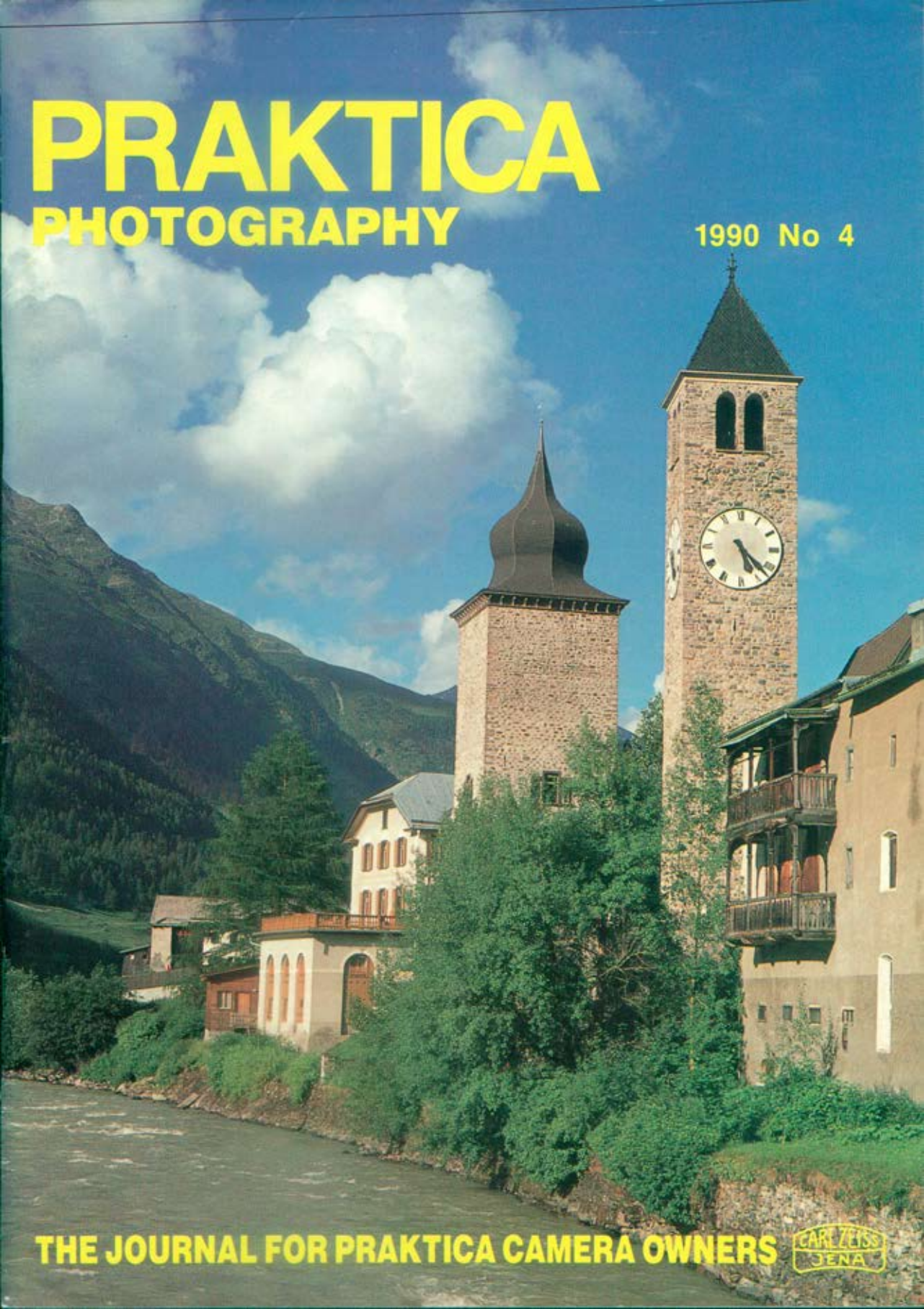
# PRAKTICA
## PHOTOGRAPHY

1990 No 4



THE JOURNAL FOR PRAKTICA CAMERA OWNERS

CARL ZEISS JENA


**Above:** *'Boulevard Refreshment'. A colourful picture of holiday memories, taken on the Champs-Elysées, Paris. Pentacon-Six camera with standard lens, 1/60 sec f/16. Agfa CT18 film.*

