



*Later Contaflex I body, serial L16871 with lens 1548075. The body is casting type III with f-stop type D.*

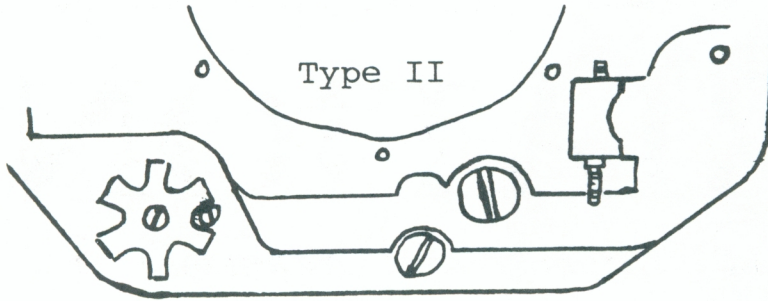
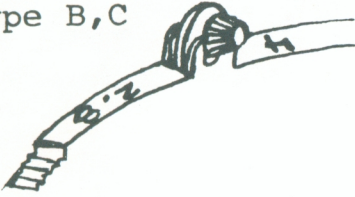
find this useful. Judging from the cameras I have access to, this seems a fairly straightforward and complete way. Brief descriptions for each body type include:

- I. The sync wire is visible when looking in from the back. Mirror screw post is rectangular with a semi-circular cutout and mounted to the front.
- II. Two raised ledges across the bottom with two screws. Rectangular post from the front with semi-circular cutout.
- III. Two raised ledges across the bottom with one or two screws. Square and half-round post from the front with another screw in its rear rear surface.
- IV. Two raised ledges across the bottom with one screw. Rectangular post mounted to the bottom.

The f-stop lever differences are readily seen from the outside. I have three types in my collection and have also seen them in Zeiss brochures. Those shown with the three line drawings include:

- A. Solid lever in the middle of the f-range 2.8 and 4 on

Type B,C

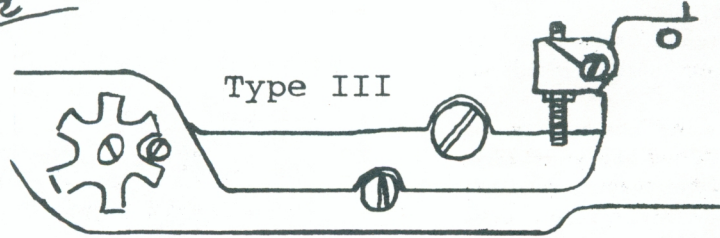
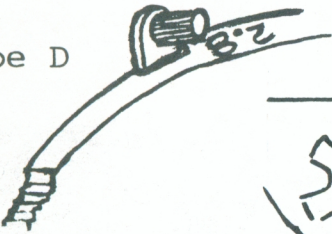


E 37644

F 88935

F 69204

Type D



E 31505

(No big screw)

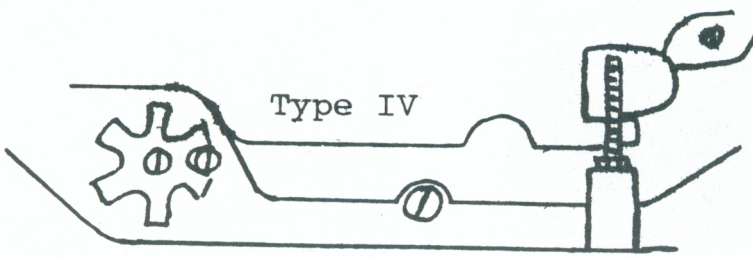
G 3451

G 4052

L 16871

L 23604

Type IV

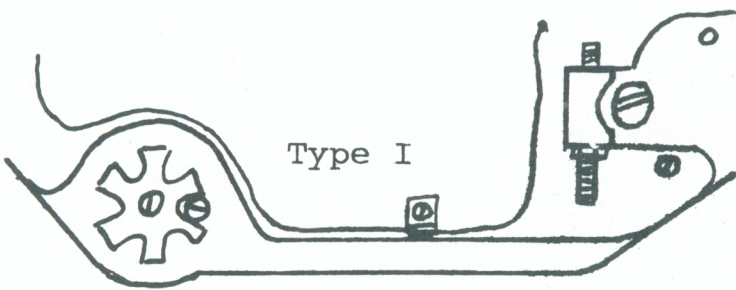
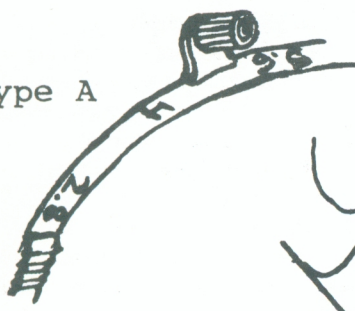


N 37501

R 41293

R 41668

Type A



A 65856

A 75634

(Lens 946755)

- one side of the lever and 5.6 — 22 on the other.
- B. Spring-loaded lever running in slots. The knob itself is slightly conical. All f-numbers are on one side of the knob except 2.8.
  - C. Same as B. except all f-numbers are on one side of the knob.
  - D. Spring-loaded lever coming up through a rectangular hole in the f-stop ring. This one has the smoothest action.

