KEPPLER'S SLR Notebook

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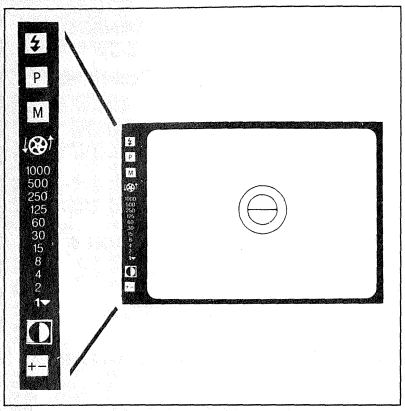
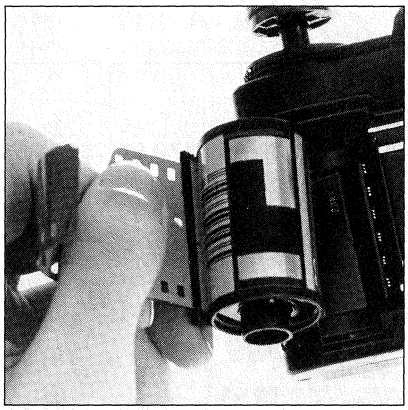


Olympus OM PC finder info, top to bottom, lit by LEDs: flash ready and confirmation, P program exposure, M manual exposure, diaphragm symbol warns of too much light—use smaller aperture, shutter speeds, 1 sec. and slower, ESP operating, exposure compensation.



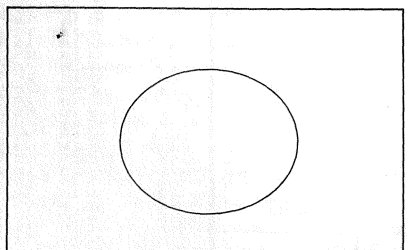
DX film speed coding: Six pairs of triple spring loaded contacts transmit patchwork DX code on cartridge to camera.

ESP turnoff: Turn well marked button on side of camera lens mount and ESP becomes active or inactive as you wish.

exposure correction is automatically applied depending on the total light value of the entire scene. Exposure can be cut as much as 6 f/stops (as when the sun appears in the picture) or can be increased 0.6 f/stops (for backlit situations). Readings and compensation are the same whether the camera is held horizontally or vertically. The compensation operates in auto-exposure and manual match-diode operation. A signal lights whenever ESP is working.

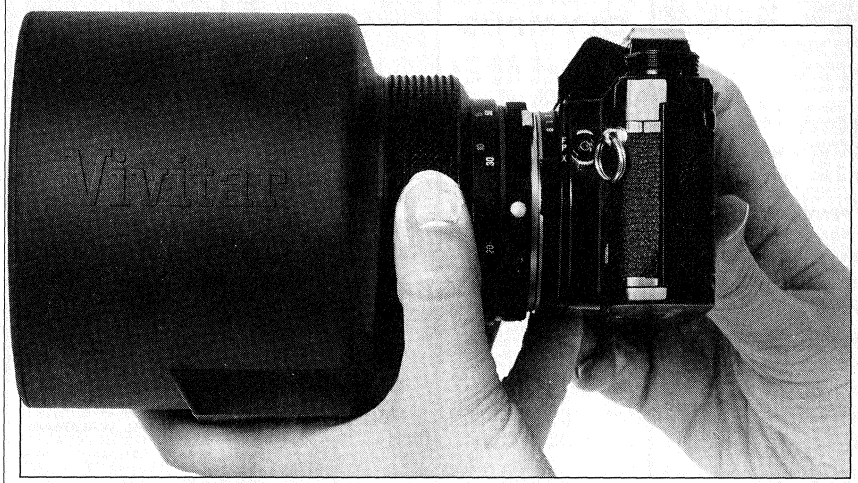
The camera has a new, rubberish, easy-to-grip outer surface, all-metal body casting, built-in front and rear grip, automatic DX film coding ISO/ASA 25-3200 and auto speeds from 2 to 1/1000 sec. with cloth focal-plane shutter. No PC flash terminal on the body though. Pricing indicates the camera should sell around the $200 mark with 50mm f/1.8 Olympus Zuiko lens.

How well does ESP work? Can't tell until we get a camera to wring out.



Oval ESP area: Meter measures inner, outer area, compares light levels, makes exposure adjustments accordingly.

It's Here! Really! Vivitar's 450mm f/4.5 Macro Focusing Cat Lens!



Nicely hand-holdable: Lens rests in left hand while thumb turns smooth focusing mount. You can turn lens with other fingers too. Right hand grasps camera.

The time required for a Vivitar product to be actually available after its initial introduction often exceeds the gestation period of several elephants. Still the item is usually worth waiting for once it arrives. For instance, Vivitar's sensational first Series 1 70-210mm f/3.5 zoom with macro ability was first shown in 1972 but wasn't actually available for purchase until 1974.