# The Pentacon-Six Story (3)

*The third in a six-part series of articles by* **Dr Trevor Allin**, *tracing the history of the famous Pentacon-Six camera, starting with its predecesors in the 1930s and '40s, and detailing both the camera's development in the GDR and compatible bodies, lenses and accessories by various other manufacturers, from the 1950s to the 1990s.*

## The Kiev-60 TTL

It is said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. The Soviet camera industry has been inspired by the Pentacon-Six to produce a 6 × 6cm (2¼ in. square) single-lens reflex that advertises its compatibility with Pentacon-Six lenses. However, to imitation the Russians have added innovation, and the Kiev-60 TTL is no mere copy, having been redesigned and re-engineered in many points.

## The Camera

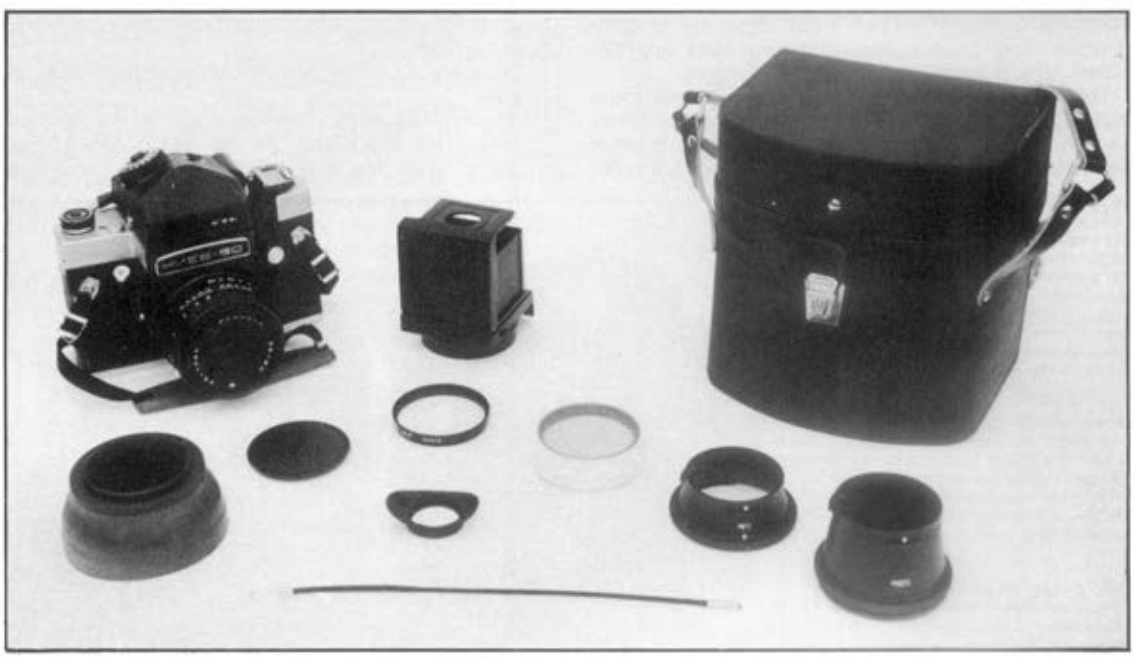
While retaining the same general outline as the Pentacon-Six, the Kiev-60 TTL shows its resemblance to the Russian Zenith E 35mm SLR in the general shape of the front and top plate, and the fold-out recessed film spool levers on the base plate are just like the ones on the Fed 4-L. They require long, strong fingernails, or a miniature screwdriver! The ⅜ in. tripod bush is located further back than on the Pentacon-Six, in the centre of the base plate. The procedure for opening the back is also different; a recessed button on the base plate is moved forwards and depressed. There are no pull-out-and-twist knobs as on the Pentacon-Six, but the overall height of the two cameras is approximately the same. The Kiev-60 TTL with metering prism and standard lens weighs 4 lb. 5 oz. (c. 1,950 grs), noticeably more than the 3 lb. 12 oz. (1,700 grs) of the Pentacon-Six TL with TTL prism and 80mm Biometar.

More fundamentally, the shutter speed dial, in the familiar position at the left of the top plate, delivers ½ to 1/1000 sec in the usual progression, plus B, but there is no 1 second speed provided, nor separate flash synch speed, all speeds up to 1/30 inclusive being colour-coded to indicate that they may be used with flash. There is a removable flash bracket just in front of the shutter speed dial, and below it is the (non-locking) flash socket. Furthermore, the Kiev-60 shutter moves from left to right, whereas in the Pentacon-Six and Praktisix the shutter moves from right to left.

