

Olympic Junior, simple model



Olympic Junior, expensive model

Semi-Olympic - c1937. 4.5x6cm on 120. Bakelite body. Ukas f4.5/75mm lens. Shutter 25-150, T.B. \$50-75.

Super-Olympic - c1935. The first Japanese 35mm. Bakelite body. f4.5/50mm lens. Shutter 25-150, T.B. \$100-200.

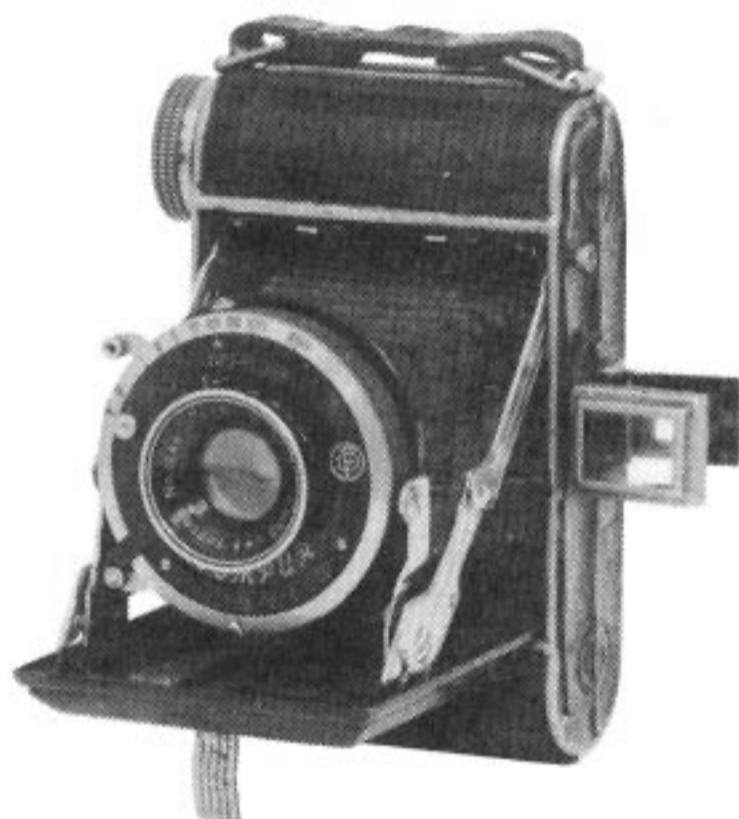
Vest Olympic - c1938. Telescoping metal tube front. Half-frame on 127 rollfilm. Similar to Ruberg Baby Ruby. Ukas f4.5/75mm Anastigmat. Shutter 25-150, T.B. \$40-60.

OLYMPUS KOGAKU (Japan)

Olympus was founded on October 12, 1919 as Takachiho Seisakusho with the intention of building the first Japanese microscopes. Its first microscope was marketed in 1920, and since that time, the company has always kept close to medical technology, as evidenced by its 1951 introduction of the world's first gastro camera. The first camera was the 1936 "Semi-Olympus", a bellows-type folding camera. The company name changed in 1942 to "Takachiho Kogaku Kogyo Co., Ltd." and again in 1949 to "Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.", adopting the name of its

cameras. Although Olympus has made many cameras which are not far from the mainstream, they have also made several notable products which set them apart as an innovative company. Olympus has often managed to squeeze the full functions of a quality camera into a smaller and lighter body. In addition to their light and compact full-frame models, one can't help but think of the half-frame "Pen" cameras which were so popular in the 1960s and '70s.

We are listing these cameras basically in a chronological fashion. However, when a particular type of camera is introduced, we have tried to keep its successors with it in order to show the development of the various lines of cameras. We are indebted to Dominique & Jean-Paul Francesch for their research and photographs used in this section. For further reference on Olympus we highly recommend their book "Histoire de L'Appareil Photographique Olympus de 1936 à 1983".



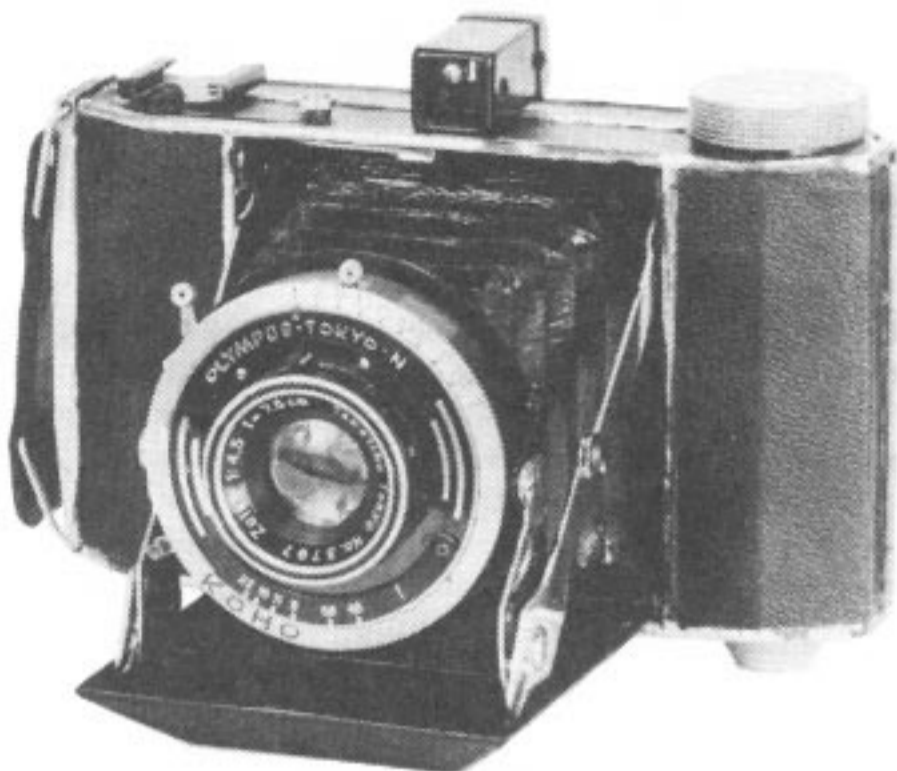
Semi-Olympus Model I - 1936. Using a Japanese-made Zuiko f4.5/75mm lens in an imported Compur rimset shutter, this vertically styled folding bellows camera for 16 exposures on 120 film began the long line of Olympus cameras. The second variation (1937) used a Japanese-made Koho shutter to 1/150. Folding optical finder. Rare. \$300-450.



Olympus Standard - 1937. Unusual 127 film rangefinder camera, 4x5cm. Styled like the 35mm rangefinder cameras of the day,

OLYMPUS (cont.)

with interchangeable lenses. Only 10 examples made. Extremely rare. If you see one for sale, be prepared for a bidding battle with a dozen Samurai warriors.



Semi-Olympus Model II - 1938. The first Olympus camera made entirely in Japan. Camera body is now horizontally oriented and has a rigid finder rather than a folding one. Accessory shoe. Body and bellows are large enough to have been made for 6x6cm, but the format remains 4.5x6cm. Zuiko 75mm f4.5 in Koho to 150. \$250-375.



Olympus Six (Postwar) - 1946-48. Made from pre-war parts. Identical to the pre-war f3.5 version except that the lens has 4, not 5, elements. It can only be distinguished by removing and examining the front lens. Takachiho's Hatagaya plant which made the Koho shutters had been destroyed in April 1945, so when the existing stock of Koho shutters ran out, the Copal shutter from Copal Koki Co. was used. \$60-100.



Olympus Six - 1939, 1940. Horizontally styled self-erecting bellows camera for 6x6cm on 120. Although the design reverted to a folding finder and the accessory shoe disappeared, this new model went to the larger square format, and added a body release for the Koho shutter. The 1939 model has the same 4-element lens as the earlier Olympus cameras, while the 1940 model introduced new 5-element Zuiko 75mm f4.5 and f3.5 lenses. (Late wartime lenses designated "S Zuiko" are of this 5-element design). Koho shutter to 200. \$150-175.

