CAMERAS

THE FACTS

HOW
they work

WHAT
they will do

HOW
they compare

MICROCORD II

Micro Precision Products Ltd.,
Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey, England.

The Microcord is a twin-lens reflex camera based on and largely following the design of the Rolleicord (p. 187) with a number of features derived from the Rolleiflex.

It is a precision instrument for amateur and professional photography and is especially suitable for pictorial work, views, portraiture, and feature photography. The ground glass screen provides a convenient and exact, though not very rapid, means of observing and arranging the subject for the best effect.

For focusing the matched finder and taking lenses move forward in unison on a common panel, actuated by a cam movement from the focusing knob. This is set in the side of the camera and carries a distance scale as well as a depth of field indicator engraved on the body panel. The image is visible on the ground glass screen on the top of the camera and can be observed by a large magnifying lens for critical focusing.

Parallax compensation is provided by means of movable masks set underneath the screen. For distant subjects the mask covers up the extreme lower edge of the screen area. At closer distances this mask progressively uncovers the bottom of the screen while another mask equally progressively covers up the extreme upper edge of the area.

The hood also incorporates a frame finder for eye-level use. This is brought into operation by pushing in the front of the hood which springs back on pressing a small button at the rear. The hood is of a quick folding design.

A folding magnifying lens in the hood provides an enlarged view of the centre of the screen when required for specially precise focusing.

The film is wound by a knob in the side of the camera. After each frame the transport movement is automatically locked and can be released again on pressing the centre of the winding knob.

Inside the camera a serrated roller bears on the edge of the take-up spool and by its movement actuates the counter as well as the transport lock. Opening and reclosing the camera back returns the film counter to 0.

Loading is semi-automatic; the backing paper being wound up on the take-up spool until a standard mark on the paper is in line with two red dots at the side of the picture aperture. On closing the camera and turning the transport knob the film counter then automatically reaches No. 1 (blocking the transport mechanism) when the first frame on the film is in position behind the lens.

The aperture and shutter speed controls are set by wheels at each side of the twin lens mounting. The settings are visible in a cut-out window above the finder lens; the shutter speed figures are engraved in red and the apertures in black.

The shutter is M-X synchronized and incorporates a delayed action release; this is controlled by the synchronizing lever at the side of the shutter housing. The synchronization and the self-timer setting can be chosen or changed at any time.

The shutter release is a button in the front panel of the camera. Pressing this button backwards against the body makes the exposure; this movement is designed to reduce the risk of camera shake as far as possible.

A lever below the taking lens tensions the shutter for every exposure.

Both the finder and the taking lenses carry bayonet rings which accept most of the Rollei lens accessories such as filters, close-up lenses, polarizing filter, etc.

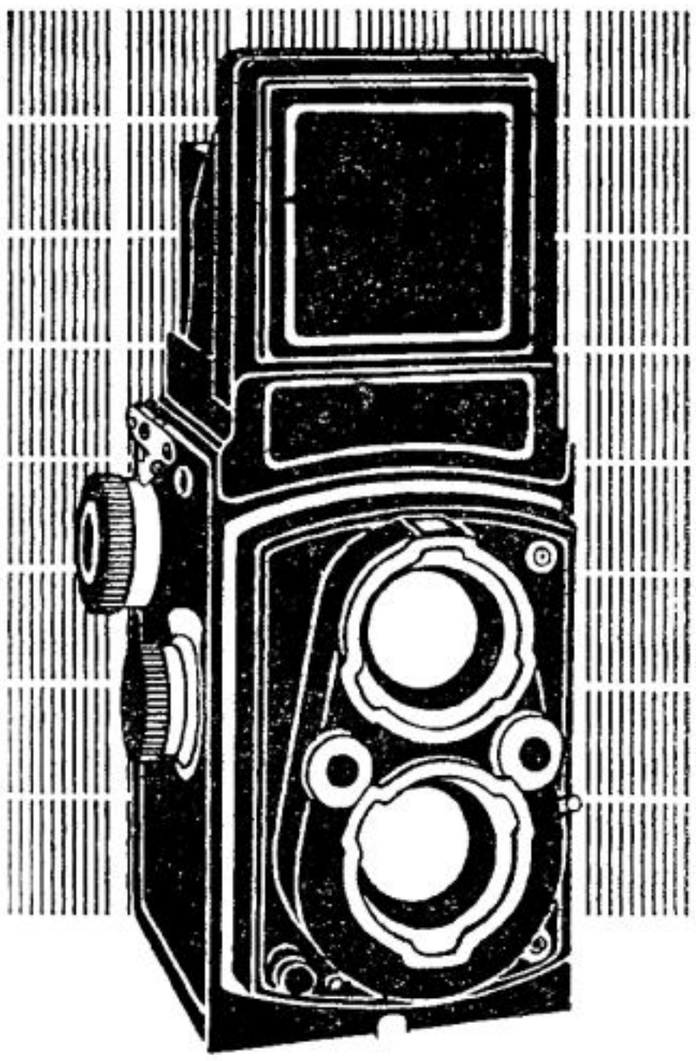
A special lens cap which also fits into the finder bayonet ring folds down over the taking lens and thus effectively protects both lenses against dirt, dust, or injury.