A more detailed description of the three types is given in the Zeiss repair manual. The manual also seems to hint at a shutter/f-stop combination I haven't seen yet. That is a spring-loaded f-stop (type B) but with the early MX Synchro-Compur shutter and body type I. John Alldredge has described an early Contaflex I he owns (serial D57861) with the type B f-stop lever and type I body casting. This



Early Contaflex I with type C f-stop lever.

seems reasonable, because the self timer feature is not mentioned in any literature I have until pictures show the type C f-stop lever. The third configuration specifically mentions a spring-loaded f-stop. All three are identified by the Zeiss numbering system as used in the repair manual.

- 861/24 Type A f-stop lever.
- 861/24 Z Spring-loaded f-stop lever (type B) with catalog reference 861/24 Pcm.
- 861/24 A This unit has a built-in self timer. The catalog reference is 861/24 Pcms. This shutter cannot be put in either of the above cameras (without self timers) due to size differences.

One Zeiss brochure (#3026 dated 0254) shows a camera with the type A f-stop lever but a catalog identification Pcm. We can draw the conclusion either that another variety exists or that Zeiss used earlier version pictures for later brochures. I lean toward the latter explanation, as I've seen other examples of pictures used in this way. The front cover of this same brochure has a picture of an early Contaflex I with a Zeiss-Opton lens (serial 980782). The Opton lens seems relatively scarce on these cameras. I've seen only the one given in the list below.

A word of caution is in order here. The repair manual makes a point that newer MXV shutters cannot be installed in place of earlier MX ones. However the whole lens/shutter assembly could be replaced with the newer version. It's likely that individuals owning early versions of this expensive camera had it upgraded when the self



Latest Contaflex I with type D f-stop lever. This example is body serial R41668 and lens 2513422.

timer became available. It's also likely that early shutters that failed were replaced completely with MXV types. The MX types were difficult to repair and were not available as replacement units. There are also some minor differences in the angle and lettering of the lens identification ring. But that's for another article.

Lens/body configuration combinations are always interesting so I've listed the ones investigated for this article.

BODY	LENS	CASTING	f-STOP	REMARKS
A65856	986131	I	A	Zeiss-Opton lens
A75634	946755	I	A	
D57861	1281554	I	B	
E31505	1537779	III	D	No big screw in casting
E37644	1317251	II	C	
F88935	1338598	II	C	
F89204	—	II	C	Lens/shutter missing
G3451	1367826	III	D	
G4052	1385425	III	D	
L16871	1548075	III	D	
L23604	1631297	III	D	
N37501	1831370	IV	D	
R41293	2514331	IV	D	
R41668	2513422	IV	D	

Camera E31505 seems to fall out of sequence in two ways. Its lens serial number is in the higher range of L series bodies. This may mean that its lens/shutter unit has been replaced. Its body seems to be a minor variation or a transition between Types III and IV. It has the mirror screw post of a Type III but the big screw boss (no big screw) of a Type IV. I'm not sure how this one fits in yet, or if it's a separate type.

I hope this research will aid others in identifying the versions of the Contaflex I they have and what they want to collect. Since we're still putting the production picture together and trying to extend it, any new information would be appreciated. In particular, examples in the following serial ranges would be especially helpful.

AXXXXX-EXXXXX (to find the Types I/II A/B range)

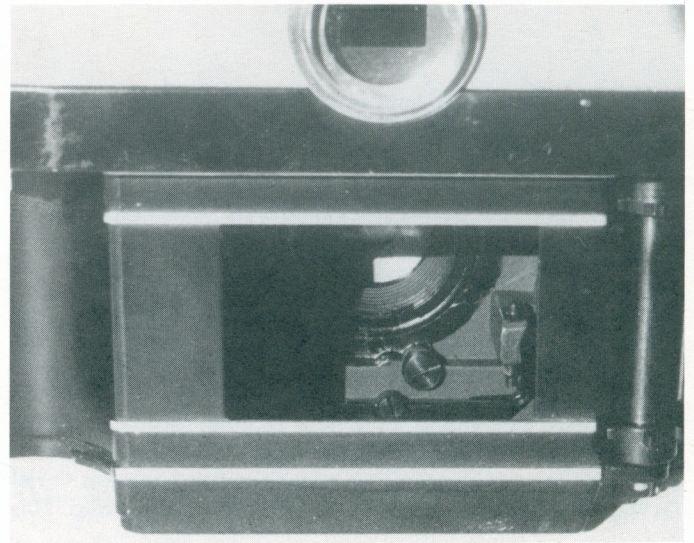
H, I, K, M, O, P, S - Z (to find range of Types II - IV)

Any 6 digit lens serial number (especially Opton)

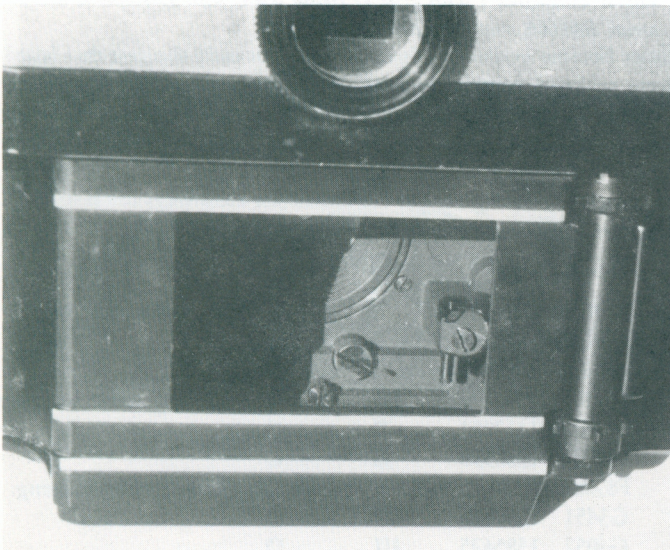
Any other peculiarities or variations on the types I've identified here would also be useful to show how the design changed over time. My address is 11625 Washington St. N.E., Blaine, Minn. 55434.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

