

## CHOICE CAMERA

# The Bronica ETRS

**You name the film—  
this will take it**

THE one great advantage with several roll film SLRs is the ability to change backs. So if the photographer is half way through a roll of black and white and wants to take a shot in colour simply by swapping over the backs he can do so.

Also it allows a very quick change of film. When a spare back is loaded up with film only that accessory has to be changed to get a new roll shooting, so there is no fiddling around with leader paper and spools.

The Bronica ETRS basically takes 6×4.5cms shots, 15 of them to a roll. But also available is a 220 back which takes the double length rolls of film and will allow 30 exposures and a 70mm film back.

But two backs that are going to become available within the next few weeks go to make this an outstanding and unique system. The first is the back ETRS 135 which allows 35mm film to be used, together with the standard 75mm f/2.8 lens

the photographer would have an ideal tool for portrait shots or any other kind of work where he would use a short tele. It also means that 35mm only materials like Kodachrome and Infra-Red can be used through what is normally thought of as a roll film set-up. The second back is a bit more specialised. It allows a panoramic shot of 24×54mm to be recorded on standard 35mm film.

### Loading

Loading with roll film is both simple and straightforward and even if only one back is owned a roll can be changed quicker than can a 35mm camera since there is no re-winding involved. Once the film is threaded and the positioning arrows on the backing paper correctly aligned the winding lever on the right hand side of the camera body is

turned until it stops. All is then ready to take the first frame. The film can also be advanced by a winding key.

Shutter speeds are set by a knob on the left side of the body, the one selected is displayed in a window just above the knob and can easily be seen with the camera held at waist level. These run from 1/500 sec to 8 sec. The shutter, which is of the between the lens leaf type, is powered by a single 6v battery which is housed in the base. However there is a battery check button which gives a glowing red LED power confirmation in the viewfinder. In the event of dead batteries the camera will fire, but only at 1/500sec, whatever speed is selected.

The other leg of the exposure combination, the aperture, is set on a ring at the very front of the

lens. Used as a basic camera there would be no metering at all and a reading would have to be taken with a hand-held meter or through another camera.

However most photographers will soon want to add a metering finder with a built-in prism, which gives the advantage of a right-way-round image on the screen. The AE-11 Finder E Allows aperture priority automation or manual metering through-the-lens using two silicon cells.

Using this accessory also gives a viewfinder indication of the shutter speed in use and allows the camera to be used for eye-level working.

But it is the availability of backs that is one of the main attractions with the Bronica ETRS. The frame number for the film in use is shown on the top of the magazine, that means that six shots could be taken on a roll, the back switched to one containing another material, a few shots taken and then the first replaced, the frame counter will still show 6.

Changing backs is both easily and quickly done when it is safe to do so. To protect the film in

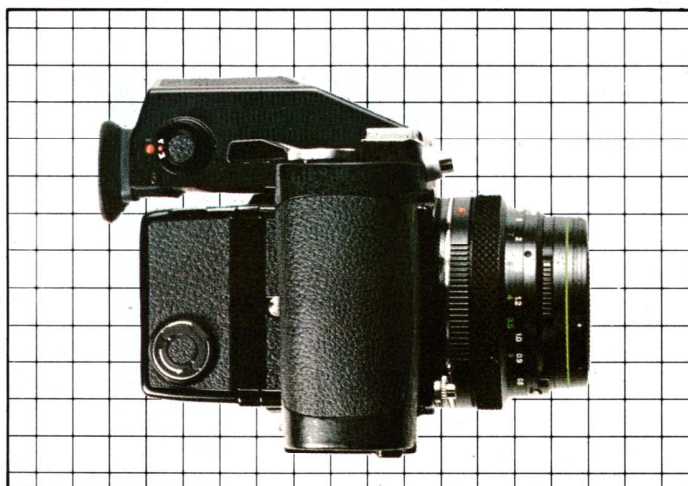


*With the finder removed the row of electronic connections for the metering hood are seen at the front.*



*To go with backup system*





Above: Three views of the Bronica. These are not to any scale.