Olympus Chrome Six - *There are a number of variations of the Chrome Six, none of which are adequately identified on the camera body. In fact, they say "Olympus Six" without the word "chrome". The "Chrome" Six series can be identified by their chrome top plate or top housing, and rigid tube finder rather than folding optical type found on the pre-war design. The bodies are diecast rather than stamped metal. All are dual-format for 6x6cm or 4.5x6cm on 120 film. For quick identification: Chrome Six I, II, III have tubular finder above top plate. I has f3.5 lens; II*



Olympic Chrome Six II

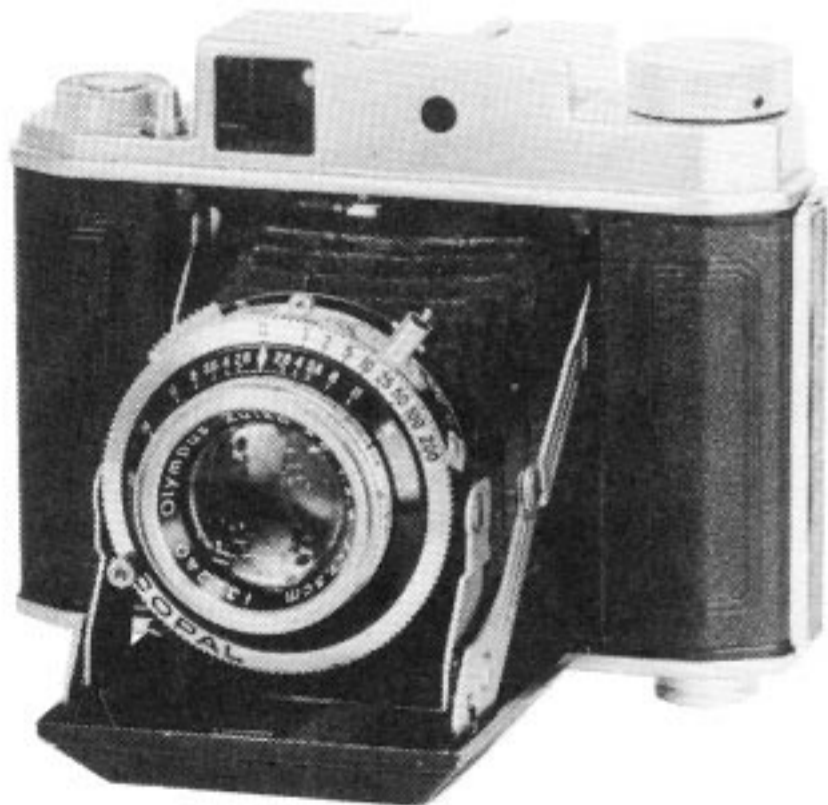
has f2.8; III has flash sync post on shutter, heavy machined accessory shoe. Chrome Six IV, V, RII have finder integrated in top housing.

Chrome Six I - 1948-50. Combines the best features of the Semi-Olympus Model II (rigid tube finder and accessory shoe) and the Olympus Six (f3.5 lens and body release). Copal 1/200 shutter. \$75-125.

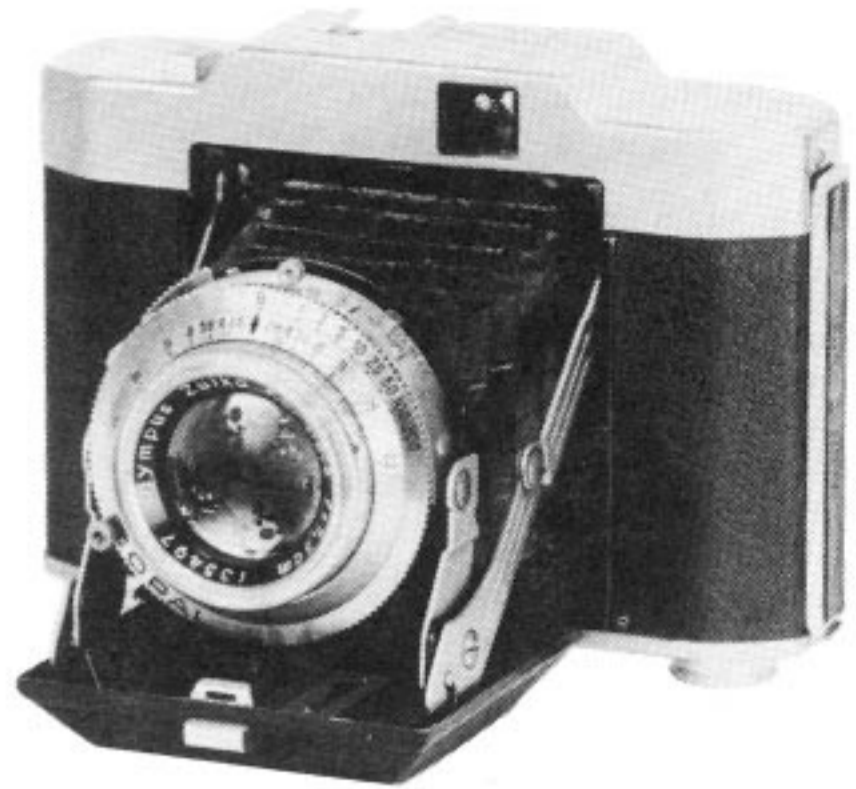
Chrome Six II - 1948-50. Same as Chrome Six I, but with f2.8 lens. \$75-125. *Illustrated bottom of previous page.*



Chrome Six III - 1950-54. Improved version of I/II above. Synchronized shutter, heavy machined accessory shoe; back-tensioned supply spool for better film flatness. With f3.5 lens it is IIIA; with f2.8 it is IIIB. \$60-100.



Chrome Six IV - January-November 1954. Built-in uncoupled rangefinder with tiny unadorned circular window in the center of the top housing. Viewfinder is at the right end of the top housing, next to shutter release. Only Olympus Six with both rangefinder and knob advance. The later model RII has lever advance. With f3.5 it is IVA; with f2.8 it is IVB. Uncommon. Made for less than a year. \$75-125.



Chrome Six V - January-October 1955. Characteristics: Full top housing but no rangefinder, lever advance, so no knobs on top. With f3.5 = VA; with f2.8 = VB. Although made for a shorter time than the Chrome Six IV, the V was made in larger quantities and is easier to find. \$60-100.

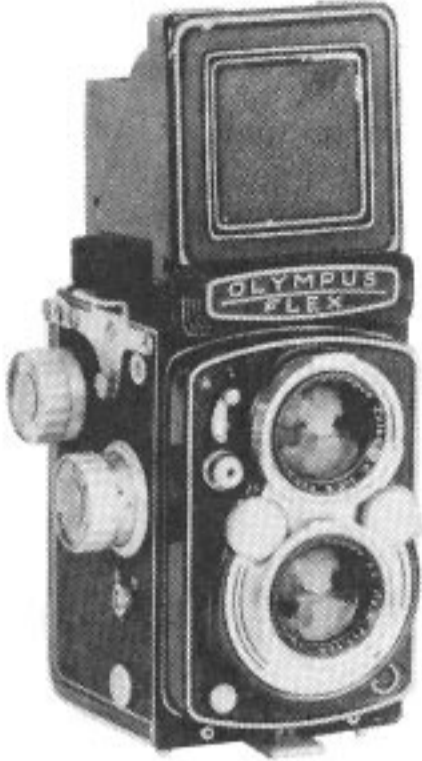


Chrome Six RII - 1955-57. Rangefinder built into top housing. Lever advance. First issued with the same Copal 1/200 shutter used on the other Chrome models. In 1956, this was increased to 1/300. RIIA = f3.5; RIIB = f2.8. \$60-100.