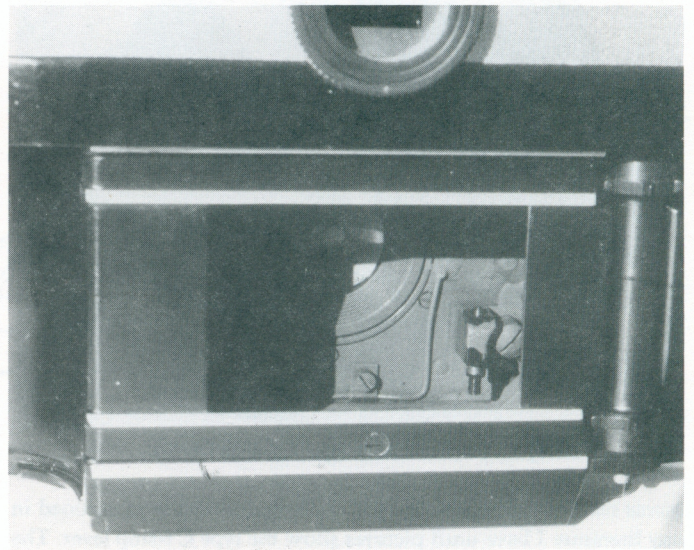
1. "Zeiss Ikon Cameras and Accessories Confidential Dealer Price List" dated January 15, 1955. cam 532
2. Zeiss repair manual "Contaflex I List No. 861/24" no date.
3. "Zeiss Historica" vol. 8, number 2, Autumn 1986.
4. "Contaflex I Instructions for Use" by J. Kraatz, dated 1055-5.
5. Brochure "Contaflex" by J. Kraatz, no. 3026, dated 0254.
6. Brochure "Contaflex" by J. Kraatz, no. 3036, dated 0355.
7. "Contaflex Cameras and Accessories 35mm" dated October 1, 1958. cam 904
8. "Contaflex and Contina 35mm Cameras and Accessories" price list no. 54, effective January 15, 1955, revised April 1, 1955. cam 535
9. "35mm Cameras and Accessories" Contaflex, Contessa, Contina, price list no. 50, effective April 1, 1954. cam 474



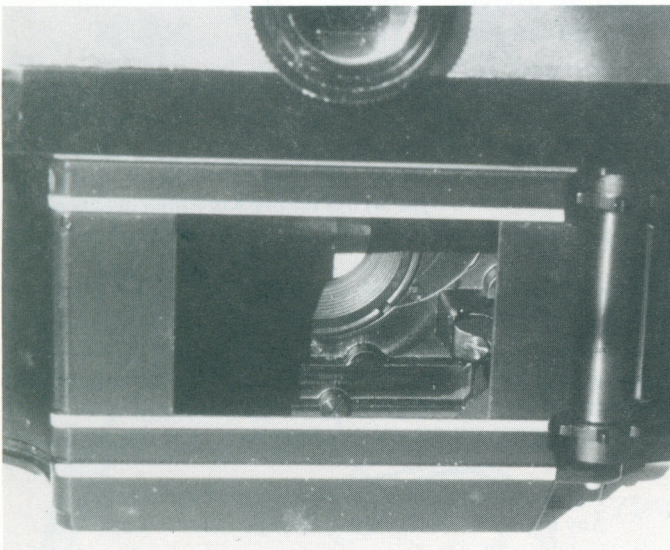
*An early body casting of type II. Notice the semi-circular shape of the right side of the mirror screw post.*



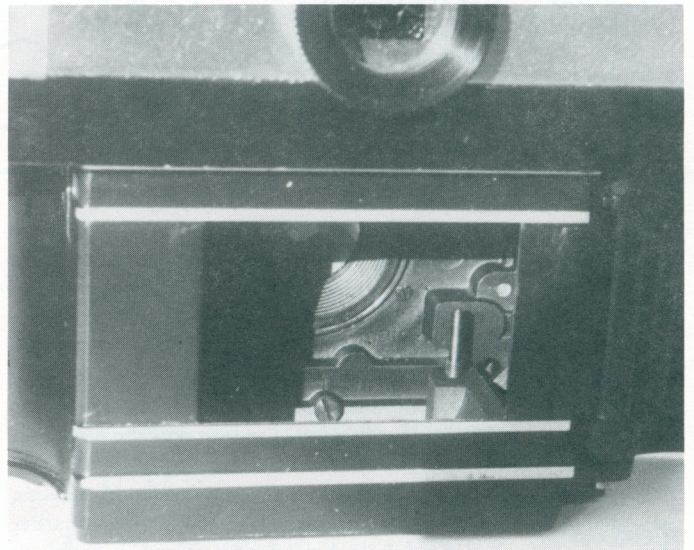
*Later type III body casting. The mirror adjusting screw post is attached to the front of the camera. There are two screw heads visible at lower center.*



*Inside the very early Contaflex I. Running on the right and below the lens is the exposed sync wire. There is also a large screw next to the mirror screw post.*



