



Medium Format Camera

There are many types of cameras that are used by professionals. Each type of camera is used for special needs. In this lesson you will learn about the Medium Format Camera. You will learn about what a Medium Format Camera is, the parts, and how to load the film.

What a Medium Format Camera is: When photographers speak of the “format” of the camera they are basically talking about the size of the film. A 35mm camera uses “35mm” film which normally has a negative that has a size of image about 1.5” x 1” (similar to what you see in Fig. #1). The Medium Format camera uses 120mm film or sometimes called 2.25 size film. It varies in actual size of image depending on what version of medium format you are using. There are three basic versions. The smallest is the “645”. It produces a rectangular image that is about 1.75”x2.25” (see Fig. #2). The next size is the 2.25” square version. This version creates an image that is square and is a favorite of those that like to shoot landscape scenes.



Fig. #1.

The third version is called the “6x7”. It creates an images that is about 2.75”x 2.25”. This version is a favorite of those that are shooting portraits. The best medium format cameras that we have are “645”, but we do have some of the 2.25” square versions. The “645” will work very well for the protraiture assignment that we will be doing. Compared to the 35mm cameras your image will be able to be printed larger and be sharper.

Fig. #2



Parts of the Medium Format Camera: All cameras have a basic layout. They all have an lens and body. On the lens and body, they all have shutter speeds, apertures, focus, and the ability to advance the film. When you pick up a camera that is new to you, you should try to familiarize yourself to where all the parts are located on that camera. The 35mm SLR is usually easy to figure out because the body style lends itself to a similar placement of the parts for each of the brands and models. The Medium Format Camera is quite different in body styles so it is not as easy to figure out sometimes. In this part of the lesson we will attempt to help you find the different parts and thus become aquanted with the cameras. See Fig. #3 and #4 on the back of this page to locate where the different parts are.