Just as incredible today is the hand-holdable Vivitar Series 1 450mm f/4.5 macro focusing mirror optic with a coated aspheric plastic element, first announced in 1982! The U.S.A. designed optic (by Opcon Associates under contract to Vivitar) with plastic element made by U.S. Precision in Cincinnati, then shipped to Taiwan for assembly with other parts made in Japan and Taiwan, should be reaching photo dealers just about now in actual production form—and it too appears to be well worth waiting for. Our early production lens is 5¾ in. long, 4½ in diameter weighing some 3½ lbs., has a water resistant gray, rubberish, easy-to-grip outer coating and a handy (see photo) rear focusing ring providing focus to less than 12 feet. *Continued on page 104*

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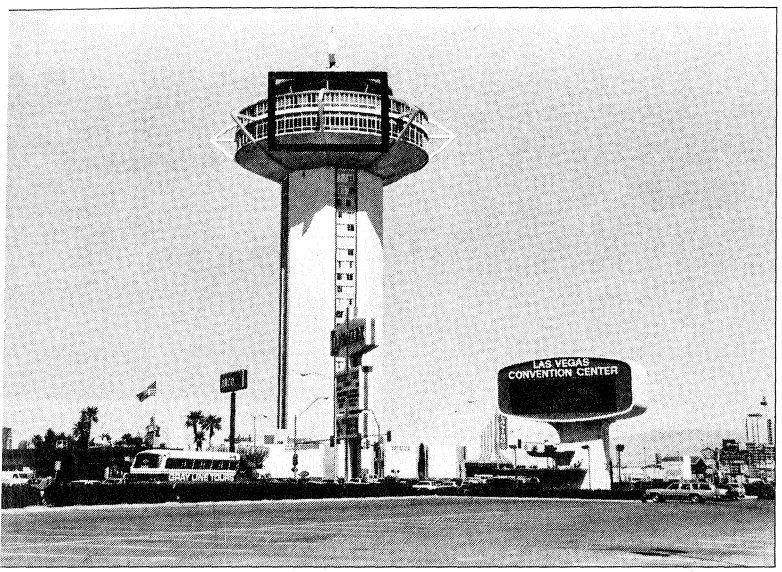
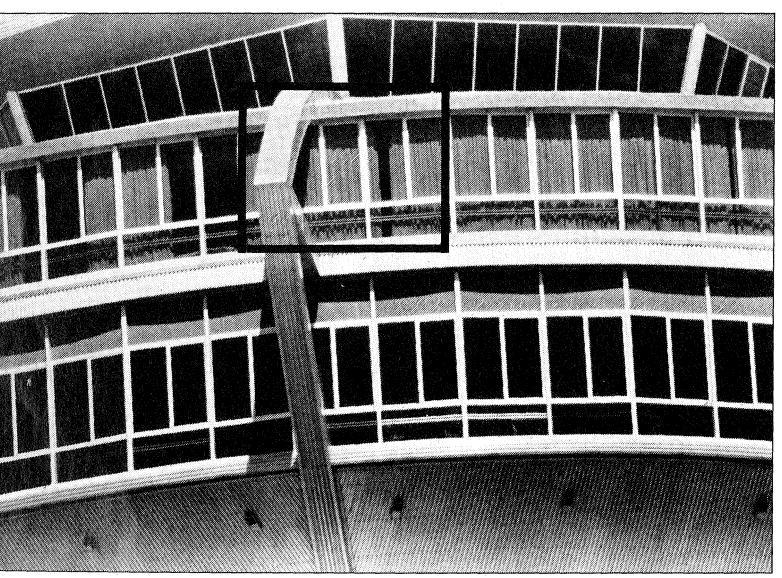
ile there have been many good 00 and 600mm f/8 mirror lenses, vitar is the first—and only hand- ›le one in that range—with an in- ›le f/4.5 aperture providing ›nt finder brightness with no split- range-finder blackout. You can virtually focus on an eyelash at 25 feet.

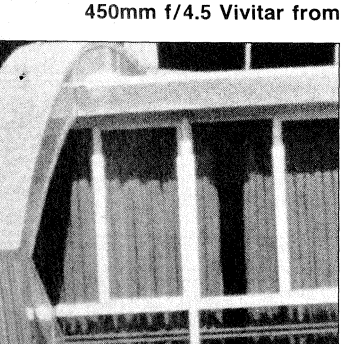
Vivitar designers seem to have at last overcome flare problems. Our hand-held shots of a sunlit tower in Las Vegas (see photos) were virtually flare-free with incredible snap and detail. List price is $737.95 in interchangeable mounts for Nikon, Canon, Minolta, Olympus, Pentax and Contax/Yashica ($34.75 each) but we imagine the lens will be selling for far less in the stores.



Far tower shot with 50mm lens, Kodak Tri-X film.



450mm f/4.5 Vivitar from same spot as photo above.



Some sharp lens! We enlarged outlined section above to show you incredible detail preserved by 450mm Vivitar plastic element catadioptric lens. Edge detail was also remarkable. Flare present in earlier pre-production test samples was gone. Vivitar says regular production run of lens should be even better!