*This is a type III body casting, without big screw in lower center.*

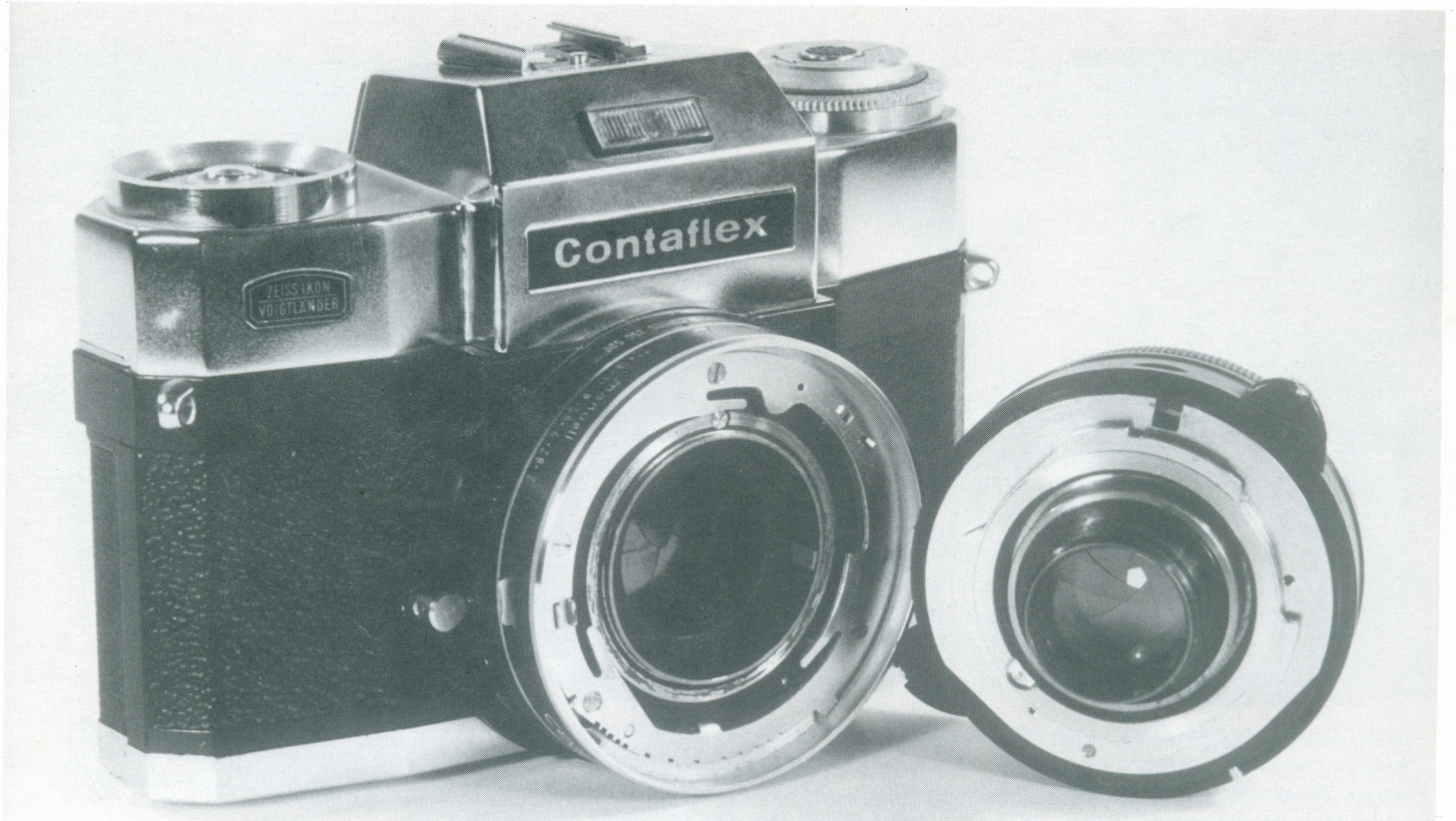


*On the latest body casting, the mirror adjusting screw post is cast from the bottom of the body. Vestiges of earlier posts are evident on the front behind the mirror screw.*

