

Beseler Topcon Auto 100

TYPE: 35mm eye-level single-lens reflex camera.

LENS: Interchangeable 53mm f/2 UV Topcon with bayonet mount, stops to f/22, and focusing to 27 in.

SHUTTER: Seikosha SLV behind-lens leaf with speeds from 1 to 1/500 sec. plus B, MX sync, self timer.

VIEWFINDER: Non-interchangeable eye-level prism with full focusing screen, central micro grid, fine ground collar.

OTHER FEATURES: CdS cell behind-lens underneath mirror controls fully automatic exposure system; full manual override; aperture visible in finder; low and excessive light warning con-

trol; instant-return mirror; quick-return diaphragm.

PRICE: \$159.

MANUFACTURER: Tokyo Optical Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan. **IMPORTER:** Charles Beseler Co., 219 S. 18 St., East Orange, N.J.

PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS: 5½ in. long, 3¾ in. high (maximum) and 3⅜ in. deep (from front of lens to camera back). **WEIGHT:** 1 lb. 15 oz.

The rather small size and weight of the Beseler Topcon 100 are deceptively compact and show no outer traces of the unique exposure system.

The camera lens mount has the usual (although more clearly marked than most) concentric shutter speed (10) and aperture rings which can be moved easily into their clickstop positions by two large moon-shaped, ribbed, control levers. Beyond the f/22 end of the aperture ring is an "Auto" marking. When the ring is set to "Auto," the camera automatically chooses the right aperture for any shutter speed set between 1/8 and 1/500 sec. Look through the finder, point the camera at the subject from which you want a reading and press the shutter release (5). Inside the finder is a clearly marked, engraved aperture scale and needle which constantly indicates the aperture set by meter for the shutter speed used. Should you wish to take a close-up reading and hold it, a slight pressure on the front 45° shutter release will freeze the exposure setting until you are ready to use it or change it. By shifting the aperture ring from "Auto" to the regular scale, the camera can be used in full manual control with the built-in meter serving as an indicator, showing the recommended opening for any shutter speed set.

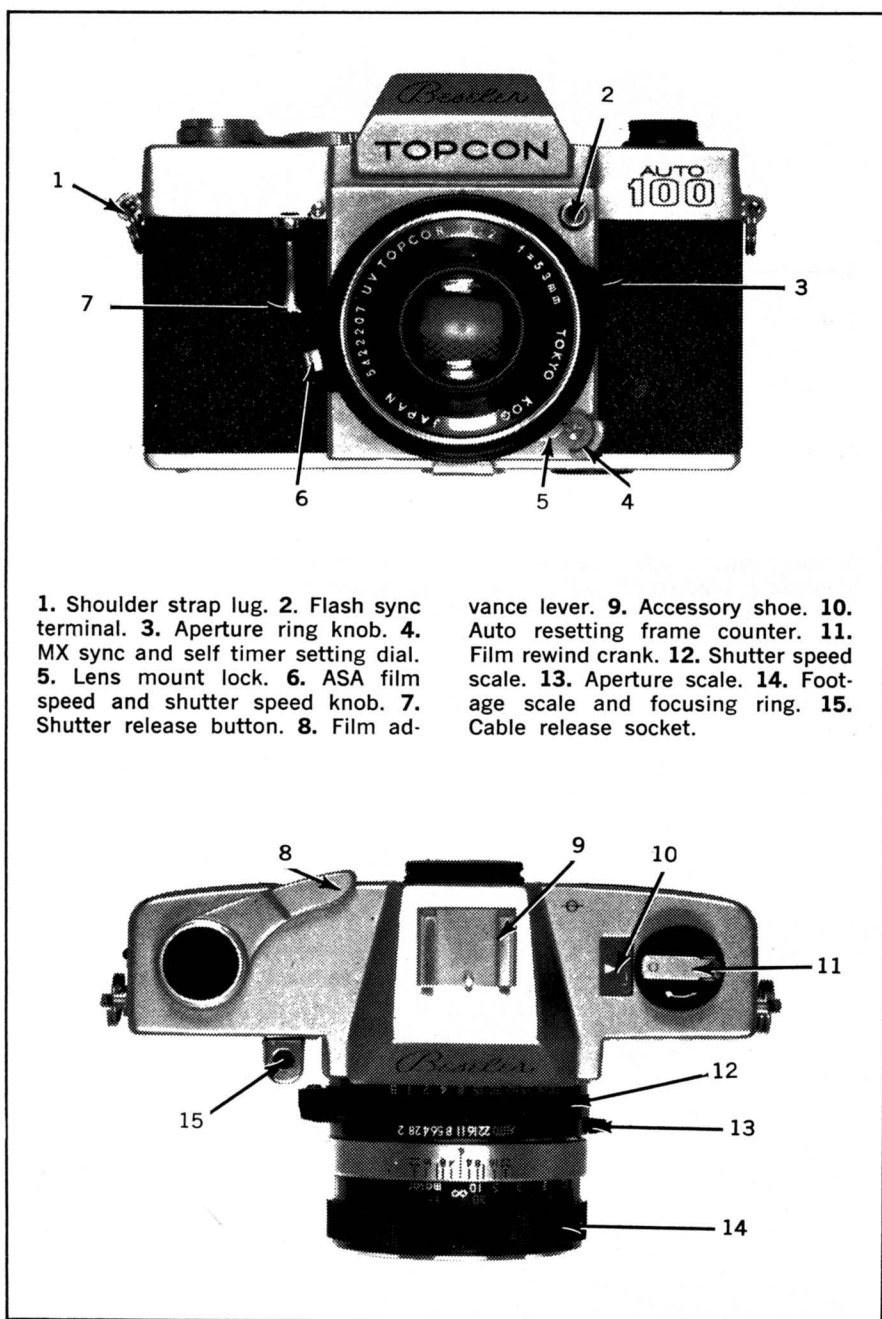
The secret of the Automatic 100's exposure system is, like its big Super D brother, in the mirror meter. Approximately 10 percent of the light transmitted through the camera lens enters tiny .1mm width slits in the mirror surface. Unlike the meter cell of the Super D, which is nearly the size of the entire mirror, the CdS cell printed circuit used in the Automatic 100 is a ¾-in. diameter circle. Consequently, the rays of light coming through the slits situated near the edges of the mirror are not measured.

The camera itself is very well made with a heavy body die-casting, well pressed and thick bottom cover and prism finder protection.

A small protruding lever (4) on the left side of the Automatic 100, when depressed, unlatches the lens which can then be removed with a quarter turn of the three-prong bayonet mount. MODERN found the mount to be rigid.

Controls fell nicely under the proper fingers. Focusing (12) was swift and accurate. We did find the shutter noise level very high. The automatic exposure system requires that each lens' maximum aperture (11) be set to the film's ASA index (10). This entails an additional operation with each lens change. While the procedure of resetting—pulling out a small catch on the shutter speed setting lever (5) and turning the ring to the ASA index—is simple, it does represent an additional step.

The through-the-lens meter system, according to our tests, read quite accurately down to 1/30 sec. at f/2 with a film having an ASA index of 400.



1. Shoulder strap lug. 2. Flash sync terminal. 3. Aperture ring knob. 4. MX sync and self timer setting dial. 5. Lens mount lock. 6. ASA film speed and shutter speed knob. 7. Shutter release button. 8. Film ad-

vance lever. 9. Accessory shoe. 10. Auto resetting frame counter. 11. Film rewind crank. 12. Shutter speed scale. 13. Aperture scale. 14. Footage scale and focusing ring. 15. Cable release socket.