Olympus Twin Lens Reflex Cameras - *Although the Rolleiflex had been around since 1929, and Minolta had produced its first TLR in 1937, it wasn't until after WWII that the demand for 6x6 TLR cameras became epidemic. The 1950's saw Rolleicord copies flooding from the land of the rising sun. Olympus had better manufacturing facilities available, since many of the others were assembled in rather spartan little shops. Although the basic design still leans heavily toward Franke & Heidecke, Olympus made a few positive changes. Like Rolleicord, Olympus used a right-hand focus knob, but raising the shutter release to the midpoint of the front allowed focusing with the right hand while the trigger*

OLYMPUS (cont.)

finger remained ready to shoot. Some features such as bayonet mounts were intentionally made to match the popular Rollei cameras.

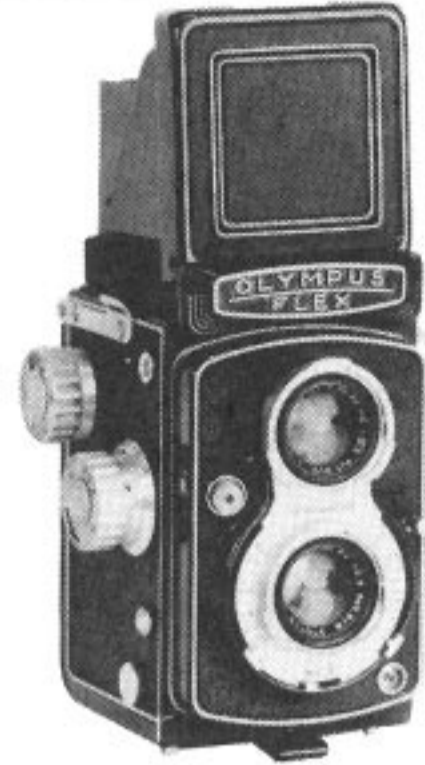


Olympus Flex B I - 1952. The first TLR from Olympus and the first Japanese TLR with f2.8 viewing and taking lenses. Zuiko 75mm f2.8 taking lens (6 elements in 4 groups) and similar viewing lens (4 elements in 3 groups). Seikosha-Rapid shutter 1-400. \$100-150.



Olympus Flex B II - 1953-55. Similar to the B I, but with Rollei-style focus magnifier, click-stops on shutter & aperture settings. \$75-125.

Olympus Flex A - A lower cost version of the B series, introduced in the wake of poor sales brought about by three major factors: The improved Rolleiflex cameras took a better market share; the American occupation of Japan ended; and the Korean war ended. Since American soldiers had been heavy purchasers of TLR's, their reduced numbers had a parallel effect on sales. The economized A series eliminated the small knurled knobs for shutter and aperture setting and used levers at each side of the shutter housing.



Olympus Flex A3.5 II



Olympus Flex A3.5 - 11/54-8/56. In addition to simplified setting levers, this first version of the A also eliminated the double bayonets in favor of a simpler threaded mount for lens accessories. D-Zuiko f3.5 in Seikosha-Rapid 1-500. \$60-100.

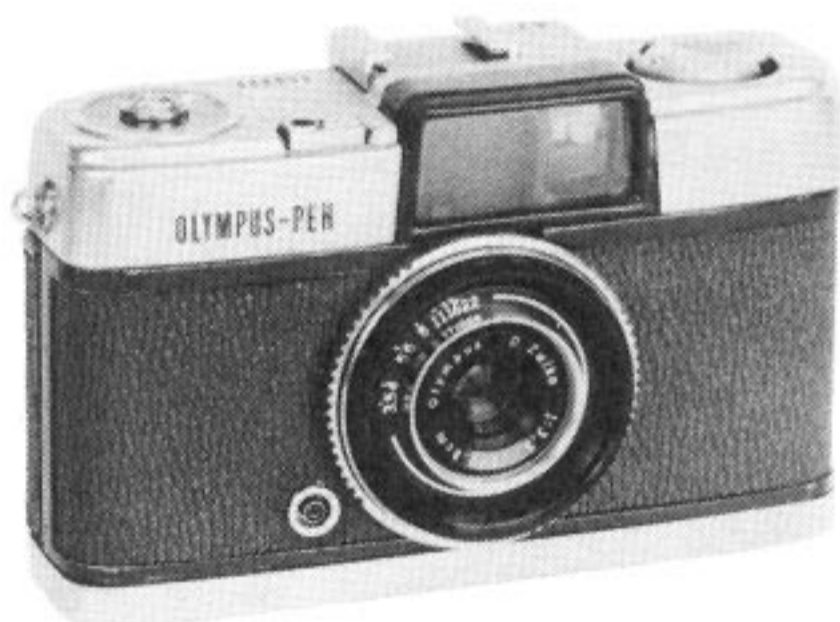


Olympus Flex A2.8 - 11/55-8/56. An

upgraded model, introduced a year after the A3.5. Besides the obvious f2.8 lens, this model also brought back the bayonets, though retaining the levers to set shutter and aperture. On the market for less than a year, it is not too common. \$75-125.

Olympus Flex A3.5II - 6/56-9/57. The last Olympus TLR and their last camera for 120 film. Like the earlier A3.5, it had levers for shutter & diaphragm. But it used bayonets for lens accessories, and is the only Olympus TLR with MFX selection lever for flash sync. \$60-100. *Illustrated top of previous page.*

OLYMPUS PEN HALF-FRAME CAMERAS *There are 19 models of the compact half-frame Pen cameras, plus four reflex models of the "F" series. The compacts were made for over 20 years, from 1959 into the 1980's. The concept of a camera that could be carried and used as easily as a writing instrument was the inspiration for the name. The instant success of the new half-frame series caused a boom in half-frame cameras in Japan during the 1960's. Although a number of earlier 35mm cameras had used the single- or half-frame format, they had appeared at a time when medium and large formats still held a large market share, and 35mm was still considered "small format". By the late 1950's, the 24x36mm frame was considered more standard than small, and 35mm cameras had gotten larger and heavier. This, plus better available films made a compact half-frame camera more appealing.*



Pen - 10/59-11/64. This first model of the Pen series was not originally manufactured by Olympus. It was produced by a subcontractor, but tested and shipped by Olympus. (Olympus began production in its own Suwa plant in 1960 with the Pen S.) Zuiko 28mm f3.5 lens in Copal X shutter (25 50 100 200 B). \$35-55.

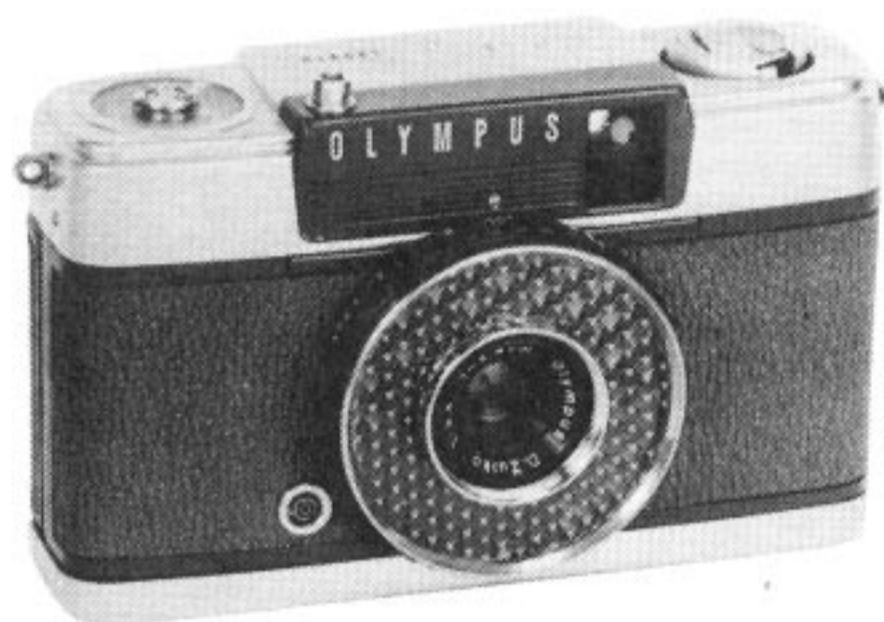
Pen S 2.8 - (1960-64)

Pen S 3.5 - (1965-67)

Similar to the original Pen, but Zuiko 30mm f2.8 lens; Copal X shutter with standardized speeds (8 15 30 60 125 250 B). The second model of the Pen S with a 30mm f3.5 lens appeared at the time the original Pen was



discontinued. It is basically the same except for the shutter speeds. \$20-35.