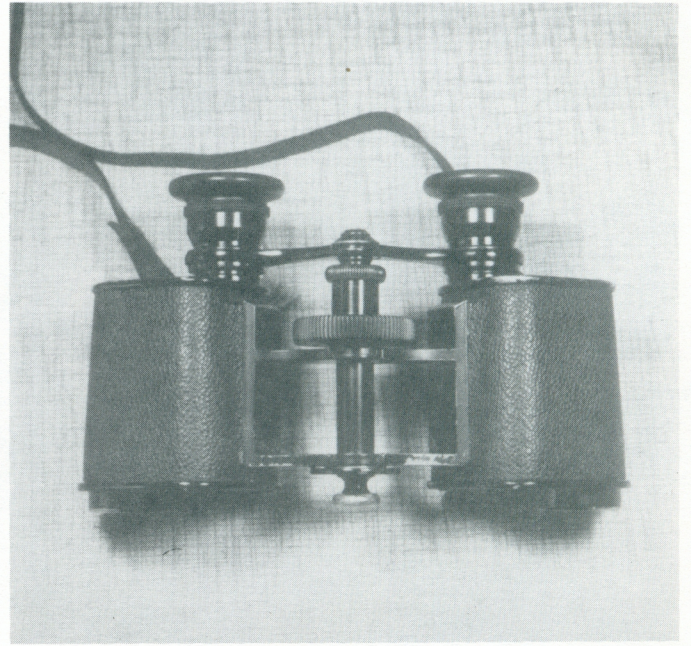
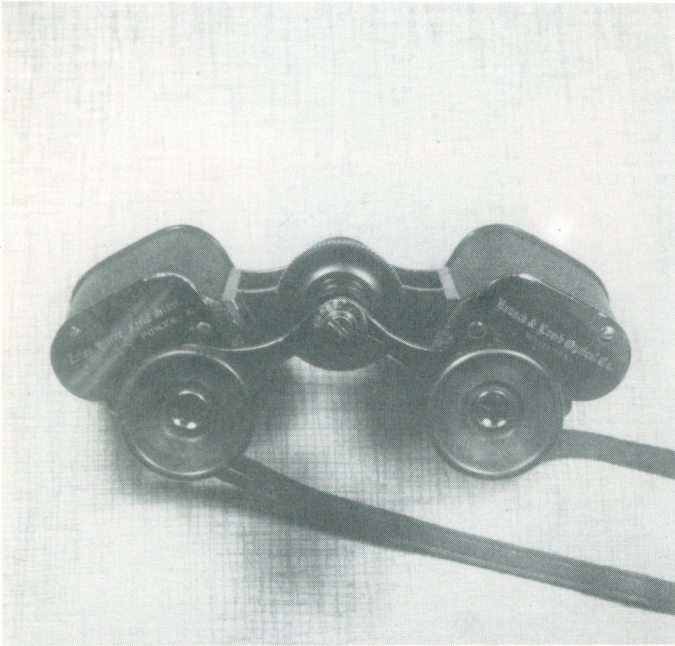
# CONTAMATIC? BESSAFLEX?



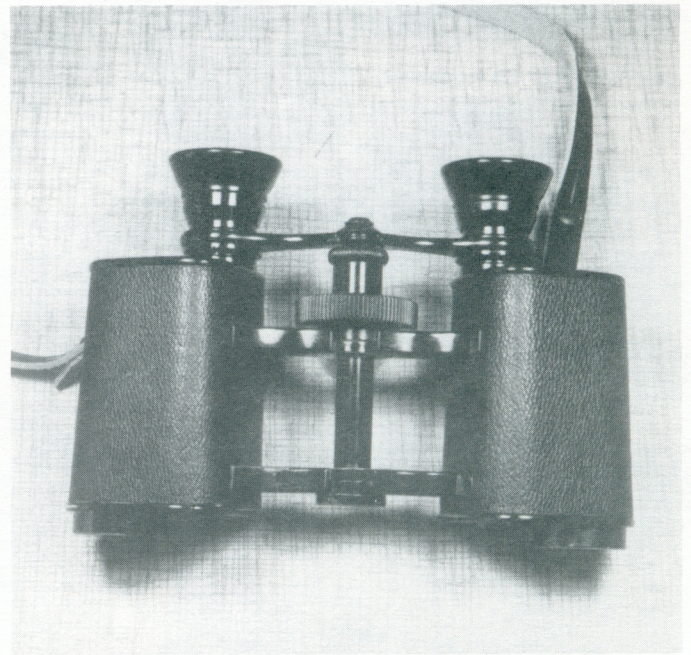
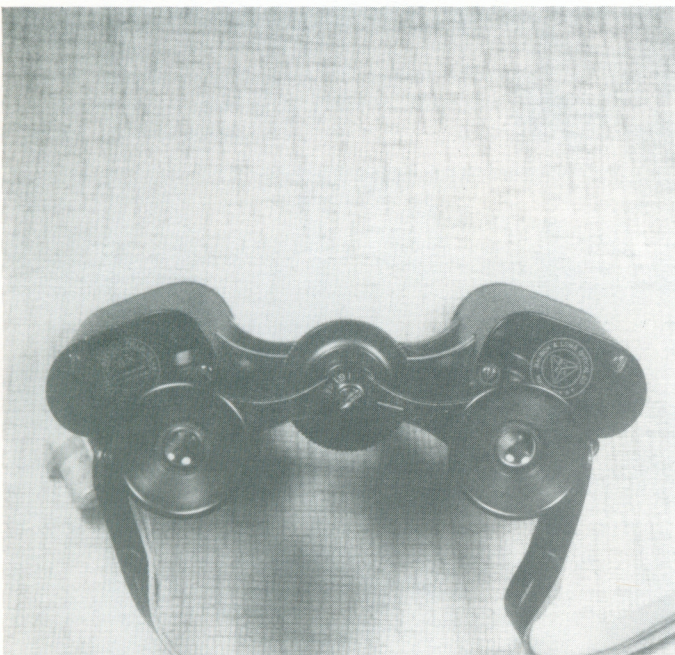
*Prototype hybrid from the archives of Oberkochen. Camera is derived from the Contaflex and Bessamatic, but its bayonet lens mount differs from those on either camera.*



# ZEISS B&L



6x12 "Zeiss Stereo Field Glass" from about 1900. The patent date on the glasses is June 22, 1887. The interpupillary distance scale is numbered from 1 to 5, rather than in millimeters. Hinges are of brass, screwed to prism castings. Strap lugs are brass, screwed onto body castings.