Top right: The colour of the Bronica 75mm f/2.8 lens is a little, pleasantly warm

Right: The ETRS with the lens removed. This operates on a bayonet system and is quick and easy to use.



## BRONICA ETRS

CAMERA CHOICE QUALITY RATING

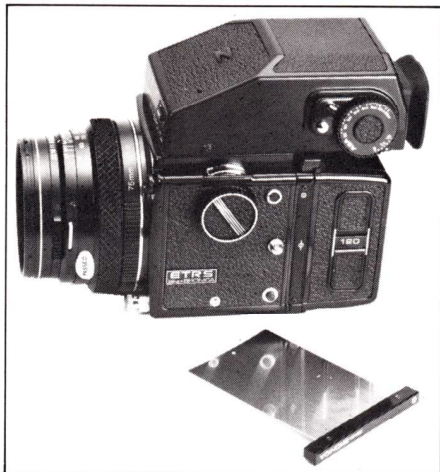
CAMERA CHOICE VALUE FOR MONEY RATING

9/10

9/10



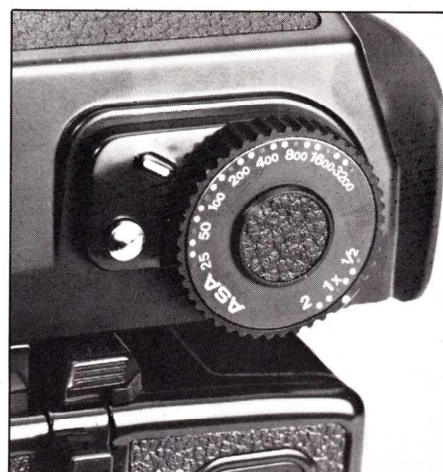
## CHOICE CAMERA



The dark slide must be inserted between the body and the back before it is removed.



Changing screens is easily done with the finder removed.



The film speed setting and exposure compensation control of the AE-11 Finder.

the back from fogging a dark slide is provided which must be inserted before changing. If this is not in place everything locks up and the back stays firmly in place despite repeated pressure on the release button.

The shutter release button is located on the front of the body at the bottom right. So the camera can be held with the body resting on the right hand with the index finger curled up and onto the button. Focusing and changing shutter speeds and apertures can all then be

carried out with the left hand, but then the grip must be changed to wind on.

Above the winding lever is the multiple exposure control which allows the shutter to be re-cocked without the film being advanced, this can be carried out as many times as required allowing true multiple exposure.

For fast and furious action work or to just make for a more pleasant feeling camera the Speedgrip E can be added. This fits alongside the body and is moulded to fit the hand

perfectly. At the top is a wind-on lever rather like that on a 35mm SLR, two strokes on this will wind the film and cock the shutter. On the front of the grip—just where the index finger falls is a second shutter release button. Using this grip on the camera makes for much smoother working and means the eye can stay firmly fixed to the eyepiece watching the subject. Also there is a hot-shoe for mounting that type of flash gun.

The standard outfit comes

complete with a waist level finder that has a built-in flip-up magnifier for fine focusing and the viewing screen itself can be changed for a variety of different types designed for specific jobs. The basic screen has a central, diagonal split image rangefinder surrounded by a microprism collar on a matt field.

The standard lens in the Zenzanon E11 75mm f/2.8 which turns in first class results on all fronts. The quality of the lens combined with the large 6 × 4.5 cm negative format

## WIN A BRONICA ETRS

NOW you have a chance to win this complete Bronica outfit consisting of the ETRS with a 120 film back, 75mm f/2.8 lens, the AE-11 finder, which gives automatic TTL metering and the Speed Grip E. Below we give five questions on this impressive camera and next month we will be setting five more, both forms will have to be returned complete with the answers so keep this one till next month.

### COMPETITION QUESTIONS

1. What size Panoramic shots can be taken with an accessory back on the ETRS?
2. With the range of lenses available for the ETRS how could perspective be controlled?
3. What is the shutter speed range?
4. At what speeds can an electronic flash be used?
5. Which back would be best for checking out correct exposure?

In not more than 10 words complete the following:

"I would like a Bronica ETRS because....."

