CONGRATULATIONS!

You have just purchased the finest of exposure meters. You now hold the best insurance you can buy for good pictures, because your SEKONIC L-8 is a sensitive, reliable precision instrument offering positive answers to all exposure questions.
Read through the following pages—discover how easily your SEKONIC L-8 will point the way to new and exciting fun with photography.

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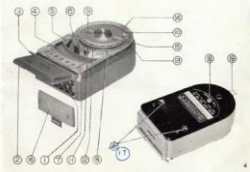
DESCRIPTION

① Light window (photo-cell)
② Cover
③ Cover opening button
④ Needle
⑤ Guide line
⑥ Yellow marker
⑦ Blue marker
⑧ Red marker
⑨ ASA index windows
⑩ Tab
⑪ f/stop scale
⑫ Shutter speed scale
⑬ "Light Value" scale
⑭ Movie Camera speeds
⑮ f/stop for movie
⑯ Incident attachment for meter
⑰ Amplifier plug receptacle
⑱ "Zero Adjustment" screw
⑲ Neck cord holder
⑳ Amplifier
㉑ Incident attachment for amplifier



SETTING THE FILM SPEED

First determine the ASA exposure index (speed) for your film from the chart at right or from the instruction sheet packed with your film.

Then turn the tab until the ASA number of your film appears in the window marked ASA.

Be sure to center the numeral in window.

ASA EXPOSURE INDEXES

	FOR STILL CAMERAS	Daylight	Tungsten	FOR MOVIE CAMERAS	Daylight	Tungsten
COLOR	Anscochrome Daylight	32	8*	Anscochrome Daylight	32	8*
	Anscochrome Flash Type (roll)	25*	25	Anscocolor Daylight	10	3*
	Anscocolor Daylight	10	3*	Anscocolor Tungsten (3400K)	10*	10
	Anscocolor Tungsten	10*	12	Kodachrome Daylight	10	4*
	Kodachrome Daylight	10	3*	Kodachrome Type A	10*	16
	Kodachrome Type A	10*	16			
	Ektachrome Daylight	32	10*			
	Ektachrome Type F	20*	16			
	Kodacolor (Universal C.I. Type)	32	24			
	Ektacolor	5*	6*			
BLACK and WHITE	Ansco Superpan Press	100	64	Ansco Hypan Reversal	40	32
	Ansco Supreme	50	32	Ansco Supreme Negative	50	32
	Ansco All Weather Pan	64	50	Kodak Tri-X Pan Reversal	200	160
	Ansco Ultra Speed Pan (35mm)	80	50	Kodak Super-XX Pan Reversal	100	80
	Ansco Triple S Pan	200	160	Kodak Super-X Pan Reversal	40	32
	Kodak Tri-X	200	160			
	Kodak Plus X (35 mm)	80	64			
	Kodak Panatomic-X	25	20			
	Kodak Verichrome Pan	80	64			

* Color films are balanced for particular color qualities of light. Their use in light for which they are not balanced is NOT generally recommended. Always consult filter or other color correction recommendations in the instruction sheets packed with these films.

NOTE: For films not listed, consult film manufacturer's instructions. Indexes listed were current at time of printing and are subject to change. Always consult instructions packed with your film and correct this chart when changes occur.

REFLECTED LIGHT

Reflected Light is light reflected from subject to camera. Point the meter towards subject from camera position.

INCIDENT LIGHT

Incident Light is light which falls on the scene or subject. Point the meter towards camera from subject position.

HOLDING THE METER

Hold your meter as shown in the illustration. Be sure not to obstruct the light window or amplifier with your fingers or any other object.

TAKING REFLECTED LIGHT READINGS

Observe exact position where the needle lines up with the guide line. Follow the contour of the indicated guide line and set the center of the colored marker accordingly. You can now choose the most suitable combination of f/stop and shutter speed. (see page 24)

Notes: If the needle indicates above "16" with the cover opened, be sure to close the cover and take the reading of the red marker.