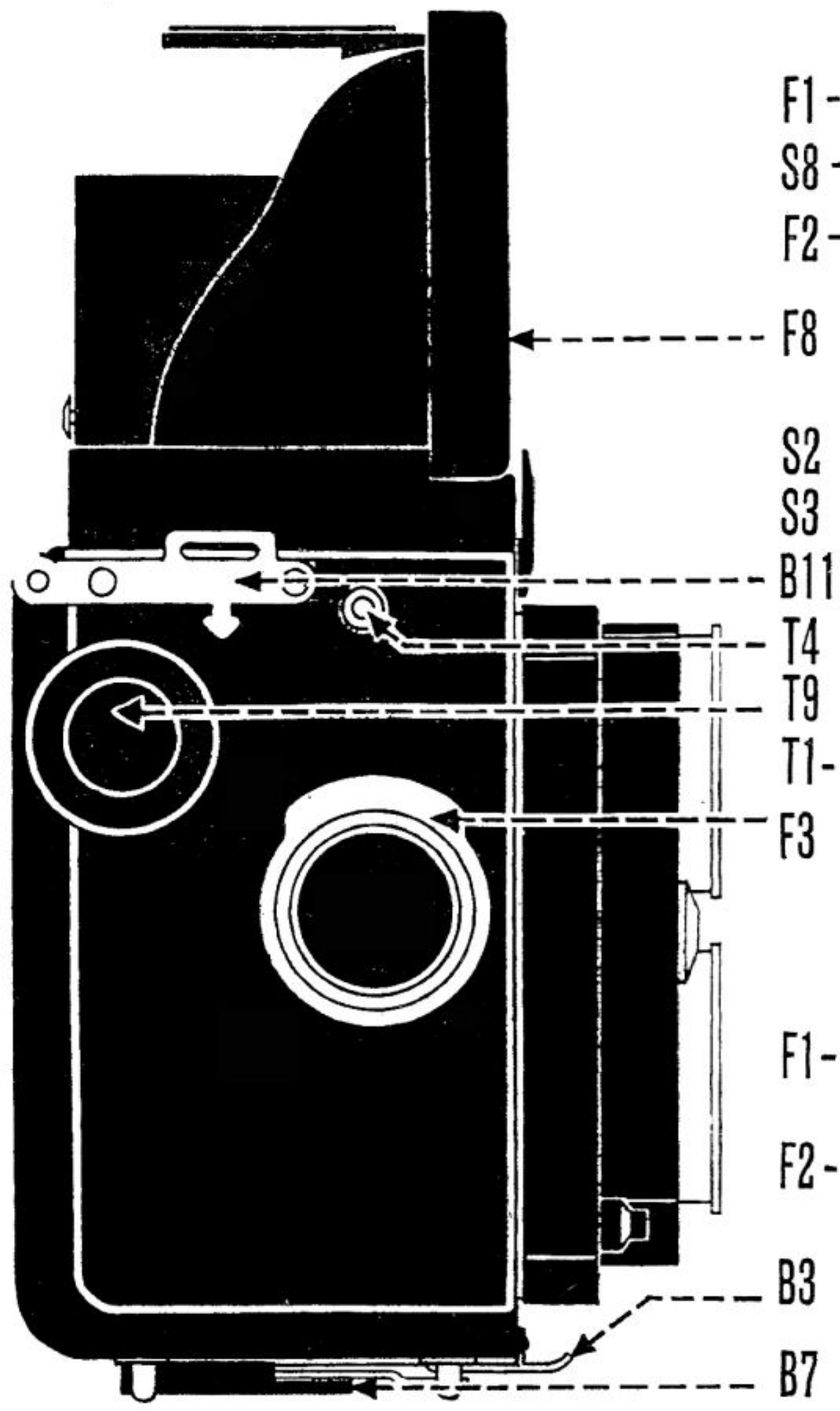
MICROCORD HISTORY

The original Microcord I was introduced in 1952. *It differs from the current model mainly in having an Ensign shutter, and a built-in mirror in the finder hood for eye-level viewing on the ground glass screen. No frame finder was fitted.*

This was superseded by the current Mark II model in 1954 *with a frame