

ROLLEIFLEX SL35ME

TYPE: 35mm eye-level single-lens reflex.
LENS: 50mm f/1.4 or f/1.8 Carl Zeiss Planar with interchangeable bayonet mount, stops to f/16, focusing at 1.5 ft.
SHUTTER: Cloth focal-plane, electronically timed, with speeds from 4 to 1/1000 sec., manual speeds, mechanically timed, from 1/30 to 1/1000 sec. plus B, FP and X sync.
VIEWING: Non-interchangeable eye-level prism, with central split-image diagonal rangefinder, microprism collar and full-area focusing screen.
OTHER FEATURES: Mercury battery-pow-

ered CdS circuit, with cell above eyepiece, measuring center-weighted portion of entire focusing screen at full aperture; automatic, electronically-controlled exposure (you set aperture, the camera sets the shutter speed); provision for stopdown manual control; shutter speeds and f/stops visible in viewfinder; over exposure warning and LED meter range signal; exposure memory lock; self-timer; hot sync shoe, viewfinder-eyepiece blind.
PRICE: \$552 with 50mm f/1.4 Planar; \$499 with 50mm f/1.8 Planar, black only.
MANUFACTURER: Rollei Singapore Pri-

vate Ltd., P.O. 14, Chai Chee Post Office, Singapore 14.
IMPORTER: Rollei of America Inc., 100 Lehigh Drive, Fairfield, N.J. 07006.
PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS: 5 11/16 in. wide, 3 11/16 in. high, 3 1/2 in. deep.
WEIGHT: 34 oz.

Rollei is certainly moving swiftly in the 35mm SLR field to make up for the many years of inactivity. While we anxiously await the incredible Rollei SL2000 with its dual metering system, interchangeable backs and built-in motor, we do have a genuine fully-automatic exposure Rollei made in the company's vast Singapore complex at a more moderate price.

The camera body itself is adequately, if not outstandingly, finished with impact-resistant black plastic top, prism and bottom covers. You open the largish camera body for loading by pulling up on the rewind lever. The black-crackle finish of the interior may startle you but, it's efficient and flare-reducing. The film counter only operates when the camera is loaded.

Certainly the viewfinder's most outstanding feature is the huge, diagonally-split rangefinder, in which a whole, central, rectangle tilts to indicate an out-of-focus image. It's a Rollei-Voigtlander *exclusive*, and we judge it to be among the most convenient of all the SLRs.

Pulling the wind lever slightly from the body turns on the metering system. You then select your aperture and the center-weighted CdS cell circuitry selects the shutter speed, which is indicated on a large, easy-to-see scale, at the right, within the finder. Apertures can be viewed at the top of the screen and are reflected from the lens barrel itself.

Slight pressure on the shutter release locks the reading in place on the screen prior to exposure. It's quite convenient and does take the place of an exposure-compensation scale. There's an automatic viewfinder blind built into the rear eyepiece which can be closed when the camera is on a tripod.

The camera apparently makes use of a metering circuitry system similar to that of the Pentax ES and ES II, in that all manual speeds are non-electronic and work with no battery power. This is an advantage in case of battery failure. However, the exposure meter becomes inoperable. Manual speeds are from 1/30 to 1/1000 sec. rather than the 1/60 sec., the lowest manual speed of the Pentax.

While the SL35ME will provide automatic exposure through any of the Rollei bayonet mount lenses, full aperture metering (and thus most convenience) is possible only with those lenses having the aperture simulator key designed specifically for this camera, and its match needle cousin, the SL35M. (The whole line of Voigtlander lenses for the VSL 1 and 2 will also fit and work at full aperture.) We will certainly look forward to testing out this Rollei.