CLOSE COVER
USE RED MARKER

OPEN COVER
USE BLUE MARKER

USE AMPLIFIER, OPEN COVER
USE YELLOW MARKER

GENERAL SCENES

Aim your meter directly at the scene or center-of-interest from camera position.
Point the meter at the foreground to avoid "reading" excessively bright sky.

CLOSE-UPS

Point the meter at the subject from a distance of about 4 inches. Avoid casting a shadow on the subject with the meter; also prevent the light source from shining directly into the meter. The meter may be directed at the shadows and the highlights and the results averaged to yield a pleasing average exposure.

SNOW, SEA AND WATER SCENES

Aim the meter at the subject.
For more accurate exposure of objects nearby, or of people, take a close-up reading, or use the method described in the next section.

INACCESSIBLE OBJECTS

Use the reflected Light method. Take a close-up reading of any nearby object having texture and lighting similar to that of the subject, such as flesh tones, foliage, rocks and ground, etc. Your hand will also serve for good flesh tone readings. Hold your hand so that the light strikes it at the same angle as the subject.

SEKONIC AMPLIFIER

The SEKONIC L-8 can be adapted for extremely low light readings, by using the super-sensitive Sekonic Amplifier. This unit is an extremely hardy, humidity-proof unit—a triumph of Sekonic engineering. It slips into the sockets provided on the underside of the L-8 meter, and increases by 10 times the low-light sensitivity of the photo-electric unit.

IN VERY DARK PLACES

In very dark places, attach the amplifier and take a reading with the cover opened, using the yellow marker. Should the needle not move even with the amplifier attached, point your meter from the position of the subject towards the source of the principal light, with the cover opened; use the yellow marker. To calculate correct exposure, multiply the reading thus obtained by 10. Thus, if an exposure of 1/10 second at f/3.6 is shown, the correct shutter speed will be 1 second at f/3.6.

COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Color films have very limited latitude and therefore require accurate exposure. The SEKONIC L-8 is designed and constructed to provide precise exposure readings for this type of film. The same methods as described for various types of subjects apply when using color film. Set the ASA scale of the computer according to the film rating given by the film manufacturer.
CAUTION: Color film yields best results when the subject does not have too great a contrast range (deep shadows and bright highlights). Flat lighting therefore yields most pleasing effects.

DIRECT READINGS IN LVS NUMBERS

After setting the ASA setting film speed, take the meter reading as previously described for black and white film. The appropriate "Light Value" setting is seen in the opening on the dial marked "Light Value."
Set the Light Value scale of the camera shutter to correspond with the Light Value given by the meter. Correct exposure will now result, even if either the f-stop or the shutter speed is changed, provided the Light Value setting remains constant.

TAKING INCIDENT LIGHT READINGS

Your SEKONIC L-8 can be converted to give incident light readings simply by attaching the incident attachment.
Because of its simplicity and reliability, the "Incident" method is preferred by many advanced photographers for black and white as well as color photography, and, if properly used, assures the perfection in exposure without which really fine photographs cannot be obtained.

USUAL METHOD

Always use the incident-light attachment. Hold the meter at the center of interest of the subject and aim it at the camera. (page 7)
In case the subject is inaccessible, the incident light may be measured from any other place where the illumination is judged to be the same, remembering that the meter is always aimed toward the camera.

KEY-LIGHT METHOD

In some cases it is desirable to measure incident light by pointing the meter with the incident-light attachment in place, toward the "key" or main light source instead of toward the camera. Hold the meter as close to the subject as possible, or in a place where the illumination is same. Aim the meter at the key light source and take a reading as described in the preceding pages. The correct exposure is obtained by multiplying the reading by "2."