finder in the hood but without the eye-level mirror, and a Prontor SVS shutter. It also incorporated other minor improvements.*

READ MORE ABOUT working with the Microcord in the Microcord Guide, *by W. D. Emanuel.*

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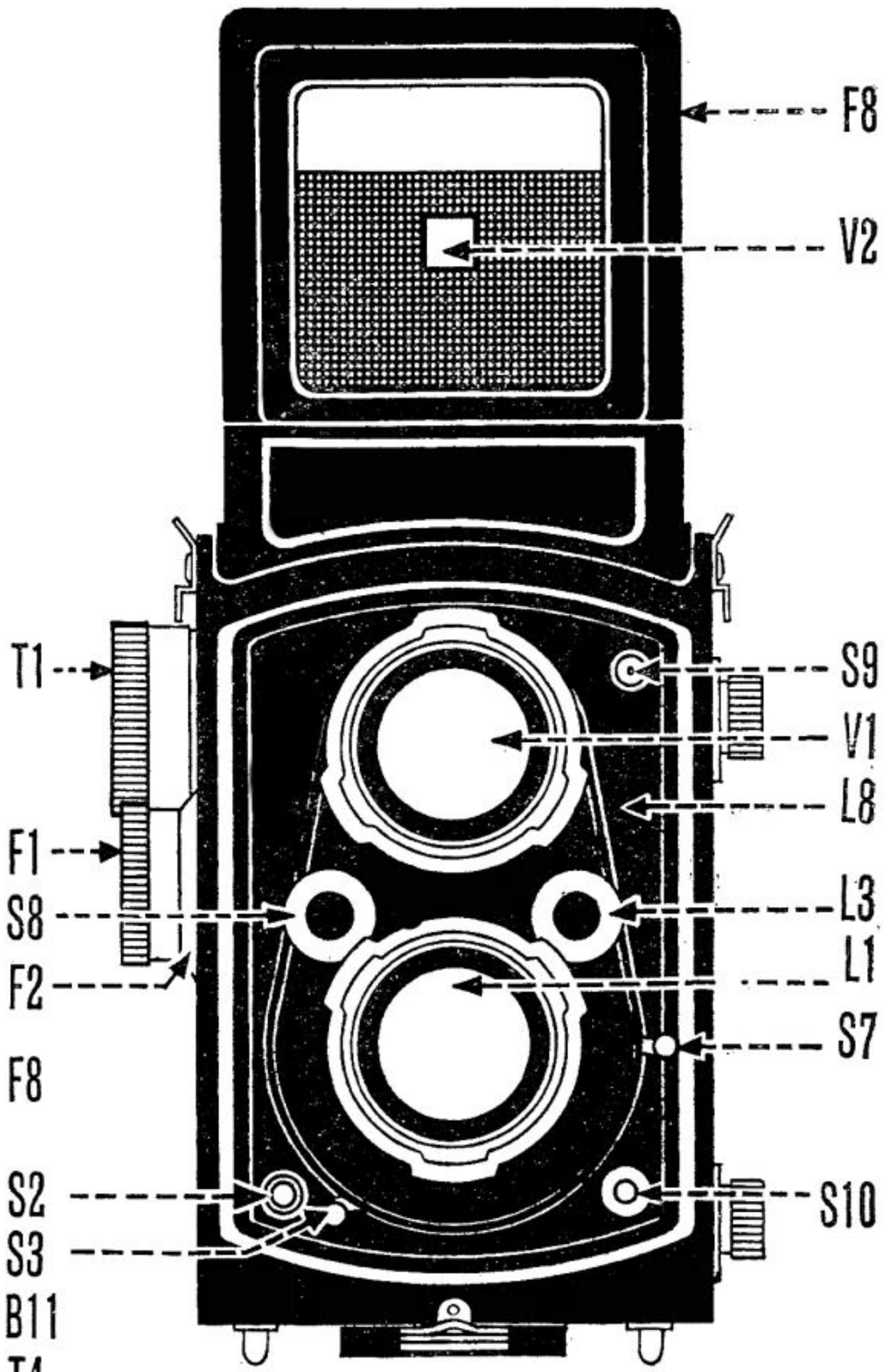
F8
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S10
S3