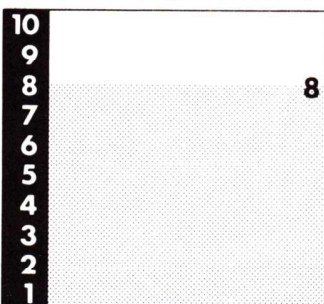
.....





## Specification and performance details

### SHUTTER SPEEDS



Marked Speeds	Equivalent Milliseconds	Measured Milliseconds	Practical
500	2	2.5	1/500
250	4	4.5	1/222
125	8	8.5	1/117
60	16.6	17	1/60
30	33.3	33	1/30
15	66.6	66	1/15
8	125	125	1/8
4	250	250	1/4
2	500	500	1/2
1	1000	1000	1
2	2000	2000	2
4	4000	4000	4
8	8000	8000	8

#### BODY

**METERING SYSTEM:** None in the basic body but the AE-11 Finder offers aperture priority automation or manual metering.

**EXPOSURE COMPENSATION:** + or - 1 stop (on AE-11 Finder).

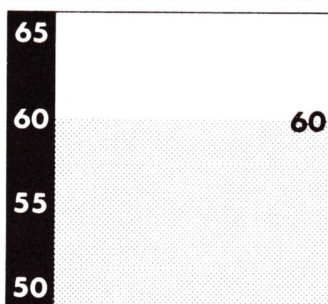
**METERING CELLS:** SPD (AE-11 Finder).

**FILM SPEED RANGE:** 25ASA-3200ASA (AE-11 Finder).

**METER RANGE:** EV4-EV17 (AE-11 Finder).

**VIEWFINDER:** Camera has waist level finder. Accessory prism finders available.

### NOISE LEVEL



The noise level readings were taken using a decibel meter at a range of 1m. The result for the Bronica ETRS was 60db.

**STANDARD SCREEN:** Diagonal split image rangefinder with microprism collar on a matt field.

**VIEWFINDER INFORMATION:** Standard finder - none (Shutter speed shown with AE-11 Finder).

**REMOTE RELEASE:** Cable release socket on the side of the body.

**SELF TIMER:** None.

**FLASH SYNC:** At all shutter speeds.

**FILM ADVANCE:** By winding crank on side of the body or on back.

**WINDER CONTACTS:** Provision for winder grip and motor drive through winding crank linkage and electrical contacts on base.

**SHUTTER:** Between-the-lens leaf.

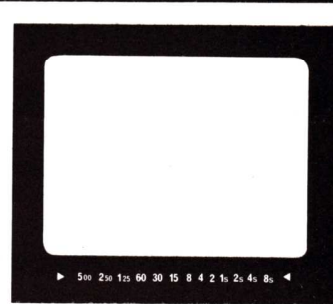
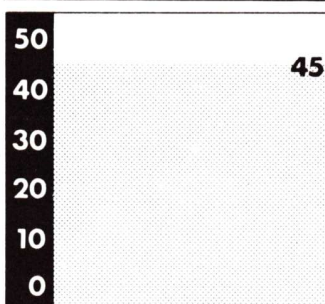
**SHUTTER SPEED RANGE:** 8-1/500sec+T.

**BODY WEIGHT:** 929g (with 120 back and waist level finder).

**BODY DIMENSIONS:** 110x106x122mm.

**BATTERIES:** One 6v alkaline cell.

### LENS ASSESSMENT



#### LENS ASSESSMENT

	CENTRAL DEFINITION	EDGE DEFINITION	CONTRAST	IMAGE CONSISTENCY	OVERALL QUALITY	QUALITY RATING
75mm. f/2.8	9/10	9/10	9/10	9/10	9/10	45/50

#### LENS

**FOCAL LENGTH:** 75mm.

**APERTURE RANGE:** f/2.8-f/22.

**CONSTRUCTION:** 5 elements in 4 groups.

**CLOSEST FOCUSING:** 0.6m.

**FILTER SIZE:** 58mm.

**LENS WEIGHT:** 417g.

**LENS DIMENSIONS:** 80x54mm.

**CAMERA AND LENS WEIGHT:** 1346g.

**CAMERA AND LENS DIMENSIONS:** 110x106x157mm.

**PRICE:** £350.

**DISTRIBUTOR:** ALCO Ltd, Faraday Rd, London Road Estate, Newbury, Berks. Tel: 0635-49797.

#### HOW MUCH DOES IT COST

ETRS	£350
AE-11 FINDER E	£155
SPEEDGRIP E	£60
120/220 MAGAZINE	£60
POLAROID BACK	£66

ensures maximum sharpness under all conditions. The lens itself has a small catch, which when pressed stops the lens down to its set aperture for a depth of field preview.