MOVIE CAMERAS AND YOUR SEKONIC L-8

YOUR MOVIE CAMERA has a fixed shutter speed for any given "frames-per-second" setting; thus you need choose only the one lens opening or f/stop that goes with the actual shutter speed of your movie camera. Figures corresponding to the number of frames, from 8 to 64, are engraved on the dial. Find the number of frames of your camera on the dial and determine f/stop opposite the number.

COPY WORK

When doing copying work either in black and white or in color, divide the film speed by five and set this value in the ASA window. (ASA ratings of 32 will take a 6 index in the dial)
Take the reading by placing a white card over the subject.

THE UNNUMBERED STEPS ON SHUTTER SPEED SCALE

The unnumbered small red divisions on the shutter speed scale have definite values, but to show them all on the scale would make the scale exceedingly illegible.

EXPLODED VIEW OF YOUR EXPOSURE METER

A BRIEF ANALYSIS of what your exposure meter is and how it operates will help you use it to best advantage. Your meter has a photo-electric cell which converts light energy into electrical energy. A tiny galvanometer then measures that amount of energy by moving a pointer across a calibrated scale . . . thus making an actual measurement of light.
Then, with a computer as provided on the meter, you relate the light measurement of the speed or "exposure index" or your film and obtain combinations of f/stops and speeds usable for perfect exposures with your camera.

FILM SENSITIVITY × AMOUNT OF LIGHT × TIME = EXPOSURE

STILL SUBJECT 1/25-1/50 SEC. | SLOW ACTION 1/100 SEC. | FAST ACTION 1/200 SEC. | EXTREMELY FAST ACTION 1/250-1/1000 SEC.

ANY COMBINATION of f/stops and shutter speeds thus indicated by the computer on your meter results in the same amount of light reaching your film. Your choice of which combination to use depends on one of two factors:
(1) If your picture must "stop" action or movement, use a combination with a relatively fast shutter speed; or
(2) If you are more concerned with depth-of-field, choose a combination with a relatively small f/stop, or lens opening.

CARE AND USE OF YOUR METER

Always remember your exposure meter is a delicate instrument and should be treated as such. The following precautions will help you give it a long and satisfactory life:

DON'TS
1. Subject your meter to any sudden jarring or dropping which can very easily damage the sensitive mechanism.
2. Expose it to extreme temperatures.

DO'S
3. Use the neck cord furnished with the meter as added insurance against dropping.
4. Store your meter (preferably in its carrying case) in a safe, dust-free place.
5. Check "zero" setting periodically, at least once, or twice a year. Should you find that the needle does not register "zero" when the cover is closed and all light is prevented from reaching the photo-electric cell, the "zero" adjustment screw on the rear of your meter may be turned in either direction to bring the needle to a "zero" position.

Proper use of your meter will always give you good results. If you find that your negatives or transparencies are regularly over-exposed you can compensate by using a higher ASA index number than that indicated by the manufacturer of the film; in the case of under-exposure, use a lower ASA index number. With proper care the "SEKONIC L-8" will give you years of accurate trouble-free service.

TECHNICAL DATA

The exposure required to photograph an average scene is determined by these formulae:

For Reflected Light
$$T = \frac{K \cdot A^2}{B \cdot S}$$

For Incident Light
$$T = \frac{C \cdot A^2}{I \cdot S}$$

T: Exposure Time in Seconds
A: Relative Aperture (f/stop)
B: Brightness, reflected light, in Candles per sq. ft.
S: ASA Film Index
I: Incident Light in footcandles
K: ASA Calibration Constant, Reflected light
C: ASA Calibration Constant, Incident light

SEKONIC L-8 Meter: K=1.16
C=20.2

WARRANTY

The SEKONIC L-8 has been carefully inspected before shipment. Should it prove to be defective within 90 days after date of purchase, it will be repaired or replaced free of charge. This guarantee does not apply to meters which have been mishandled or tampered.

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SEKONIC EXPOSURE METER L-8

WITH PLUG-IN AMPLIFIER