Fig. #3

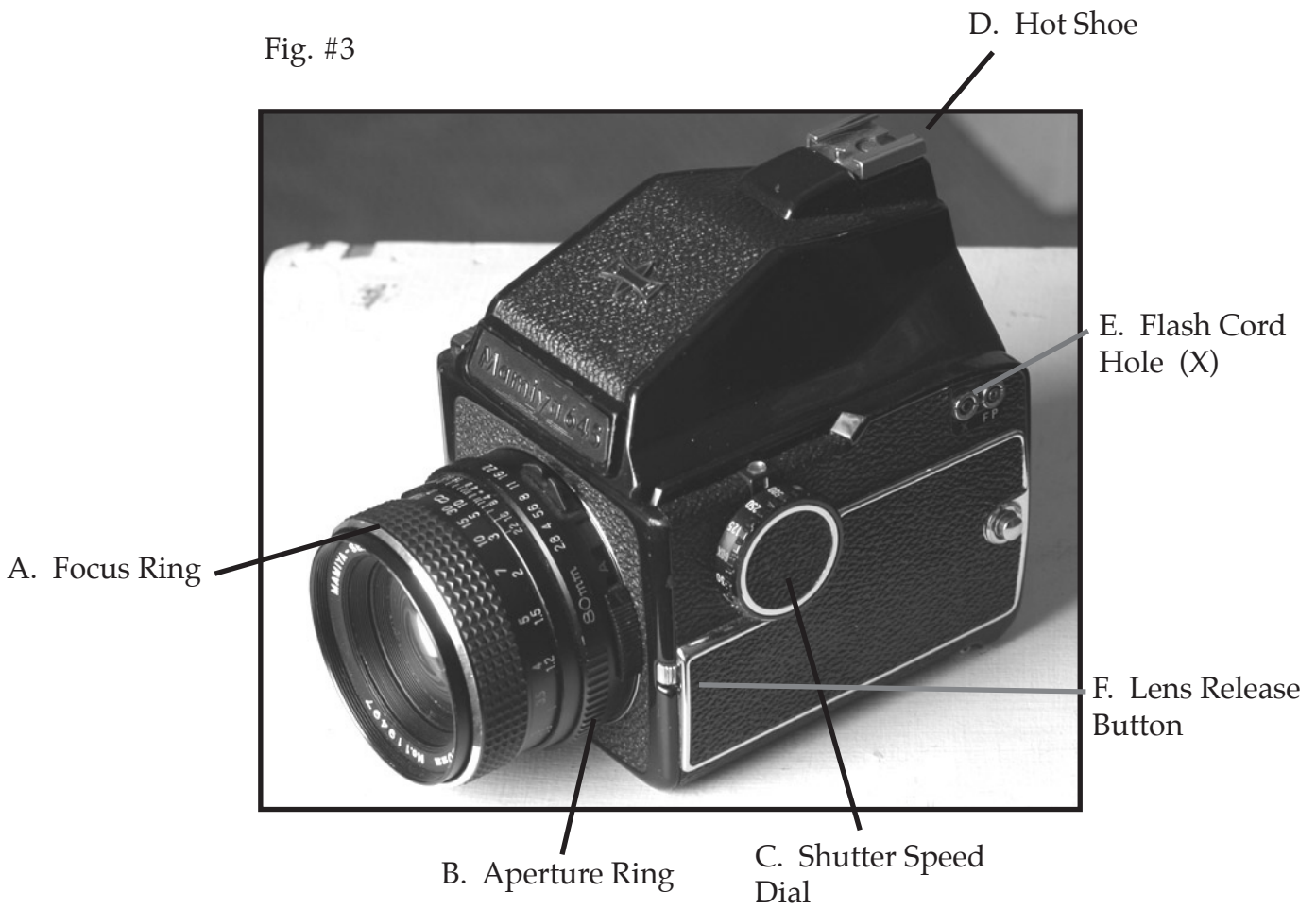


Fig. #4.

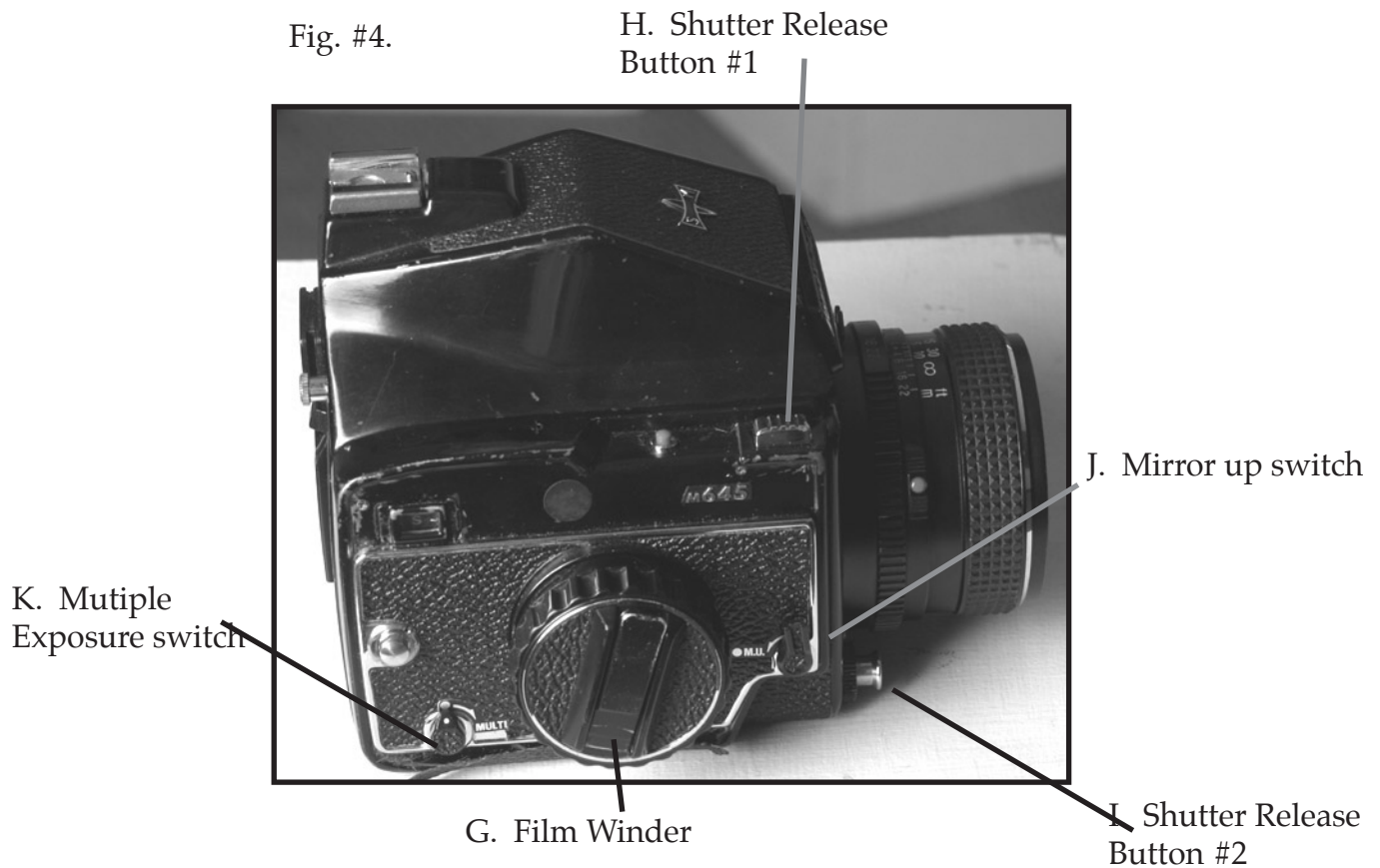
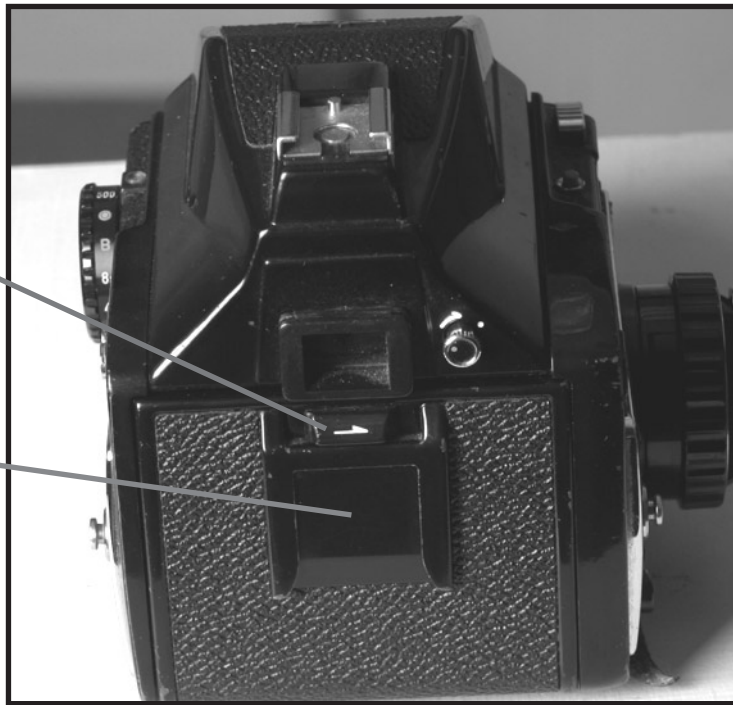