Pen EE - 8/61-5/63. The EE, of course stands for the large Electric Eye which surrounds the fixed-focus 28mm f3.5 lens. Today we would call this a point-and-shoot camera, and for that reason coupled with its original price below \$50, it sold in record numbers. Common. \$20-35.

Pen EES - 1962-68. Improved version of the EE, with f2.8/30mm zone-focusing lens. Cost \$60 new. \$30-45.



Pen D - 1962-66. Advanced model with fast Zuiko f1.9/32mm. Copal-X shutter 1/8-500,B. Built-in meter with readout on top of camera. Sold for \$70 at the time. \$40-60.

Pen D2 - 1964-65. Like the Pen D, but with CdS meter instead of selenium type. Was \$80 new. \$45-65.

OLYMPUS (cont.)



Pen D3 - 1965-69. Took over from the D2 with a slightly faster f1.7 Zuiko lens. \$50-70.



Pen Rapid EED - 9/65-5/66. The "Rapid" cassette version which preceded the standard Pen EED. Very Rare. \$100-150.



Pen W (Wide) - 1964-65. All black version of the Pen S body, but fitted with a 25mm f2.8 wide angle lens. Although it sold for under \$50 when new, it is rather hard to find one these days. We have recorded sales up to \$250, but most have been in the range of \$60-80.

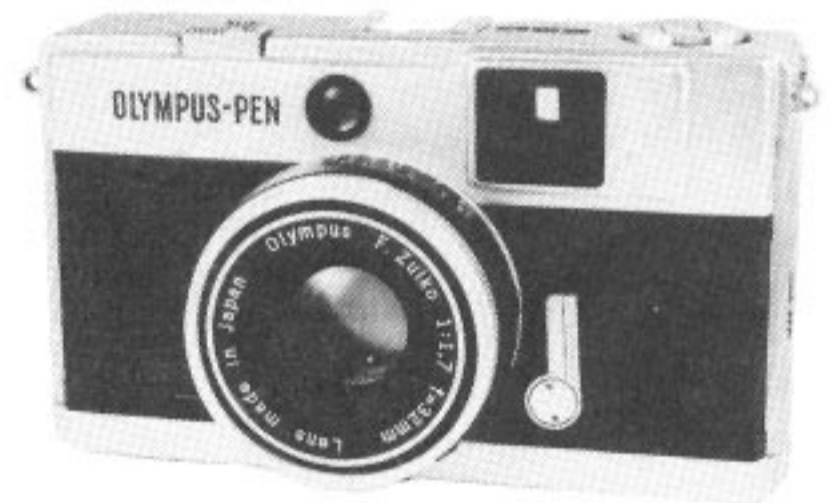


Pen EE-EL, Pen EES-EL - 1966-68. Same as Pen EE, but with takeup spool slotted in four places and with a tooth at the bottom of each slot to engage the film for faster loading. This change was dubbed "Easy Loading" and there is a small "EL" sticker on the front of the camera (unless it has fallen off.) Prices same as regular models of EE and EES: \$20-45.



Pen EM - 1965-66. Motorized film advance and rewind. F.Zuiko 35mm f2 lens. Subject to problems with the motor drive. Variation: with flash shoe. \$40-60.

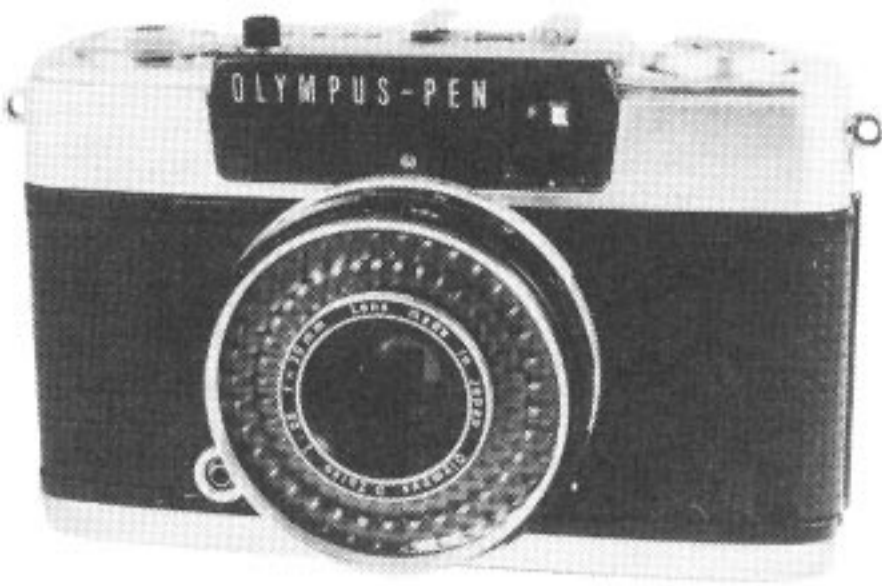
Pen Rapid EES - 1965-66. Essentially the same as the regular Pen EES, but rather than standard 35mm cartridges, it was built to accept the Agfa-Rapid cassette which required no rewinding. Unfortunately, the "Rapid" system never gained worldwide popularity, and so the cameras made to use this film didn't break sales records either. \$60-80.



Pen EED - 1967-72. Automatic CdS metering with shutter speeds $\frac{1}{15}$ -500 and f1.7 lens. Low light warning in viewfinder. Easy load system. \$30-55.

Pen EES2 - 1968-71. Automatic exposure controlled by meter cell around lens. Zone focus. D.Zuiko f2.8/30mm lens. \$20-35. *Illustrated top of next page.*

Pen EE-2 - 1968-77. Fully automatic regulation of shutter & diaphragm, fixed focus f3.5/28mm lens, and compact size made this a very popular camera to keep in a pocket. \$20-30.

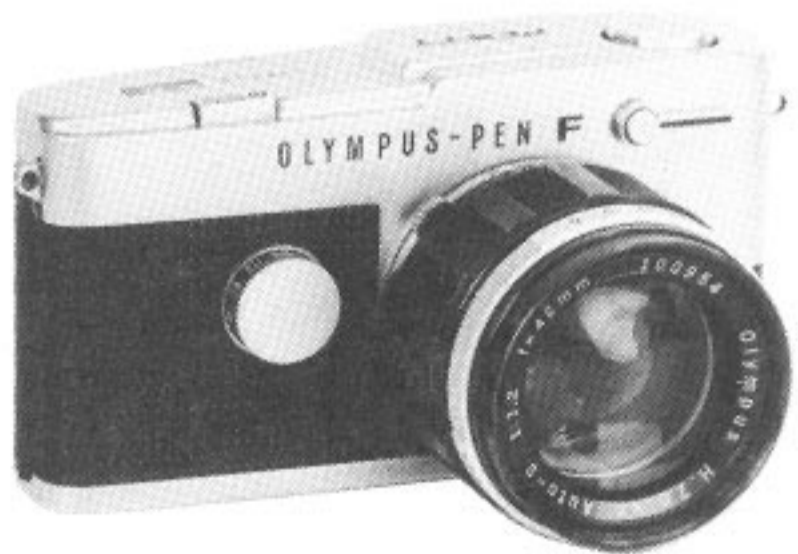


Olympus Pen EES2

Pen EE-3 - 1973-83. Essentially identical to the Pen EE-2. \$20-30.



Pen F - c1963-66. The first 35mm half-frame SLR. Porro-prism allows streamlined design without roof prism. New rotary focal plane shutter synched to 1/500. Lever cocks shutter on first stroke, advances film on second. Bayonet-mount normal lenses include Zuiko f1.4/40mm and Zuiko f1.8/38mm. An accessory meter mounted to the shutter speed dial via bayonet. Common. EUR: \$90-170. USA: \$80-140.