T1
F7
F9
F1
F2
Z1
S7

Page 185: THE MICROCORD II ON PARADE

The parts and controls of the camera are (see also p. 16):

Lens: L1, taking lens; L3, aperture setting wheel; L8, lens panel carrying both lenses which move forward and back in unison during focusing.

Focusing: F1, focusing knob; F2, distance scale; F3, depth of field scale; F7, focusing screen; F8, focusing hood; F9, focusing screen magnifier.

Shutter: S2, release button; S3, tensioning lever; S7, synchronizing and delayed action lever; S8, shutter speed setting wheel; S9, flash socket; S10, cable release socket.

Viewfinder: V1, finder lens; V2, frame finder eyepiece.

Film and transport: T1, film transport knob; T4, film counter; T9, film release.

Body: B3, back lock; B7, tripod bush; B11, carrying strap fittings.

Special features: Z1, peep window showing aperture and shutter-speed settings.

TOP LEFT: General view of the Microcord II against a 1 in. scale grid.

BOTTOM LEFT: Side view with focusing and film transport knobs.

TOP RIGHT: Front view with controls: focusing hood in use as eye-level frame finder.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Top view of focusing screen.

THE MICROCORD II SUMMED UP

British made precision twin-lens reflex camera for the serious amateur photographer as well as the professional. Current model introduced in 1954.

High-performance lens of critical definition at full aperture, high colour correction, flatness of field, and resolution. Shutter accurate within close limits of the engraved speeds. Quality workmanship for great precision.

THE FACTS: MICROCORD

PICTURE SIZE: $2\frac{1}{4}$ x $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. (6 x 6 cm.).
No. of Exposures: 12.
Negative Material: Size 120 roll film.

FILM TRANSPORT: Knob.
Film Counting: Automatic counter built into body.
Double Exposure Lock: None.
Film Lock: Transport arrested after each frame, released by pressing centre of transport knob.
Film Indicator: None.

STANDARD LENS: 3 in. (7.75 cm.) Ross Xpres *f*3.5.
Construction: 4-element triplet.
Angle of View: 56°.
Lens Changing: Lens not interchangeable.
Alternative Maximum Apertures: None.

FOCUSING MECHANISM: Knob moves lens panel in and out via cam movement.
Distance Scale: On focusing knob.
Nearest Unaided Distance: 3 ft.
Rangefinder: None.
Focusing Screen: Reflex screen on top of body.
Depth of Field Indicator: On panel next to focusing knob.

