Rolleiflex 2.8 F

Rolleiflex 2.8 F Camera Instruction Manual

Model: Rolleiflex 2.8 F

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1. Introduction

The Rolleiflex 2.8 F is a classic twin-lens reflex (TLR) camera, renowned for its precision engineering, robust build, and exceptional optical quality. Designed for professional and enthusiast photographers, it utilizes 120 medium format film to produce high-resolution images. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, and maintaining your Rolleiflex 2.8 F camera.





Figure 1: Angled view of the Rolleiflex 2.8 F camera.

2. What's in the Box

Upon unboxing your Rolleiflex 2.8 F, please ensure all the following components are present:

- Rolleiflex 2.8 F Camera Body
- Standard Taking Lens (e.g., Carl Zeiss Planar 2.8/80mm or Schneider Xenotar 2.8/80mm)
- Standard Viewing Lens

3. Camera Components

Familiarize yourself with the key components of your Rolleiflex 2.8 F camera:

- **Taking Lens:** The lower lens, responsible for capturing the image onto the film.
- **Viewing Lens:** The upper lens, used for composing and focusing the image through the waist-level finder.
- **Focusing Knob:** Typically located on the right side, used to adjust focus.
- **Film Advance Crank:** On the right side, used to advance the film and cock the shutter.

- **Shutter Speed Dial:** Controls the duration the shutter remains open.
- **Aperture Ring:** Controls the size of the lens opening (f-stop).
- **Waist-Level Finder:** The collapsible hood on top, revealing the ground glass for composition.
- **Shutter Release Button:** Triggers the shutter to take a photograph.
- **Light Meter:** Integrated into some models, used to measure ambient light for exposure settings.





Figure 2: Front view of the Rolleiflex 2.8 F, highlighting the twin lenses.





Figure 3: Side view of the Rolleiflex 2.8 F, showing key controls.

4. Setup

4.1. Loading 120 Film

1. Open the camera back by sliding the latch located on the bottom or side of the camera.
2. Insert a fresh roll of 120 film into the supply spool chamber.
3. Pull the paper leader across the film gate and attach it to the take-up spool.
4. Wind the film advance crank until the arrow on the film leader aligns with the start mark inside the camera.
5. Close the camera back securely.
6. Continue winding the film advance crank until the number '1' appears in the red window or frame counter, indicating the first frame is ready.

4.2. Setting Film Speed (ISO/ASA)

If your Rolleiflex 2.8 F model includes an integrated light meter, set the film's ISO/ASA sensitivity on the camera's meter dial. This ensures accurate exposure readings.

4.3. Light Meter Battery (If Applicable)

Some Rolleiflex 2.8 F models feature an uncoupled selenium light meter. This type of meter typically does not require a battery as it is powered by light. However, if your model has a different type of meter, consult a specialized service manual for battery requirements and replacement procedures.

5. Operating the Camera

5.1. Opening the Waist-Level Finder

To compose your shot, press the release button on the front of the viewing hood to pop it open. The side panels will unfold, and the front panel will extend, revealing the ground glass focusing screen.

5.2. Focusing

Look down into the waist-level finder. Rotate the large focusing knob on the right side of the camera until your subject appears sharp on the ground glass. Many models include a split-image rangefinder or a microprism collar for precise focusing.

5.3. Setting Exposure (Shutter Speed and Aperture)

Adjust the shutter speed and aperture settings based on your light meter reading or manual estimation. These controls are typically linked and located around the taking lens. The Rolleiflex 2.8 F features a leaf shutter, offering a wide range of shutter speeds.





Figure 4: Exposure table on the back of the camera, useful for manual settings.

5.4. Composing the Shot

Use the ground glass in the waist-level finder to compose your image. The image will appear reversed left-to-right, which is characteristic of TLR cameras.

5.5. Taking a Picture

Once focused and exposed, gently press the shutter release button. The film advance crank automatically cocks the shutter for the next shot on most models.

5.6. Advancing Film

After each exposure, turn the film advance crank until the next frame number appears in the counter. This prepares the camera for the next shot and prevents double exposures.

6. Optional Accessories

The Rolleiflex 2.8 F supports a range of optional accessories to enhance your photography:

- **Rolleiflex Pistol Grip:** Provides a stable and ergonomic way to hold the camera, especially for action shots or low angles.
- **Rolleiflex Lens Hood:** Reduces lens flare and protects the front element of the taking lens.
- **Rolleiflex Mutar Lenses (0.7x and 1.5x):** Telephoto and wide-angle conversion lenses that attach to the existing lenses to change focal length.



Figure 5: Rolleiflex 2.8 F with an optional pistol grip.



Figure 6: A collection of Rolleiflex accessories, including Mutar lenses and a hood.

7. Maintenance

- **Cleaning Lenses:** 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.
- **Cleaning Body:** Wipe the camera body with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using harsh chemicals.
- **Storage:** Store the camera in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and high humidity. Use a desiccant pack if storing in humid environments.
- **Regular Servicing:** For optimal performance, consider having your Rolleiflex serviced by a qualified technician every few years.

8. Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Film not advancing	Film improperly loaded; take-up spool not engaging.	Re-load film carefully, ensuring leader is securely attached to the take-up spool.
Light leaks on film	Loose camera back; worn light seals.	Ensure camera back is tightly closed. Inspect and replace light seals if necessary (professional service recommended).
Blurry images	Incorrect focus; camera shake; dirty lenses.	Ensure accurate focusing. Use a tripod or faster shutter speed. Clean lenses.
Incorrect exposure	Incorrect light meter reading; wrong film speed setting; manual error.	Verify light meter functionality and battery (if applicable). Confirm correct ISO/ASA setting. Double-check shutter speed and aperture.

9. Specifications

- **Model Name:** Rolleiflex 2.8 F
- **Brand:** Rolleiflex
- **Film Format Type:** 120 (medium format)
- **Shutter Type:** Leaf Shutter
- **Special Feature:** Lightweight, Compact
- **Included Components:** Camera Body & Lens
- **Manufacturer:** Rolleiflex

10. Warranty & Support

For information regarding warranty coverage, service, or technical support for your Rolleiflex 2.8 F camera, please refer to the original purchase documentation or contact an authorized Rolleiflex service center. As a vintage camera, warranty terms may vary depending on the seller and condition at the time of purchase.

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