

# Notes on the Instructions for the Plaubel Makina IIR

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The instruction manual for the Plaubel Makina is a little unclear in places. These notes will hopefully clarify some of these areas.

## **Telescopic Eyepiece for the Rangefinder.**

On page 6 the manual refers to “pulling out the telescopic eye-piece”. Perhaps the early Makinas did have such an eyepiece. The later units however, have a fixed eye-piece.

## **Delayed Action Release (Self-timer)**

The instructions for this refer to items using letter codes instead of the numbers in the parts identification pictures. The self-timer is only fitted to II and IIS cameras. The parts are:

S Shutter cocking lever (number 12)

V This button is not in the photographs. It is labelled V on the camera and is roughly where the knob (number 16) is in the photograph.

A The shutter release (number 4).

On the camera I have tried, the shutter release must be held down (e.g. a cable release) for the self-timer to properly trip the shutter.

## Stop-Adjustment

This is on page 9 of the manual. The button 'A' that they refer to is number 13 in the photograph.

## Cassettes (page 10)

This is really unclear. Before removing any back the locking tab (number 24) must be pushed up to the unlocked position. Once a new back has been attached, it should be pushed down into the locked position. With a roll film holder, the tab cannot be slid down. Instead the roll film holders have their own tab at the left end of the holder. Note that the ground glass assembly must be removed, before a back can be inserted.

## Using the Wide Angle Lens

It is a little unclear, but to use the wide angle with the rangefinder proceed as follows:

- Pull out the front to the second (10cm lens) position.
- Use the rangefinder to measure the distance.
- Read the distance from the scale (number 21).
- Push the front back to the first (wide angle) position.
- Adjust the focus so that the distance read previously, is set on the wide angle scale (number 20).

## Using the Focal Plane Shutter

This section seems to have been poorly updated several times as the cameras evolved. Lets try to clear this up. The Makinas should fit into five categories (Note: I have not seen five variants, so some of this is based on deduction of things I have read).

1. There are three distance scales as shown in the photographs in the manual.
2. Two scales, one for the 10cm lens and another for the wide angle lens. Note the wide angle scale is labelled with 'Ww.'.

3. Two scales, one for the 10cm lens and another for the focal plane adapter. I do not know what label is used for a focal plane scale.
4. One scale, with two latched positions for the front panel.
5. One scale, with only a single latched position for the front panel.

## **Variant 1**

This is reasonably simple:

- Pull out the front panel to the second (10cm lens) position.
- Focus with the rangefinder
- Read the distance on the top scale (number 22)
- Push the front back to the first (wide angle) position.
- Adjust the reading on the wide angle scale (number 20) to the distance read on the focal plane scale (number 22).

For scale focusing the front panel is set to the first latch position (wide angle). The two scales under the viewfinder can then be used to convert a distance (on scale number 21) to the required setting (on scale number 22). The converted distance is set on the wide angle scale (number 20).

## **Variant 2**

The instructions refer to a clip on / slide on scale, which clips over the normal lens scale. If you have this scale, (I have never seen one) then clip it on and follow the procedure for rangefinder focusing for Variant 1.

If you do not have a clip on scale (most likely) then use the ground glass to focus.

## **Variant 3**

This is also quite easy:

- Pull the front out to the second (10cm lens) position.
- Focus using the rangefinder
- Read the distance from the normal lens scale

- Push the front back to the first latch position.
- Set the distance on the focal plane scale.

Scale focusing is easy. Just latch the front into the first position, then adjust the distance of the focal plane scale.

### **Variant 4**

Latch the front into the first position, and use the ground glass for focusing.

### **Variant 5**

You cannot use the focal plane shutter. Well actually you can if you only want to do closeups.

### **General comments on the Focal Plane Shutter.**

In all cases the ground glass is the best way to check that you have correctly adjusted the focus. The focal plane attachment slides onto the back of the camera, much like a back. It provides a second set of rails to attach the ground glass / film back / etc. The shutter speed knob faces downward when attached. To cock the shutter you need to wind the shutter speed knob until it latches. The shutter speed is set by pulling the knob up and turning it to the new position. Make sure it properly engages in the new setting. The shutter release is the small lever which pokes out the top corner, just behind the viewfinder.

### **Ground Glass**

The later style of ground glass assembly has a removable hood. There is a small knob/lever on the edge of the assembly, near the Plaubel label. Slide this towards the centre and the hood assembly will lift off.