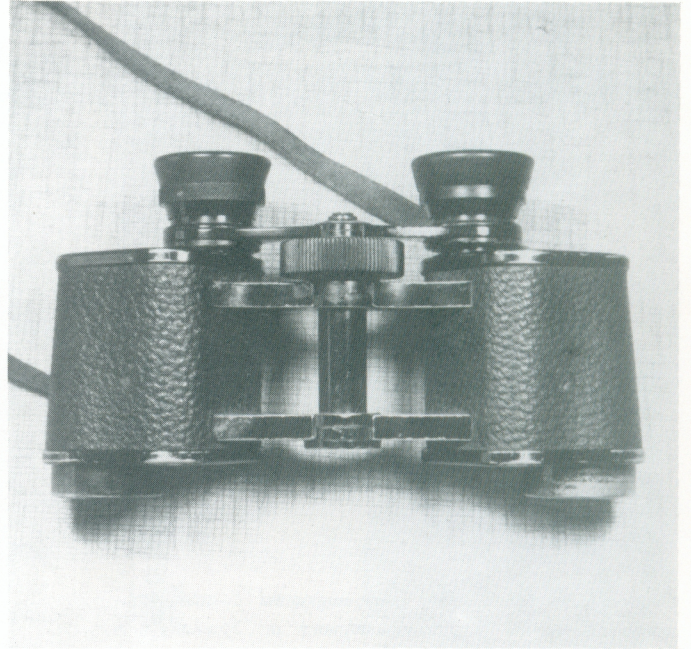
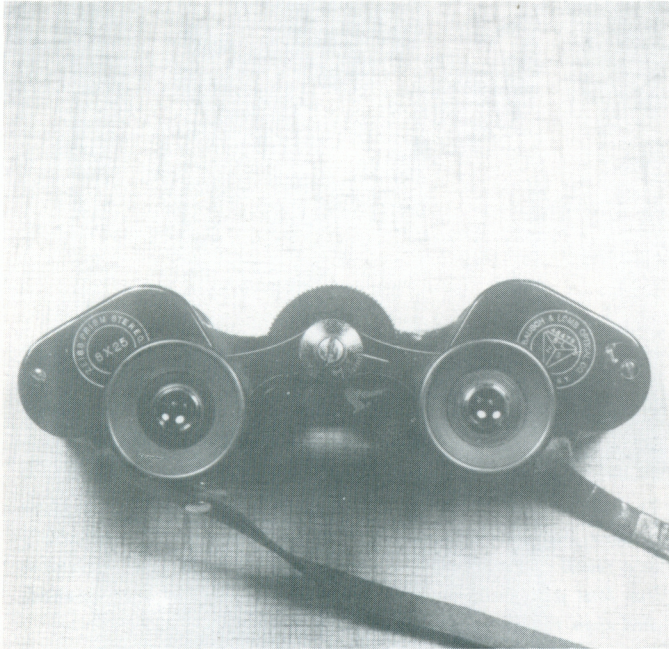


8x20 "Zeiss Stereo Field Glass", from between 1902 and 1907. Latest patent date shown is October 28, 1902. The hinges are now part of the body casting. Interpupillary scale still reads from 1 to 5, and the strap lugs are still screwed on. Collimation is now done by prism adjusting screws. The new B&L triangle design contains the initials "B&L/Z/S", which doubtless stands for Bausch & Lomb/Zeiss/Saegmuller. B&L ended their connection with Saegmuller in 1907, which would date these binoculars from before 1907.

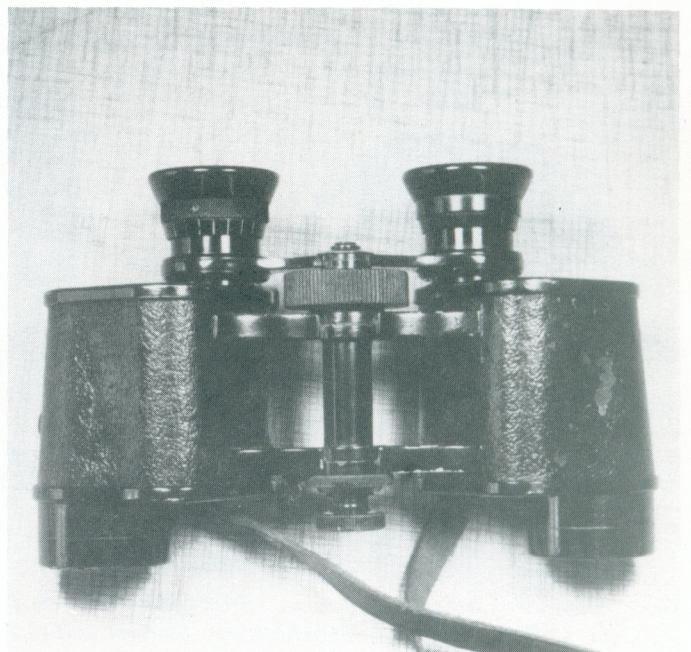


# BINOCULARS

*From the collection of Paul Neupert, Tonawanda, N.Y.*



*This instrument also dates from before 1907, since the B&L triangle still contains the Saegmuller "S". The proportions of this pair of 8x25's are much more modern, and they are now called "Zeiss Prism Stereo." Interpupillary scale is now in millimeters; strap lugs are part of casting.*

