

Leica "Barnack" Screw Mount Camera Film Loading

Leica "Barnack" Screw Mount Cameras are difficult to load. But, by following these simple steps, it should be a lot easier:

- Remove the lens and set the shutter to "T" to keep the shutter open during loading.
- Remove the base plate and then pull out the film spindle from the camera. Taking the film, pull out the film leader and insert it firmly into the film spindle's lip and wrap the film round it.
- Holding the film cassette and the film spindle in both hands, insert them into the camera body together.
- Now check the film gate to make sure the film is positioned evenly and not catching on the top. If it is catching, use a finger to reposition it.
- Turn the rewind knob to take up the tension inside the film cassette.
- Slowly turn the film advance while watching the rewind knob to make sure the film is moving. After you have seen that the film is moving, continue to advance it so that the shutter closes.
- Reset the shutter speed to the highest one and put the base plate back on the camera.
- Advance and trip the shutter two or three times, making sure that the rewind knob is still turning. If it is not turning then the film is not loaded correctly. If this is the case you will need to remove the film and start again from the beginning.
- Refit the lens and don't forget to reset the film counter by turning it to 0.

Remember that Robert Capa, the famous war photographer, had to do this while crouching in a trench trying to avoid enemy fire!

