

OLDCAMS Electro 35 GSN

Yashica Electro 35 GSN 35mm Camera Instruction Manual

Model: Electro 35 GSN | Brand: OLDCAMS (Original Manufacturer: Yashica)

1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the proper use and care of your Yashica Electro 35 GSN 35mm film camera. The Yashica Electro 35 GSN is a classic rangefinder camera known for its automatic exposure capabilities and sharp Yashinon DX f/1.7 45mm lens. Understanding its functions will help you capture quality photographs.



Front view of a silver and black Yashica Electro 35 GSN 35mm film camera with a Yashinon DX f/1.7 45mm lens and a black lens cap. This image displays the Yashica Electro 35 GSN camera from the front, showcasing its silver top plate, black leatherette body, and the prominent Yashinon DX 45mm f/1.7 lens. A black lens cap with the Yashica logo rests beside the camera.

2. SETUP

2.1 Battery Installation

The Yashica Electro 35 GSN requires a 6V battery to power its light meter and automatic exposure system. Originally, it used a PX32 mercury battery, which is no longer available. Modern alternatives include a 4LR44 alkaline battery with an adapter, or a 6V silver oxide battery. Ensure correct polarity when inserting the battery into the battery compartment, typically located at the bottom of the camera.

2.2 Film Loading

1. Open the camera back by pulling up the film rewind knob.
2. Insert a 35mm 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 and ensure the sprocket teeth engage with the film perforations.
5. Close the camera back firmly.
6. Advance the film two frames, pressing the shutter release each time, to wind past the exposed leader. The film counter should now show '1'.

2.3 Attaching the Camera Strap

Securely attach a camera strap to the lugs on the sides of the camera body for safe carrying and to prevent accidental drops.

3. OPERATING THE CAMERA

3.1 Setting Film Speed (ISO/ASA)

Rotate the ASA dial, usually located on the lens barrel or top plate, to match the ISO/ASA speed of your loaded film. This setting is crucial for accurate exposure readings by the camera's light meter.

3.2 Focusing

The Electro 35 GSN uses a rangefinder focusing system. Look through the viewfinder and align the split image or superimposed patch in the center. Rotate the focusing ring on the lens until the two images merge into one, indicating sharp focus. The focusing ring also has distance markings for zone focusing.

3.3 Exposure Control

The camera operates primarily in aperture-priority automatic exposure mode. Set the desired aperture (f-stop) on the lens barrel. The camera's CdS light meter will then automatically select the appropriate shutter speed for correct exposure. When the shutter button is half-pressed, indicator lights (e.g., 'OVER' or 'SLOW') in the viewfinder or on the top plate will illuminate to advise on exposure conditions:

- **'OVER' Light:** Indicates overexposure. Stop down the aperture (use a higher f-number) or move to a less bright area.
- **'SLOW' Light:** Indicates a slow shutter speed (e.g., below 1/30s), suggesting potential camera shake. Open up the aperture (use a lower f-number), use a tripod, or move to a brighter area.
- **No Light:** Indicates a correct exposure within the camera's operating range.

3.4 Shutter Release and Film Advance

Once focused and exposure is set, fully press the shutter release button to take the picture. After each shot, advance the film using the film advance lever until it stops, preparing the camera for the next exposure. The film counter will increment.

3.5 Rewinding Film

When the film counter indicates the last frame has been exposed, or the film advance lever no longer moves, it's time to rewind the film. Press the film rewind release button (usually on the bottom plate) and then turn the film rewind knob clockwise until resistance ceases, indicating the film is fully rewound into its cartridge. Open the camera back and remove the film.

4. MAINTENANCE

4.1 Cleaning the Camera

- **Lens:** Use a soft lens brush or air blower to remove dust. For smudges, use a clean microfiber cloth and a small amount of lens cleaning solution. Avoid touching the lens surface with fingers.
- **Body:** Wipe the camera body with a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth can be used, but ensure no moisture enters the camera.
- **Viewfinder/Rangefinder:** Gently clean the exterior surfaces with a soft cloth. Avoid disassembling or attempting to clean internal optics.

4.2 Storage

Store the camera in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. If storing for an extended period, remove the battery to prevent leakage and corrosion. Keep the lens capped to protect it from dust and scratches.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

- **Battery Check Light Not Illuminating:** Ensure the battery is correctly installed and fully charged. Check for corrosion on battery contacts and clean if necessary.
- **Focusing Mechanism Stiff or Noisy:** This may indicate internal issues. Avoid forcing the mechanism. Professional servicing by a vintage camera specialist is recommended.
- **Exposure Lights (OVER/SLOW) Not Working or Faint:** Check battery condition. If the issue persists, the light meter or associated electronics may require repair.
- **Film Advance Lever Stuck:** Ensure the film is not at its end. Check for proper film loading. Do not force the lever.
- **Shutter Not Firing:** Verify the film is advanced, the battery is functional, and the exposure settings are not indicating an extreme over/underexposure condition that prevents firing.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Model Name	Electro 35 GSN
Lens	Color-Yashinon DX f/1.7 45mm
Film Type	35mm

Focusing	Manual Focus (Rangefinder)
Exposure Control	Automatic (Aperture Priority)
Metering	CdS or CdSe (Average)
Shutter Speed	Automatic, 1/500s to 30s (approx.)
ISO/ASA Range	25-1000 (Expanded ISO Minimum: 25)
Power Source	6V Battery (e.g., 4LR44 with adapter)
Weight	798 Grams
Dimensions	Compact Form Factor

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Please note: This vintage camera is sold "as is" and is not eligible for repair or return. It does not carry a current warranty.

For technical issues or repairs, it is recommended to consult with a specialist in vintage camera servicing. Due to the age of the camera, parts and specialized knowledge may be required for maintenance or repair.