Pen FT - c1966-72. An improved version of the Pen F, incorporating CdS meter, single stroke lever advance, and self-timer. With f1.8/38mm normal lens. Black model: \$250-300. Chrome model is very common. EUR: \$200-250. USA: \$75-150.

Pen FV - 1967-70. A compromise between the F and FT. Single-stroke lever, self-timer, but no built-in meter. Accepts external accessory meter. Less common than the others. \$125-175.

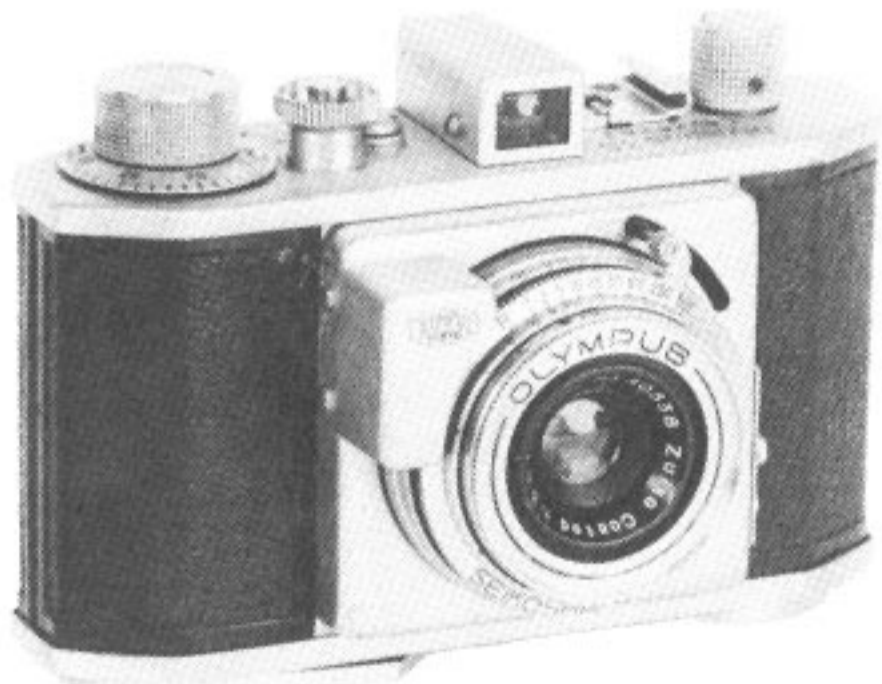
PEN F ACCESSORIES

- 20mm 3.5 G Zuiko Auto W - \$130-170.
- 25mm f2.8 G Zuiko Auto W - \$130-150.
- 25mm f4 E Zuiko Auto W - \$80-130.
- 38mm f1.8 F Zuiko Auto S - \$35-55.
- 38mm f2.8 Compact - \$125-200.
- 38mm f3.5 Macro - \$150-225.
- 40mm f1.4 G Zuiko Auto S - \$50-90.
- 42mm f1.2 H Zuiko Auto S - \$80-110.
- 60mm f1.5 G Zuiko Auto T - \$100-150.
- 70mm f2 F Zuiko Auto T - \$100-150.
- 100mm f3.5 E Zuiko Auto T - \$85-125.
- 150mm f4 E Zuiko Auto T - \$75-130.
- 250mm f5 E Zuiko T - \$175-225.
- 400mm f6.3 E Zuiko T - \$500-1000.
- 800mm f8 Zuiko Mirror T - \$400-700.
- 50-90mm f3.5 Zuiko Auto Zoom - \$100-140.
- 100-200mm f5 Zuiko Zoom - \$150-250.
- Bellows - \$20-35.
- CdS Meter for F, FV - \$40-60.

OLYMPUS 35 CAMERAS *The first 35mm cameras from Olympus began with a prototype designed by Mr. Eiichi Sakurai in 1947. This prototype is called Olympus 35, and its commercial result is Olympus 35 (I). Since most of the Olympus 35 series cameras are identified on the body simply as "Olympus 35", it is important to consider the features for proper identification.*

Quick Identification Features:

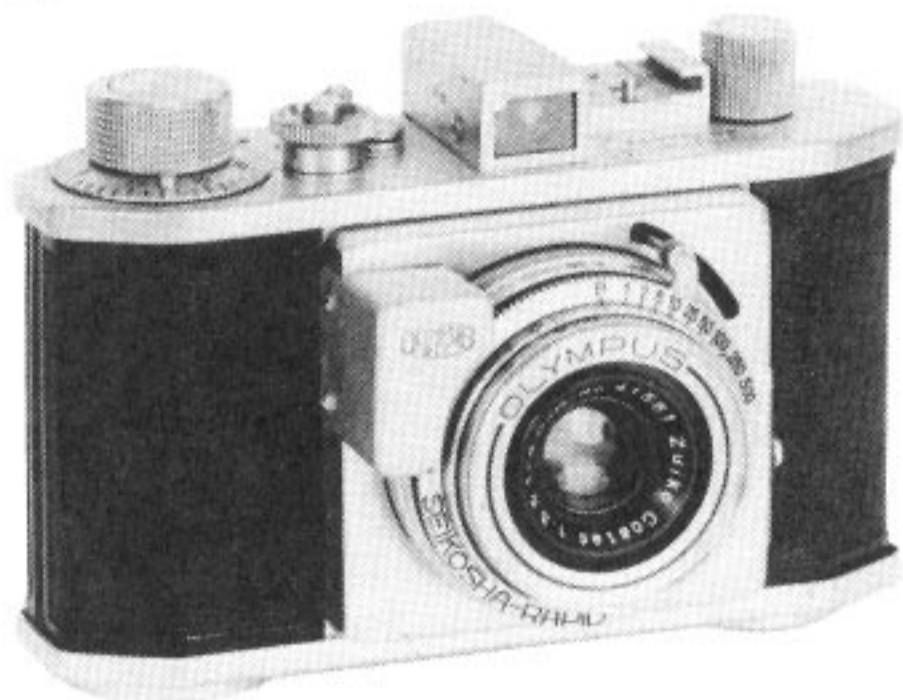
- I & III** - External linkages from shutter to body. Right hand side has rectangular housing over body release linkage. Opposite side has a pin through a curved slot in the body. I=24x32mm; III=24x36mm.
- IV** - Front of camera has no external linkages, but top plate still has knobs & finder above it. IVa=Copal; IVb=Seikosha-Rapid.
- V** - Streamlined top housing incorporates finder. Va=f3.5; Vb=f2.8.
- K** - Rangefinder; Copal to 500.



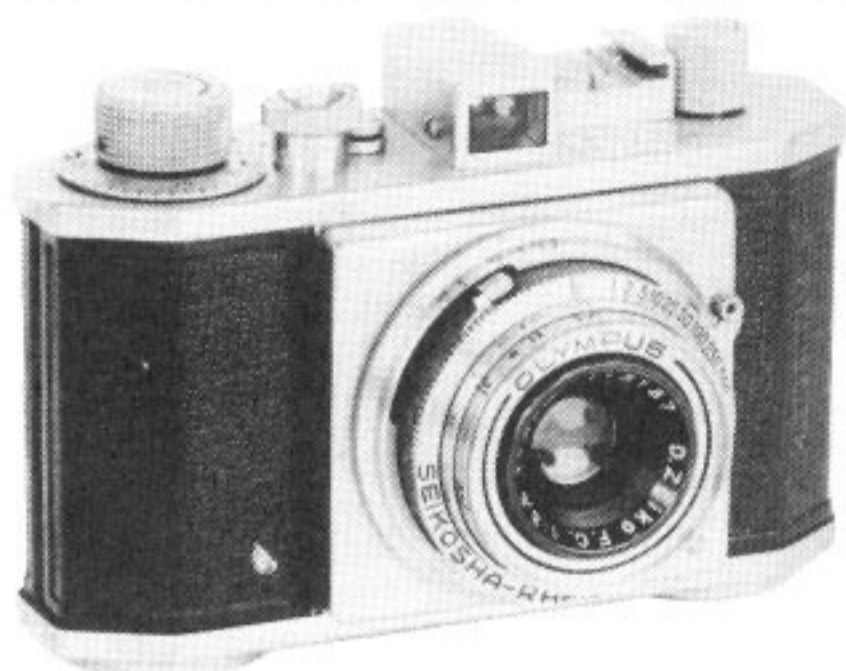
Olympus 35 I - 1948-49. Essentially the same as the 1947 prototype but improved finish. Takes 24x32mm exposures, which led to its demise in favor of the standard 24x36mm. Zuiko f3.5/40mm in Seikosha-Rapid. \$50-75.