The Kiev-60 delivers 12 6 × 6cm (2¼ in. square) negatives on 120 film. There is no 220 film option. The film advance lever is in the now standard position at the right-hand end of the top plate, and is a lot smaller than the Pentacon-Six lever, looking as though it had come straight from a 35mm camera. However, it has a useful stand-off position which facilitates rapid operation. The self-zeroing exposure counter is visible through a window just in front of this lever.

On the front plate just below the exposure counter is

**Below:** *The Kiev 60 TTL is supplied in a leather equipment case together with a waist-level finder, two compact automatic extension tubes, filters, cable release, lens hood, etc.*




the angled shutter release, which is at approximately 30° from vertical, rather than the 45° on the Pentacon-Six. However, in use, this difference is not significant. The release is not lockable. Below it, in the position occupied by the delayed action lever on the Pentacon-Six, is the manufacturer's logo, for this camera does not have a D/A lever (be honest, how often do you use it?).

There is a lever on the camera throat between the shutter release and the logo. This is the stop-down lever, which may be used for metering or checking depth of field instead of the lever on the standard lens, or if the lens in use does not have such a control. It is conveniently located and comfortable to use.

The viewfinder consists of a bright fresnel lens with a horizontal rangefinder wedge which makes focusing very positive. It is marked in faint squares by four horizontal and four vertical lines as an aid to composition, and as a safety measure shows approximately 90% of the image recorded on the film.

The metering prism delivers a very bright image and meters light in an area of approx 30mm high by 50mm wide in the centre of the viewfinder. It is held in place by two pins, and does not fit the Pentacon-Six. It is not coupled to shutter speed or aperture, and in use the chosen shutter speed is entered on a large dial on the top of the prism, the meter is switched on, and the lens aperture ring is rotated while the stop-down lever is depressed, exactly as when using stop-down metering on the Pentacon-Six. One large red LED in the viewfinder indicates over-exposure, another under-exposure. When both are lit, the correct exposure has been set.

## The Lenses

The range of Russian lenses created for the Kiev-60 will be of particular interest to the Pentacon-Six or Praktisix owner, as they have the same breech-lock bayonet mount, and complement admirably the range from the GDR.

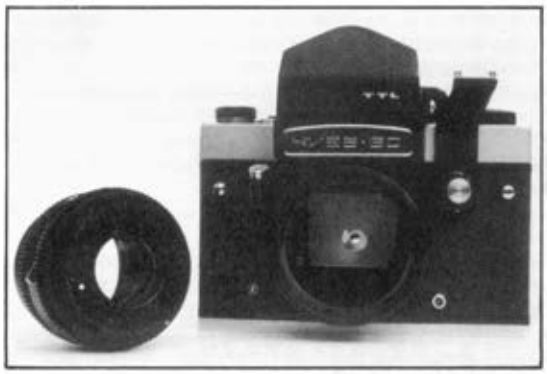
There are, however, two minor incompatibilities of design:

(1) The fully-automatic diaphragm pin on the Russian lenses retracts slightly as the lens is opened up. Thus, when the lens reaches one or two stops

**Above left:** *The aperture stop-down lever on the camera throat is conveniently located just below the shutter release. The standard MC Volna-3 lens seen here also has its own stop-down lever, which can be seen in front of and down from the camera body lever. Use this lens lever for stop-down metering when the lens is on the Pentacon Six.*

**Above right:** *The Kiev 60's top plate, showing the focusing screen with faint squares to aid composition. Note also the shutter speed dial and the film advance lever, seen here in its stand-off position, and the lugs on the front plate for the carrying strap.*


**Right:** *Many of the similarities and differences between the Kiev 60 TTL and the Pentacon Six are clear in this photograph.*



**Left:** *The breech-lock bayonet mount whose ease of use, reliability and strength are appreciated by Pentacon Six owners throughout the world.*

below its maximum aperture, the pin is not long enough to reach the stop-down lever in the Pentacon-Six throat. In consequence, the lens will not maintain full aperture for focusing, although it will stop down correctly when the shutter is released.

This could be remedied by loosening the screw in the lever in the Pentacon-Six throat, but it would then extend too far for East German lenses.

