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> Minolta X-700 35mm Film SLR with Minolta MD 50mm 1:2 Manual Focus Lens Instruction Manual

Minolta X-700

Minolta X-700 35mm Film SLR Instruction Manual

Model: X-700

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of your Minolta X-700 35mm Film SLR camera. The Minolta X-700 is a versatile 35mm single-lens reflex camera designed for both automatic and manual exposure control, offering flexibility for various photographic conditions.

It features automatic exposure for ease of use, a shutter speed range of 1/1000 to 4 seconds for capturing diverse subjects, and an auto-exposure lock for challenging lighting. Manual exposure and focus functions are available for precise control, alongside an aperture priority mode suitable for landscape, portrait, and close-up photography.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX

Upon unboxing, please verify that all components are present:

- Minolta X-700 Camera Body
- Minolta MD 50mm 1:2 Manual Focus Lens
- Original Leather Case (may vary based on specific package)



Figure 1: Minolta X-700 camera body with the 50mm lens attached, showing the front and right side. The camera is black with "MINOLTA" and "X-700" visible.

SETUP

1. Attaching the Lens

1. Remove the body cap from the camera and the rear lens cap from the lens.
2. Align the red dot on the lens barrel with the red dot on the camera's lens mount.
3. Gently insert the lens into the camera mount and rotate it clockwise until it clicks into place. Do not force the lens.



Figure 2: Minolta X-700 with the 50mm lens attached, illustrating the proper alignment for lens mounting.

2. Installing the Battery

The Minolta X-700 requires two LR44 or SR44 batteries. The battery compartment is located on the bottom of the camera body.

1. Locate the battery compartment cover on the bottom of the camera.
2. Use a coin to turn the cover counter-clockwise and remove it.
3. Insert the batteries with the positive (+) side facing up, following the diagram inside the compartment.
4. Replace the cover and turn it clockwise to secure.



Figure 3: Underside of the Minolta X-700, highlighting the battery compartment and tripod socket.

3. Loading Film

The X-700 uses standard 35mm film cartridges.

1. Open the camera back by pulling up the film rewind knob.
2. Place the film cartridge into the film chamber on the left side.
3. Pull the film leader across to the take-up spool on the right and insert it into one of the slots.
4. Advance the film slightly using the film advance lever to ensure it catches on the sprocket teeth.
5. Close the camera back firmly.
6. Advance the film two frames, pressing the shutter release button each time, until the frame counter shows "1". The film rewind knob should rotate as you advance the film, indicating proper loading.



Figure 4: Rear view of the Minolta X-700, displaying the film door and the ISO/ASA setting guide.

4. Setting Film Speed (ISO/ASA)

Set the camera's ISO/ASA dial to match the speed of the film you are using. This is crucial for accurate exposure metering.

- The ISO/ASA dial is located on the top left of the camera.
- Lift and rotate the outer ring of the dial to select the correct ISO/ASA value.

OPERATING THE MINOLTA X-700

Exposure Modes

The Minolta X-700 offers several exposure modes:

- **Program (P) Mode:** The camera automatically sets both aperture and shutter speed for optimal exposure. Ideal for quick shooting and general photography.
- **Aperture Priority (A) Mode:** You select the aperture, and the camera automatically sets the appropriate shutter speed. Useful for controlling depth of field.

- **Manual (M) Mode:** You manually set both aperture and shutter speed. Provides full creative control over exposure.

Focusing

The Minolta X-700 uses manual focus. Look through the viewfinder and rotate the focusing ring on the lens until your subject appears sharp. The viewfinder typically includes a split-image or microprism focusing aid to assist with precise focusing.



Figure 5: The Minolta MD 50mm 1:2 lens, highlighting its manual focus and aperture rings.

Taking a Picture

1. Set your desired exposure mode (P, A, or M).
2. Frame your shot through the viewfinder.
3. Manually focus the lens on your subject.
4. Press the shutter release button halfway to activate the light meter and confirm exposure settings in the viewfinder.
5. Press the shutter release button fully to take the picture.

6. Advance the film using the film advance lever for the next shot.

Rewinding Film

Once all frames on the film roll have been exposed:

1. Press the film rewind release button located on the bottom of the camera.
2. Fold out the crank on the film rewind knob and turn it clockwise until you feel the tension release, indicating the film is fully rewound into its cartridge.
3. Open the camera back by pulling up the film rewind knob and remove the film cartridge.

MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your Minolta X-700.

- **Cleaning the Lens:** Use a soft, lint-free cloth and a specialized lens cleaning solution. Avoid touching the lens surface with your fingers.
- **Cleaning the Camera Body:** Wipe the camera body with a dry, soft cloth. Do not use harsh chemicals or abrasive materials.
- **Storage:** Store the camera in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. If storing for extended periods, remove the batteries to prevent leakage.
- **Film Chamber:** Keep the film chamber clean and free of dust or debris. A soft brush or air blower can be used.



Figure 6: Front view of the Minolta MD 50mm 1:2 lens, illustrating the glass elements that require careful cleaning.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Camera does not power on.	Dead or incorrectly installed batteries.	Replace batteries or ensure they are inserted with correct polarity.
Shutter does not fire.	Film not advanced; camera not cocked; battery low.	Advance film lever; check battery; ensure shutter speed dial is not on "B" without proper support.
Film advance lever is stuck.	Film is at the end of the roll; film is jammed.	Rewind film if roll is complete; open camera back in a darkroom to clear jam if necessary.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Light meter not working.	Battery issue; meter switch off.	Check/replace batteries; ensure camera is turned on.
Images are blurry.	Incorrect focus; camera shake; dirty lens.	Ensure proper manual focus; use a tripod or faster shutter speed; clean lens.

SPECIFICATIONS

- **Product Dimensions:** 7 x 4 x 4 inches
- **Item Weight:** 1 pounds
- **Model Name:** X-700
- **Compatible Mountings:** Minolta MD (Not Minolta Alpha)
- **Aspect Ratio:** 3:2
- **Supported File Format:** 35mm film (NOT digital - no digital image files available)
- **Maximum Focal Length:** 50 Millimeters (with included lens)
- **Maximum Aperture:** 1:2 (with included lens)
- **Expanded ISO Minimum:** 25
- **Metering Description:** Evaluative
- **Manufacturer:** Minolta
- **Date First Available:** February 9, 2013

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

This product is a vintage item. Please refer to the seller's specific warranty or return policy at the time of purchase. For technical support or service inquiries, it is recommended to contact specialized vintage camera repair services or the original seller if applicable.

Note: The Minolta X-700 is a classic film camera. While robust, it may require periodic servicing by a qualified technician to maintain optimal performance, especially if it has not been recently serviced. Some sellers may offer a limited warranty on refurbished units.

For general information about Minolta products, you may visit the [Minolta Store on Amazon](#).