Olympus 35 II - 1949. Prototypes only. Not released.

OLYMPUS (cont.)

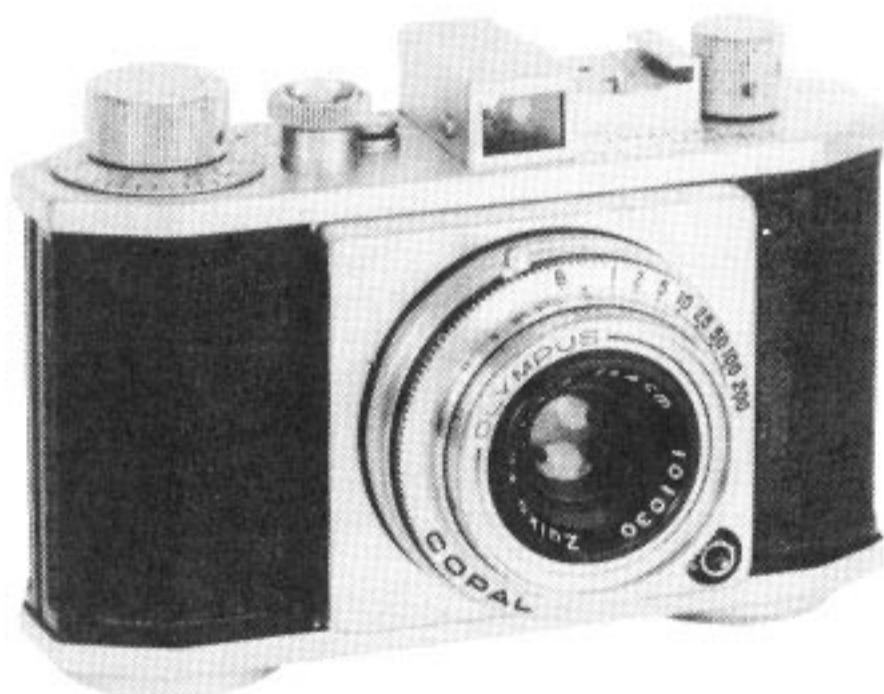


Olympus 35 III - 1949-50. The first 24x36mm from Olympus. Zuiko f3.5/40mm in Seikosha-Rapid. In addition to the format, it can be told from model I by a machined rather than stamped metal accessory shoe, and by a round knob instead of a lever to open the back. Made for only a few months, so not commonly found. \$40-60.

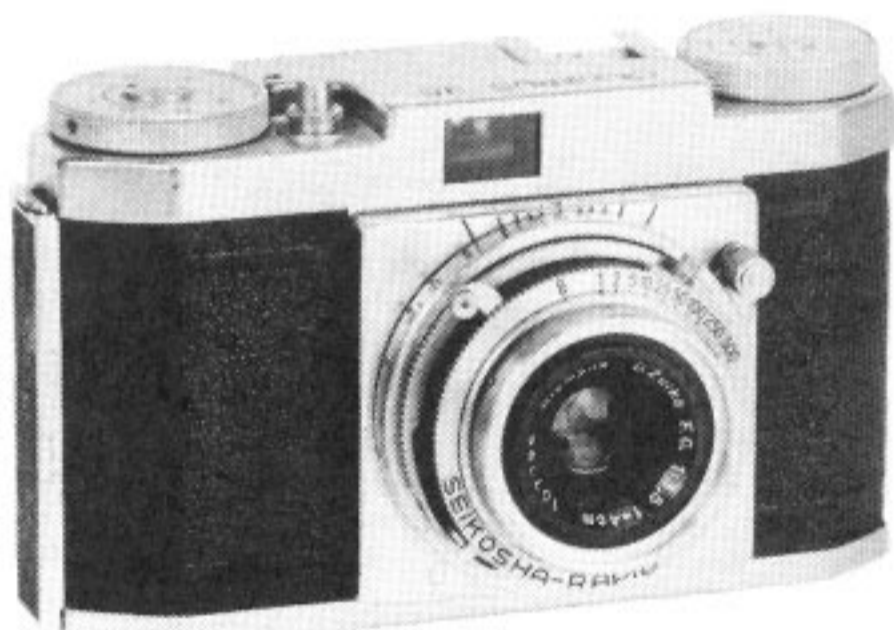


Olympus 35 IVb - 1954-55. As Model IVa, but with Seikosha-Rapid 1-500. (No longer externally linked as on models I & III). Flash sync is PC type on shutter, not ASA type on body. \$30-50.

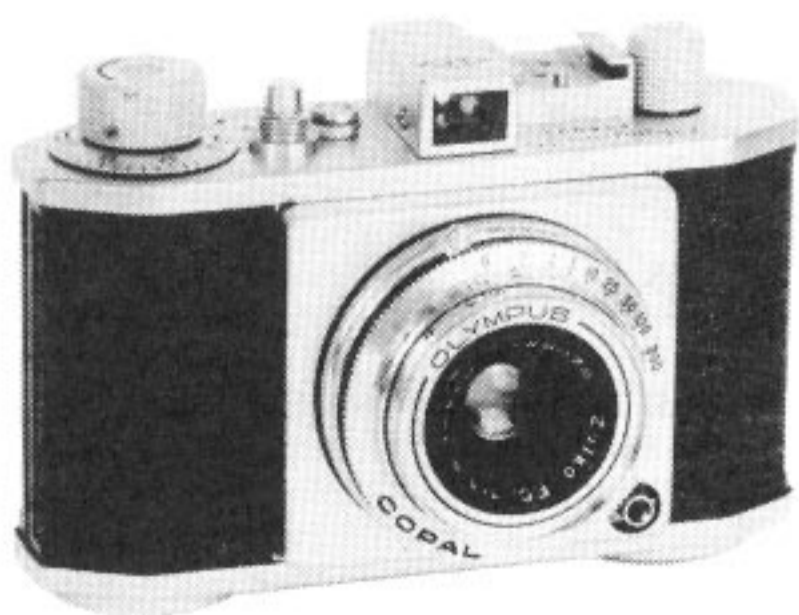
Olympus 35 Va - 1955. Restyled top housing with incorporated finder. Hinged, not removable, back. Copal 1-300 shutter with self-timer. \$20-35.



Olympus 35 IV - 1949-53. Copal B, 1-200 inter-lens shutter replaces the behind-lens Seikosha-Rapid of earlier models. ASA flash synch post on front. "Made in Occupied Japan" branded into leather. \$30-50.



Olympus 35 Vb - 1955. Same as Va, but with Seikosha-Rapid 1-500. A bit less common. \$20-35.