SHUTTER: Prontor SVS between-lens.
Release: Button on front of body.
Shutter Speeds: 1, 1/2, 1/5, 1/10, 1/25, 1/50, 1/100, 1/300 sec., B.
Speed Scale: Visible in window above finder lens.
Synchronization: X, M.
Delayed Action: Self-tensioning, built into shutter, set by flash synchronizing lever.
Cable Release Socket: On camera front.

VIEWFINDER: Ground glass reflex screen with magnifier in hood.
Finder Position: Above lens.
Parallax Compensation: Automatic masking of screen, controlled by focusing mechanism.
Alternative Finders: Direct vision frame finder built into hood.
Scale of Image: Natural size.
Eyesight Correction: None.

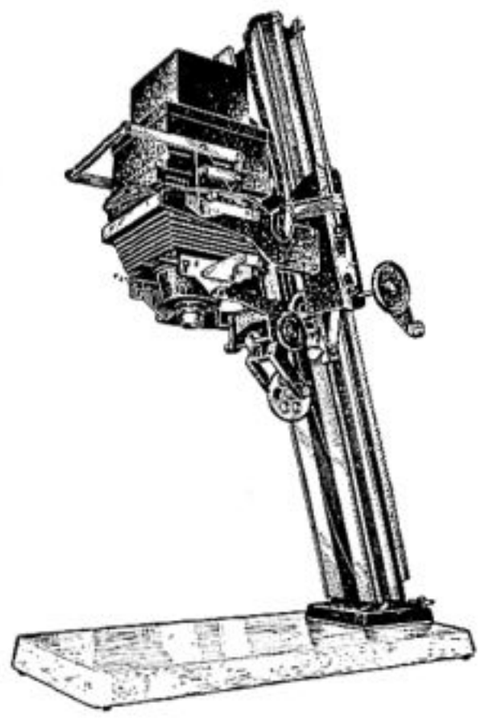
BODY: Die-cast alloy, rigid construction.
Opening: Hinged-on back, removable.
Tripod Bush: In centre of camera base.
Accessory Shoe: None.
Body Finish: Black and chrome, imitation leather covered.
Dimensions: $5\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{3}{4}$ x 4 in.
Weight: 34 oz.

EXPOSURE METER: None.

RANGE OF ACCESSORIES: Lens hood, filters, takes many of the accessories made for the Rolleiflex and Rolleicord cameras (p. 187).

PRICE GROUP: IV.

M·P·P
ENGLAND



MICROCORD MARK 11

$2\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ TWIN LENS REFLEX CAMERA

Whether you compose your picture on the ground glass screen, or use the sports viewfinder for "action" pictures, the Microcord Mk. II has everything arranged for fingertip control The Mk. II is fitted with accurately matched bloomed lenses; f 3.5 M.X. synchronisation and delay; as well as many other improvements. The quality of the diamond turned finish will appeal to the camera connoisseur. Please write for free pamphlet or send 2/6 for detailed descriptive manual.