So the Bronica ETRS gives all the advantages of the 6x4.5 cm format, which relates far nearer to common print and paper sizes than 6x6 cm and gives 15 exposures on a roll as against 12,

with the advantages of a wide range of backs, lenses and other accessories and at £350 the basic camera compares well in price with a top-line 35mm SLR.

In use it has a most pleasant feel and the controls are well laid out. Of course no roll film camera could ever be as light or small as a 35mm model but set against that is the increase of quality and the greater versatility

offered. The range of lenses have shutters within them so flash can always be synced at all speeds, which makes this an ideal tool for fill-in flash work. In fact any photographer wanting to take up weddings, portraiture or any other kind of money making assignment couldn't buy a better camera to work with, on both specification and value for money it is unbeatable.

It is unfair to keep comparing this camera with a 35mm model. But with the addition of an accessory back this will become one. If you've been thinking about moving over to roll film this camera represents superb quality and value for money. If you were thinking about making that roll film camera a 2 1/4 in square model . . . well, think again!

## Backup system

**BACKS,** backs and more backs lay behind the Bronica ETRS there is a 15 on 120 back, one for 30 on 220, a 35mm back and one for taking panoramic shots on 35mm with a negative, or slide, size of 24x54mm plus the most useful Polaroid model.

Winding can either be by a lever on the Speed Grip E or under power with the Motor Drive E which offers up to 1 frame a second film advancing.

Viewing can be with the standard waist level finder, with the Prism Finder or with TTL metering using the AE-11 Finder. For quick response work

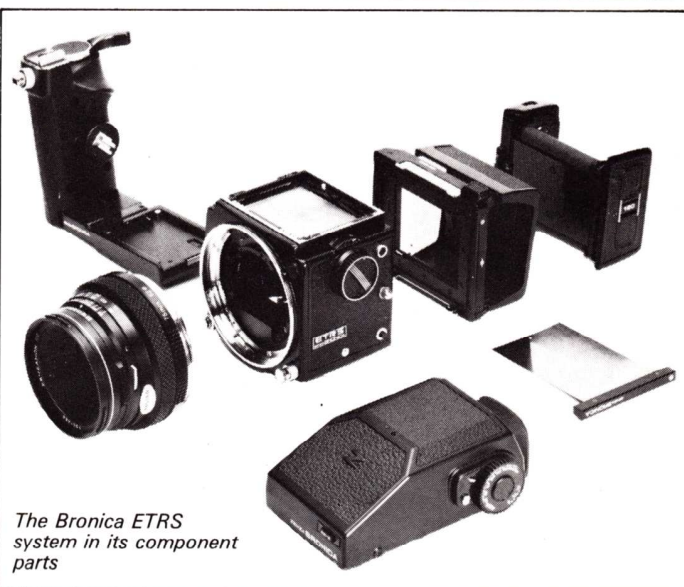
the Sports Finder offers direct viewing through a simple frame.

Close up work can be undertaken with a choice of automatic extension ring, auto bellows or close-up attachment lenses. All of these can be used with the AE-11 Finder for TTL metering or exposure automation.

There is a lens for almost every occasion with a selection from a 40mm f/4 wide angle through to a 500mm f/8, on the way there are zooms with macro facilities and a 55mm f/4.5 which has rise, fall and tilt movements for perspective control.

The Bronica ETRS is more than just a 6x4.5cm camera it is the basis of a whole top quality photographic system.

It certainly represents an ideal camera for those thinking of taking the plunge into medium format.



The Bronica ETRS system in its component parts