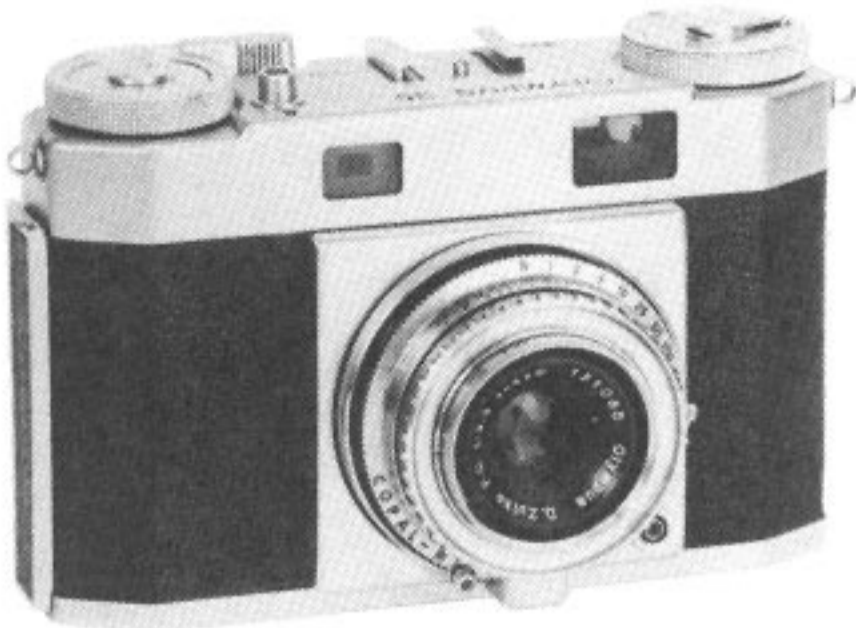
Olympus 35 IVa - 1953-55. As model IV, but shutter to 300 and marked "Made in Japan", not "Occupied Japan". \$25-40.



Olympus 35-S, first type

Olympus 35-S - 1955-58. Improved body incorporates RF in top housing; film advance lever also cocks shutter. First type has V-shaped focusing knob, lacks crank on rewind knob, has Seikosha-Rapid shutter with f3.5 or f2.8 lens. Second type, available

in f3.5 or f2.8 (also f1.9 from 1956-57), has round focusing knob, folding rewind crank, and Seikosha MX shutter. \$30-50.



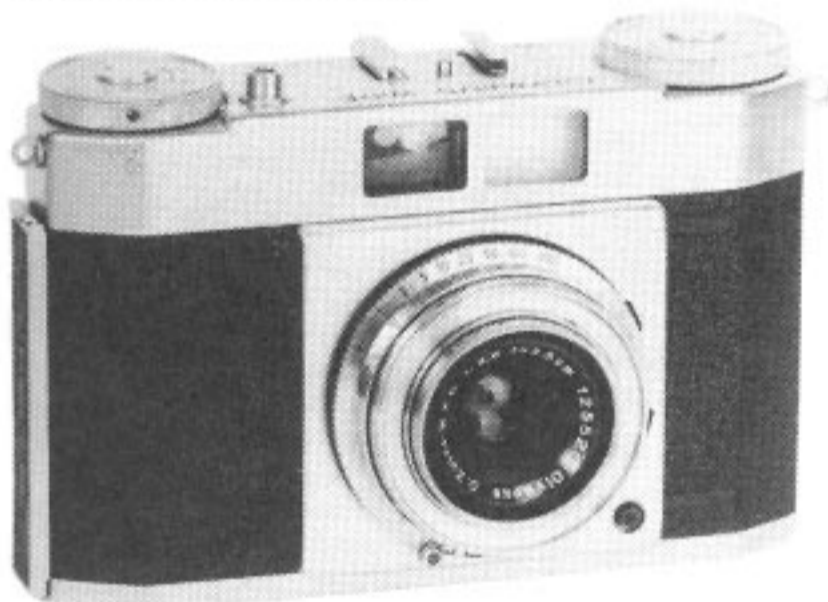
Olympus 35-K - 1957-59. RF 35, styled much like the 35-S series. "Olympus 35" on the top doesn't give much clue to its model, but it can be easily recognized by its focusing ring near the front of the lens, rather than next to the body. The coupling between the lens and the rangefinder is in a small housing below the lens. It sports a Copal 1-500 shutter, whereas earlier cameras marked simply "Olympus 35" had no RF and their Copal shutters went only to 300. \$30-50.



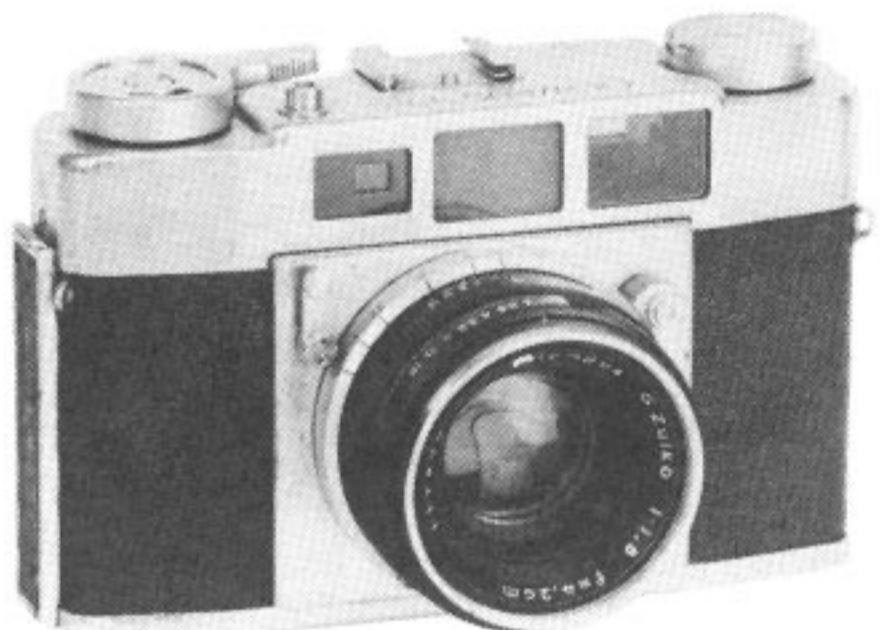
Olympus Wide II - 1958-61. Like Olympus Wide, but with lever advance, and folding crank on rewind knob. The positions of the finder and bright-frame windows are reversed from the original model. Some have "W" embossed on the front of the top housing; later ones do not. Not exported to Europe, so less common there than in Japan or the USA. \$30-50.

Olympus Wide S - 1957-58. Best of the Wide series. Coupled RF; fast f2/35mm lens in Seikosha-Rapid to 1/500. \$40-60.

Olympus 35-S II - 1957-59. *Based on the Olympus Wide S body, this series marked "Olympus 35-S" can be distinguished from the earlier 35-S models by the 3 window front.*



Olympus Wide - 1955-57. Basic scale-focus camera with f3.5/35mm wide-angle lens. \$30-50.



- f1.8 (first version) - 1957-58. Self-timer lever on front below shutter button.



Olympus Wide E - 1957-58. Improved version of the Olympus Wide incorporating selenium meter and lever wind. \$40-60.

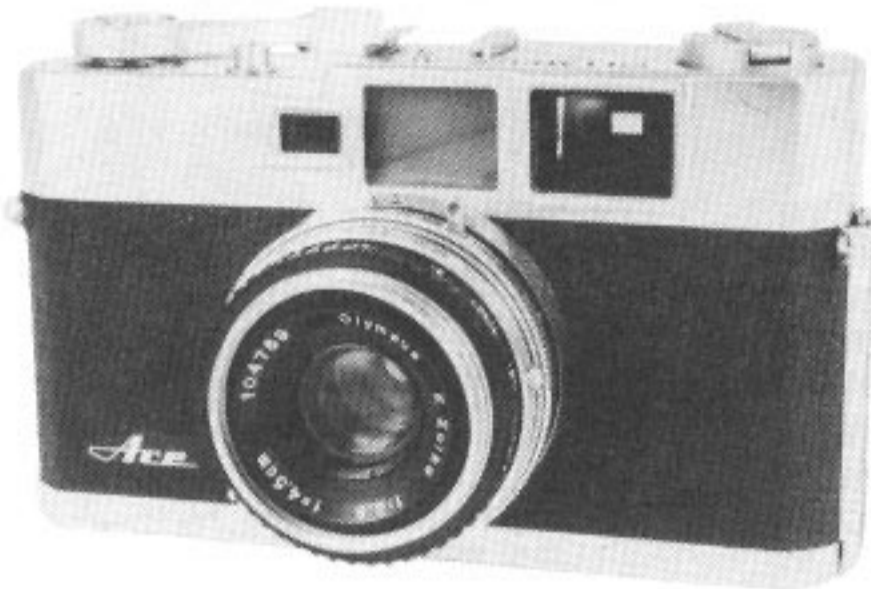


- f1.8 (second version) - 1958. Lacks self-timer; has stylized "S" on front of top housing.