£46.10.0 P.T. £18.12.0

Filters & Hood Extra

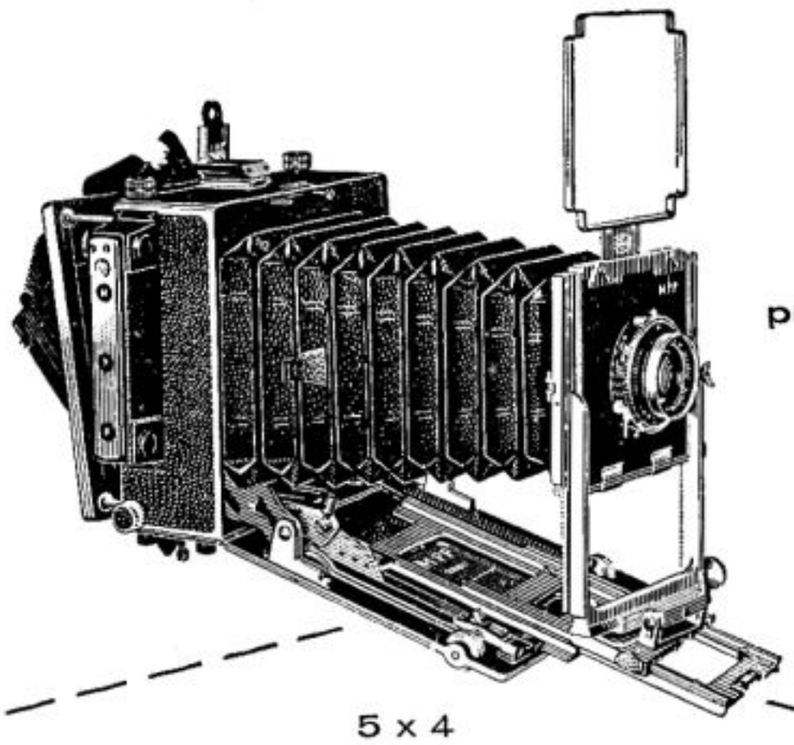
MICROMATIC

5 x 7 PROFESSIONAL ENLARGER

★ Automatic Focusing
★ Girder Construction ★ Tilting Negative Stage
★ Cold Cathode Lighting ★ Counter Balanced Head

Rugged Precision-built Enlarger designed for continuous professional use. Accessories accept negatives down to $2\frac{1}{4}$"x$2\frac{1}{4}$".

£125



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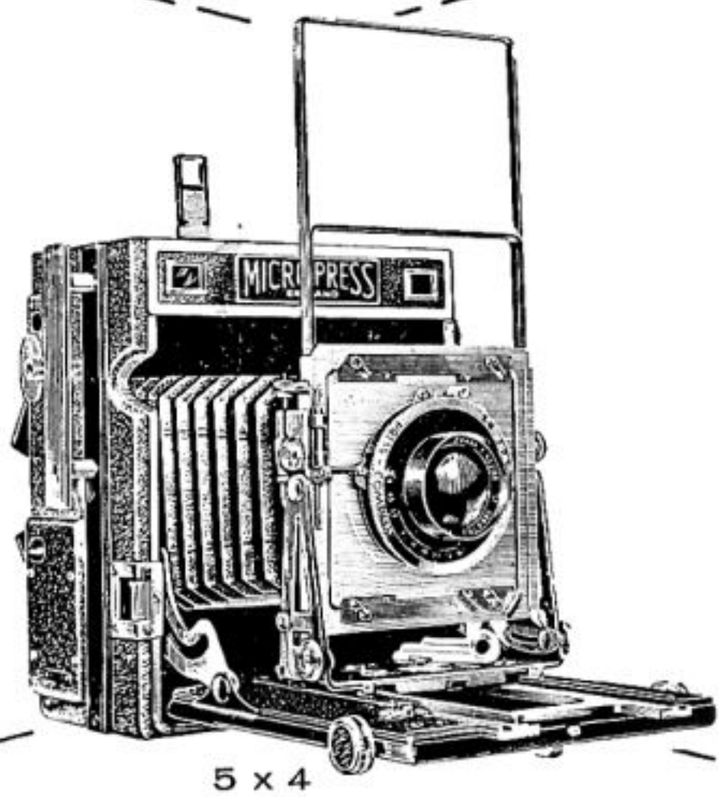

5 x 4

MICRO-TECHNICAL

The Technical man's camera; embodies triple extension, rising, cross, tilt and swing front, track lock, detachable focusing hood, rangefinder coupled to alternative lenses by means of interchangeable cams. Wide Angle focusing, swing and revolving back which may be adapted to accept accessories.

£95

LENS EXTRA

5 x 4

MICROPRESS

Focal Plane Shutter speeded up to 1/1000th. sec. Synchronised for flash bulbs. Body Release operates either Front or Back Shutter. Built-in long based Range-finder couples to alternative lenses by simple interchangeable cams. Direct Viewfinder with parallax correction. Deep self erecting focusing hood. Rising, Cross and Tilting Front. Drop Baseboard. Wide Angle Rack linked to main focusing enables the use of short focal length lenses.

£90

LENS EXTRA

MICRO PRECISION PRODUCTS LTD., 145, London Road, Kingston-upon-Thames. Tel. Kingston 0153

MG 14.