(2) Some, at least, of the Russian lenses (the f/3.5 45mm, for example) do not have a stop-down lever on the lens mount, using instead the lever on the camera body. This makes stop-down metering on the Pentacon-Six (the quickest method of working) impossible, unless the lever inside the Pentacon-Six camera throat is folded up to disengage the FAD mechanism.

The standard lens supplied with the camera is a multi-coated 80mm Volna-3 with a maximum aperture of f/2.8 click-stopped at half stop intervals down to f/22. It has a stop-down lever at 7 o'clock, the same position as on the Biometar.

The Volna delivers first-rate results and has the added advantage of focusing down all the way to under 0.6 of a metre (approx 23½ in.), a *lot* closer than the 1 metre on the 80mm Biometar, and two automatic extension tubes supplied with the camera permit focusing even closer, to under 0.4 and 0.35 of a metre, respectively (15¾ in. and 13¾ in.), and even closer when used together. These tubes can of course be equally well used with the Pentacon-Six or Praktisix.

Here is the run-down on the other lenses available for the Kiev-60 TTL. A careful study will reveal that some of them are considerably more compact and lighter in weight than the excellent GDR lenses available for the Pentacon-Six.

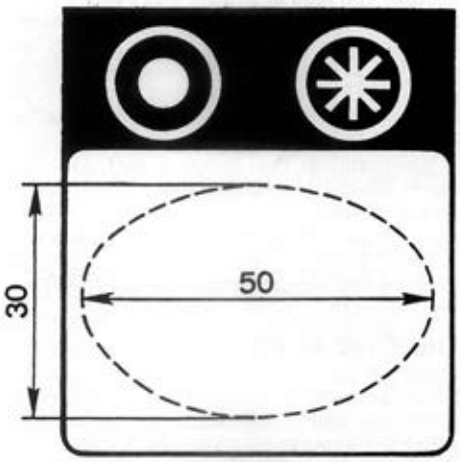
The prices are those I found in Moscow in February 1989, and are for comparative purposes between the lenses only; until recently, the official exchange rate for tourists was approximately one pound sterling to the rouble but lenses that found their way into Western Europe were usually priced at 35-50% of these prices. With the new tourist rate of 10 roubles to the pound, these lenses are outstanding bargains.

## Where can I get one?

Well, you could visit the Soviet Union, but it would be advisable to check on availability and prices first if possible. A Swiss supplier advertised in this magazine in March 1989, and I know of at least one supplier in West Germany. I have also seen some of these lenses in a London shop. These lenses are a most welcome addition to the range available for the Pentacon-Six, and it is to be hoped that the official importers of Soviet cameras will give further consideration to importing them into the UK.

In the next article in this series, we shall look at a further source of lenses – including zooms – for the Pentacon-Six!

**Below:** *The area measured by the centre-weighted meter in the CdS TTL prism is shown in this diagram. Above the image area are the two red LED's. The dot and circle on the left indicated under-exposure. The star and circle on the right are for over-exposure. Get them both lit, and exposure is spot-on.*




| Lens Name | Max aperture & focal length mm | Angle of view deg. | Focusing range m | Front ring thread for screw-in attachments | Dimensions mm | Weight g | Price in Roubles Feb 89 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Zodiak-8B | f/3.5/30 | 180 | 0.3-inf | M 38×0.5 | ø 110×97 | 1000 | 520 |
| Mir-26B | f/3.5/45 | 83 | 0.5-inf | M 82×0.75 | ø 86×96.5 | 650 | 350 |
| Mir-38B | f/3.5/65 | 66 | 0.5-inf | M 72×0.75 | ø 78×88 | 550 | 270 |
| MS Vega-28B | f/2.8/120 | 41 | 1.2-inf | M 62×0.75 | ø 76×58 | 450 | 350 |
| Kaleinar-3B | f/2.8/150 | 28 | 1.8-inf | M 82×0.75 | ø 90×105 | 1100 | 550 |
| MS Telear-4B | f/3.5/250 | 19 | 2.5-inf | M 77×0.75 | ø 80×150 | 900 | |
| Yupiter-36B | f/3.5/250 | 19 | 3.5-inf | M 82×0.75 | ø 85×180 | 1500 | 320 |
| 3M-3B (Mirror) | f/8/600 | 7.5 | 6.0-inf | M 52×0.75 | ø 115×195 | 2200 | |