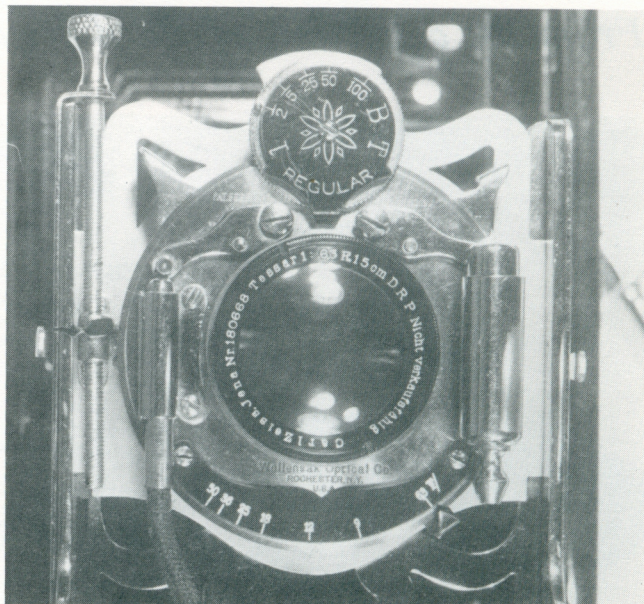


*This 6x30 "Zeiss Prism Stereo" dates from before World War I, after which B&L no longer used the Zeiss name. The B&L triangle is now in the form used for many years afterward. The binoculars themselves are now in the form B&L used with only minor changes until 1933 or 1934. Collimation is still done with prism adjusting screws. The change to eccentric rings on the objective lenses was made sometime prior to 1930.*

# CURIOSITIES FROM JENA



Custom-made 60 cm. f6.3 Tessar, engraved "Sonder-Anf." Abbreviation stands for "Sonderanfertigung" or "Special Production."



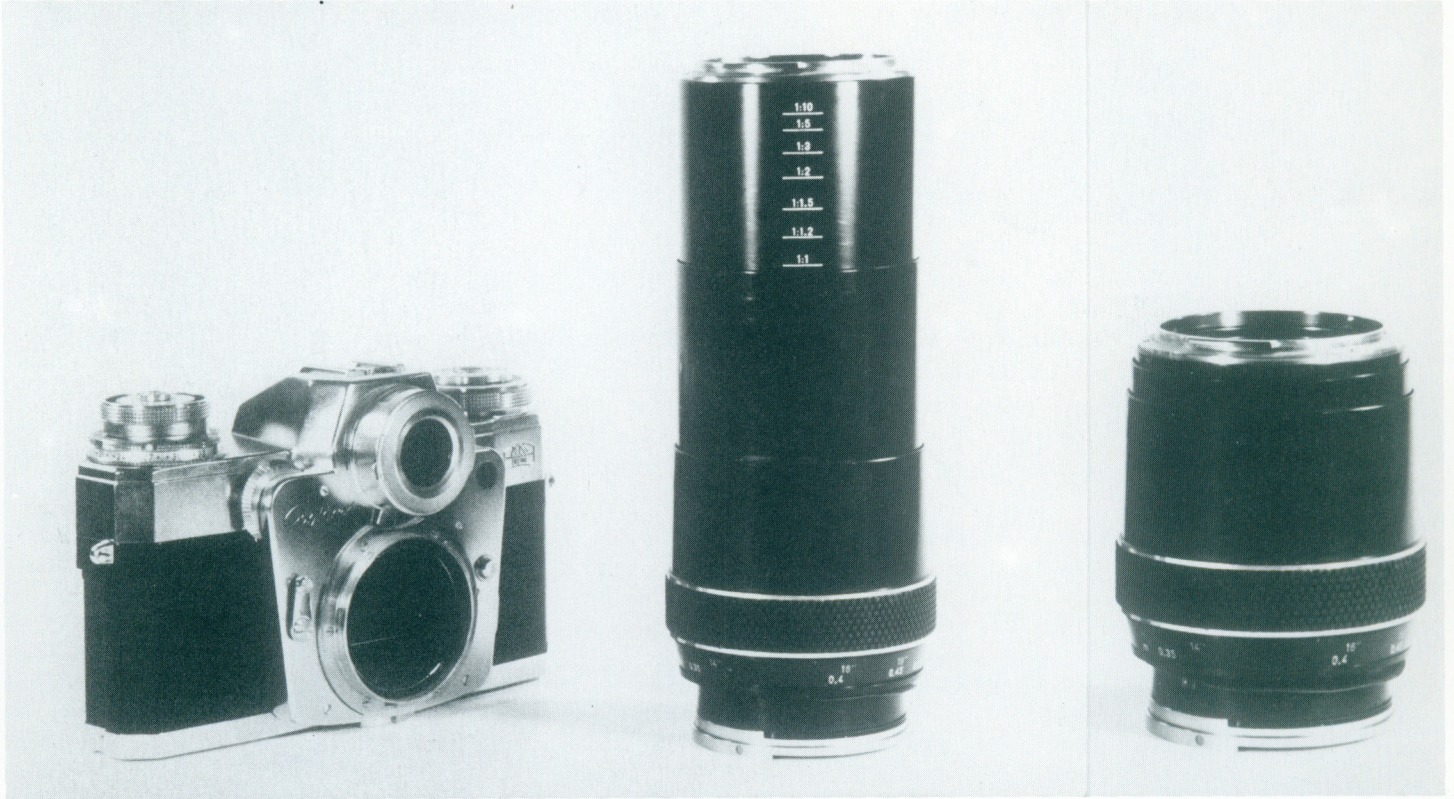
Tessar 15 cm. f6.3 (#180668) c. 1912, mounted on Wollensak plate camera. Marked "Nicht Verkaufsfaehig" (roughly, "Unsaleable") as a result of a bubble of unacceptable size in the glass. Nevertheless, lens was finished, assembled, the ID ring custom-engraved, and then sold to a customer.