Fig. #5

M. Open Back
Arrow

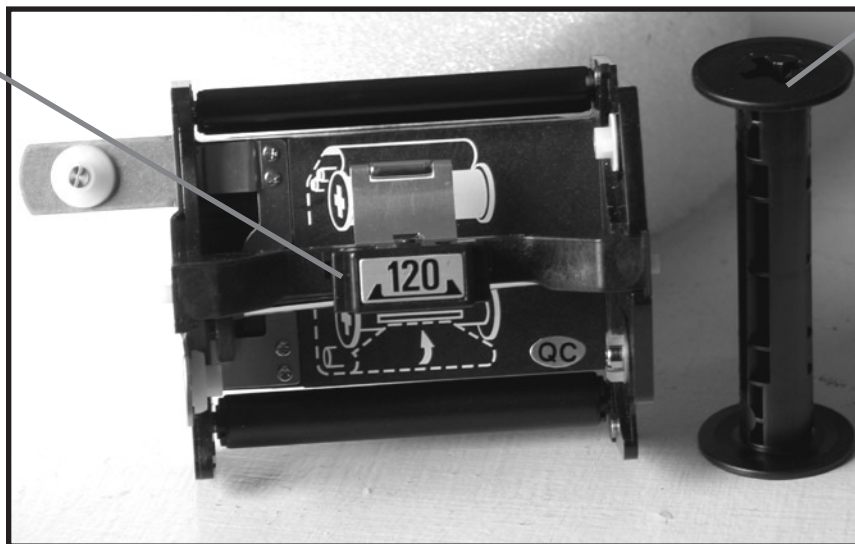
L. Open Back
Button



N. Release Buttons

O. Empty Take up
Spool

Fig. #6



Loading the Film on the Film Holder: Loading the film in a Medium Format camera is a little different than loading film in a 35mm camera. Each camera version and even model will have a different way to open the back. For our "645" cameras, to open the back you press the "Open Back Button" (See fig. #5) and push the "Open Back Arrow" in the direction of the arrow. Remove the "Film Holder" by pressing the "Release Buttons" and pull out the "Film Holder". Usually there will be an empty "Take up Spool" at the top. Remove the "Take up Spool" by flipping the part on the left of the "Film Holder" out and then you can remove the "Take up Spool". Put the "Empty Take up Spool" in the bottom area. Then take the film that you are going to load and put it back in the top area so that the film will go over the roller at the top with the inside of the paper facing out. Bring the paper around the back and then over the roller on the bottom. Then place the tapered leader into the slot on the "Empty Take up Spool" and roll the spool up in the only direction it will go. Now you can put the Film Holder back into the camera and wind until it stops. You will then be ready to take your first picture.