OLYMPUS (cont.)

- **f2.8** - 1957-1959. E.Zuiko f2.8/45mm lens. More common than the other models.
- **f2** - 1958-1959. Despite the 10 month production period, the f2 model is difficult to find.

With the exception of the first f1.8 version, none of these have self-timer, and all share the same basic body. Current values: f2: \$40-60. f1.8: \$40-60. f2.8: \$25-40.



Olympus Ace - 1958-60. The first attempt by Olympus to market an interchangeable lens RF camera. (The 1937 Standard was never marketed.) Bayonet lenses include: E.Zuiko 45mm/f2.8, 35mm/f2.8, & 80mm/f5.6. Less common with all three lenses: \$200-250. With normal lens only: \$50-75.

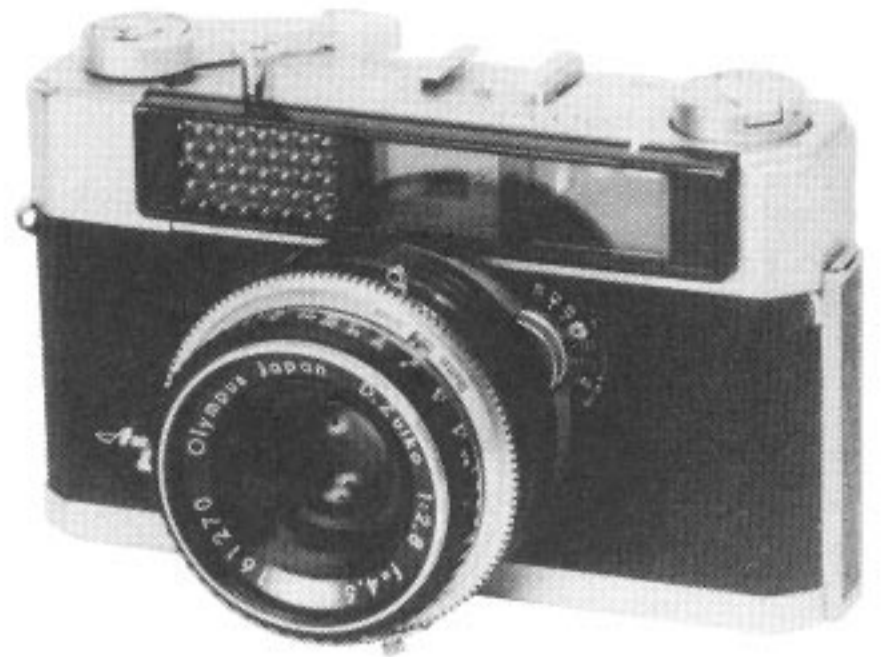


Olympus Ace E - 1958-61. Improved "Ace" with match-needle metering. With 3 lenses: \$200-250. With normal lens: \$60-85.

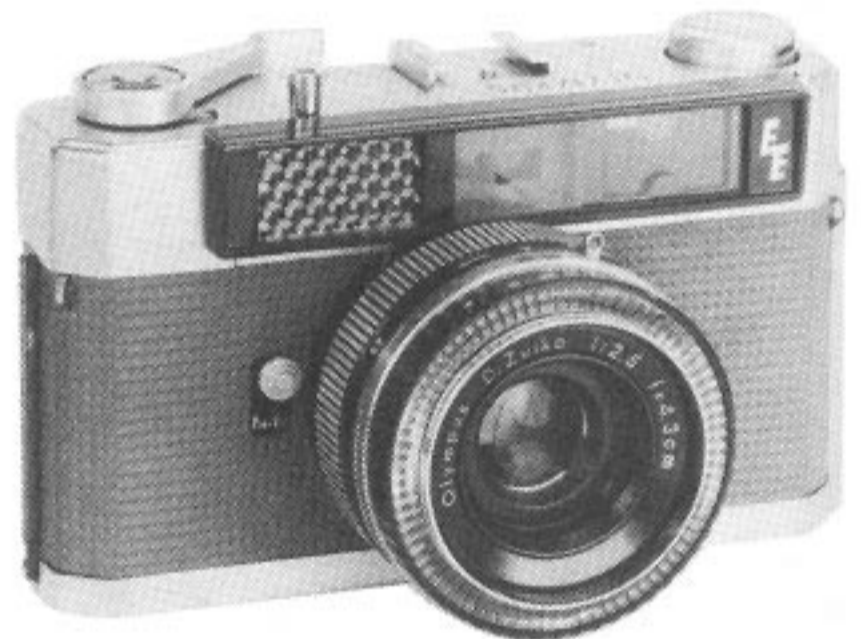


Olympus Auto - 1958-59. Contemporary with the original Ace, the Auto featured metering but fixed 42mm/f1.8 lens. Choice of aperture or shutter priority. \$30-55.

Olympus Auto B - 1959-60. Lower-priced version of the Auto, with f2.8 lens and lacking the cover for the meter cell. \$30-50.



Olympus Auto Eye - 1960-63. An advanced camera for its day. Automatic shutter-priority metering with diaphragm readout in viewfinder. Flash exposures determined by "Flash-matic" system. D.Zuiko 45mm/f2.8 in Copal SV to 500. \$60-90.



Olympus Auto Eye II - 1962-63. Simplified version of Auto Eye, without "Flashmatic" system. D.Zuiko 43mm/f2.5 lens. \$60-90.



Olympus-S "Electro Set" - 1962-63. Rangefinder; selenium meter. G.Zuiko 42mm/f1.8 lens. \$30-60.

Olympus-S (CdS) - 1963-65. Similar to the previous model, but with round CdS



meter cell rather than rectangular "beehive" selenium cell. \$30-60.

For this edition, we have chosen the arbitrary date of 1965 to cut off our listings of Olympus 35mm RF cameras in order to include some of the earliest Olympus SLRs.

OLYMPUS 35MM SLR CAMERAS

Despite their long history and numerous 35mm cameras, Olympus did not enter the full-frame SLR market until 1971. The Pen F had virtually created the half-frame 35mm SLR market eight years earlier. The first full-frame SLR, the TTL, was a rather ordinary screw-mount camera. The OM-1 which replaced it within two years was truly a masterpiece. In this collectors guide, we are listing only the first two Olympus SLRs. The later ones definitely are more usable than collectible.



FTL - 1971-72. Interchangeable 42mm screw-mount lenses included: 50mm f1.4 & f1.8 normal lenses plus 28mm/f3.5, 35mm/f2.8, 100mm/f3.5, & 200mm/f4. Other accessories were also available for this short-lived system. With normal lens: \$50-75. Add \$20-40 each for extra lenses.

Olympus M-1 - c1972. 35mm SLR introduced at Photokina in 1972. The original model designation "M-1" (already registered by Leica since 1959) was quickly changed to "OM-1". Very few were marked "M-1". FP shutter 1-1000, B. \$200-300. *Illustrated top of next column.*



Olympus M-1



Olympus OM-1 - 1973-74. Weighing in at only 660 grams, accepting a full range of bayonet-mount lenses & interchangeable screens, and introducing a quiet shutter all improved the first impression of the OM-1 as it entered a world of more experienced and reputed cameras. Its lenses are still usable on more current Olympus cameras, and the OM-1 itself is still primarily a usable camera. We include it in the collectors guide only because it ranks a solid position in the design evolution of 35mm SLR cameras. With normal 50mm/f1.8 lens: \$75-135.

OMI (Ottico Meccanica Italiana, Rome)



Sunshine - c1947. Small three-color camera/projector. A few years ago, these sold for about \$3000, since only a few were known to exist. Since that time, more have