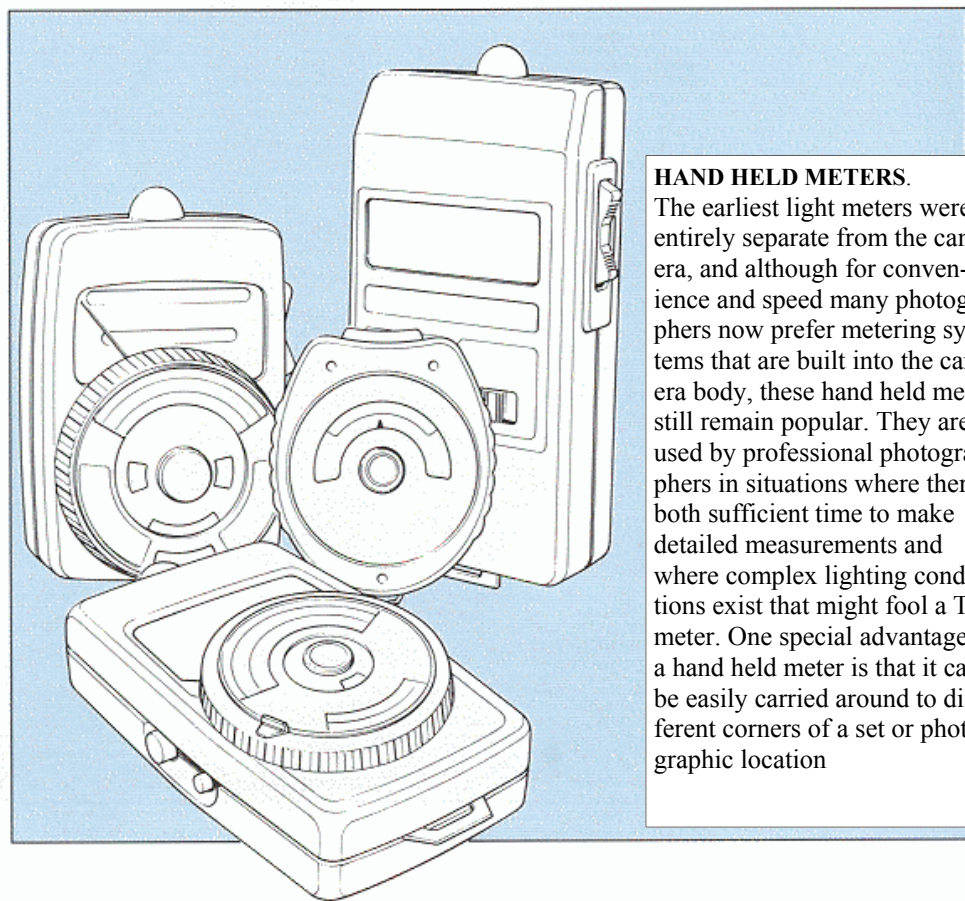


Hand Held Light Meters

Is there a way to check whether the exposure meter on my camera is working correctly?

A simple rule of thumb which will give a good indication is that a normal subject which is lit frontally with bright sunlight will require a shutter speed that is a reciprocal of the ASA speed of the film when the aperture is set at $f/16$:
I.e, with a 200 ASA film $1/200$ sec at $f/16$ and with 64 ASA film $1/64$ sec at $f/16$ and so on.



HAND HELD METERS.

The earliest light meters were entirely separate from the camera, and although for convenience and speed many photographers now prefer metering systems that are built into the camera body, these hand held meters still remain popular. They are used by professional photographers in situations where there is both sufficient time to make detailed measurements and where complex lighting conditions exist that might fool a TTL meter. One special advantage of a hand held meter is that it can be easily carried around to different corners of a set or photographic location

What are the different types of exposure meters, and are they designed for different uses?

There are basically two different ways of measuring exposure with a meter:

A. By reflected light,

B. By incident light,

The first method measures the light reflected by the subject and is the system used by meters that are built into the camera; most hand held meters are used in the same way.

An incident light reading is taken by aiming the meter at the light source from the subject position and measuring the light falling upon it; many hand held meters can be used for this as well but not built-in meters. Meters also vary in terms of the area of the subject from which they take a reflected light reading: an averaging meter reads from the whole of the area that it can 'see', a center-weighted meter reads from the whole area but with a bias toward the details in the centre of the picture area; and a spot meter reads from only a very small and precise area of the scene. There is also a meter specially made for use with flash which usually uses the incident light reading method.