Three "Muster-Sonnars" (pattern Sonnars). From left to right, 5 cm. f2 (R.1263.I, #60176), 13.5 cm. f4, 3.5 cm. f2.8 (R.1160, #60127.) These are early prototypes of the familiar series of Contax lenses. The 5 cm. and 13.5 cm. lenses already show a rough resemblance to their production counterparts. 3.5 cm. lens later mutated into the Biogon. Pin at 5 o'clock shows that, at this stage at least, lens was designed to be mounted on the internal bayonet.

# LICHTSTRAHLEN

*Light Rays: Notes of Interest to Those Interested in Zeiss and Its History*



*From the Zeiss Ikon archives at Oberkochen: a double-bellows focusing barrel for the Tessar 115mm. f3.5 lens. This Contarex mount permits focusing from infinity to 1:1. Barrel contains no elements, is shown here in its two extreme positions.*

## PUBLICATION SET FOR "ZEISS CAMERAS, 1902-1945"

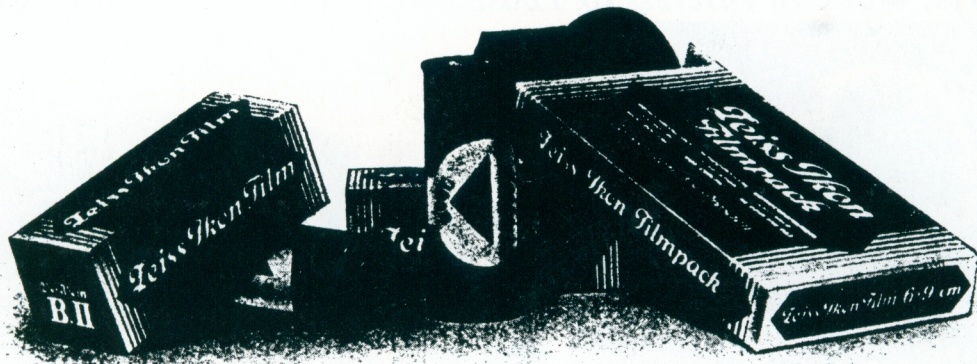
As members who have tried to obtain copies of the first volume by Bernd Otto and Kurt Juettner, "Zeiss Cameras, 1945-1975", may have discovered, the book is no longer available, every copy having been sold. Good news about the second volume, however: publication is definitely planned for 1988. This volume, also in a looseleaf, catalog-like format, will cover Zeiss cameras in exhaustive detail from 1902 to 1945. It should be an invaluable and unique reference for the collector. Inquiries about price and availability should be directed to Kurt Juettner, Auf der Schlosshecke 11, D-6000 Frankfurt 50, West Germany. Telephone: 511915.

This summer, the editor had the pleasure of visiting Kurt Juettner at his home in Ginheim, a suburb of Frankfurt. His collection of Zeiss equipment is extensive, including over a dozen versions of the Contax I, an ivory Contax like the one shown in the last issue of *Zeiss Historica*, a complete range of Ikonflexes from "coffee can" onwards, and many other interesting pieces.



*35 mm. f4 and 35 mm. f5.6 Mutagon lens attachments, presumably prototypes of the production Pro-Tessars for the Contaflex. But bayonet mount is unique; fits no known production camera. From the Oberkochen archives.*

# Z E I S S I K O N - F I L M S



Eigenschaften der Zeiss Ikon-Films: Hohe Empfindlichkeit (extra rapid), daher besonders für Momentaufnahmen bei ungünstigen Lichtverhältnissen geeignet. Sehr gleichmäßiges und feines Korn, sodaß die Negative sich auch vorzüglich zum Vergrößern eignen. Weiter Spielraum für Belichtung und Entwicklung. Gute Gradation. – Vorzügliche Gelbgrün-Empfindlichkeit. – Gleichmäßige Qualität

## Zeiss Ikon - Filmpacks

Format	4,5×6	6×9	8×10,5	8×14	9×12	10×15	cm
fr.	1.80	2.85	5.10	6.25	5.70	7.65	

## Zeiss Ikon - Rollfilms für 6 Aufnahmen

	(8 Aufn.)						
Bestell-Nr.	A 8*	AB 6	N*	BI*	BII*	C	
Format	4×6,5	4×6,5	5×7,5	6×6	6×9	6×9	cm
fr.	1.40	1.15	1.40	1.15	1.40	1.45	
Bestell-Nr.	D*	E*	F (BIII)	G*	H		
Format	6,5×11	8×10,5	8×10,5	8×14	9×9		cm
fr.	1.75	2.55	2.55	3.10	2.—		
Bestell-Nr.	I	K	L	M			
Format	10×12,5	10×12,5	12,5×10	7,25×12,5		cm	
fr.	3.15	3.10	3.15	2.55			

\* In unseren Rollfilm - Cameras verwendbar

## Zeiss Ikon - Negativfilm für Amateur-Kine-Aufnahmeapparate

in normaler Kinefilmbreite von 35 mm (Bildfeld 18×24 mm), perforiert, in Rollen von 15 m Länge fr. 9.—, von 25 m Länge fr. 15.— und von 30 m Länge » 18.—

## Kleinbildfilms für Unette und Bobette

Nr. 552	Negativfilm für 24 Aufnahmen	fr.	1.60
» 552/1	Negativfilm für 12 Aufnahmen	»	1.10
» 553	Positivfilm für 48 Aufnahmen	»	1.30
» 1423/18	Filmentwicklungsrahmen	»	3.30
» 1423/17	Kopierrahmen für 22×33 mm	»	1.60