

Les
Cahiers
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The
Weston
Story

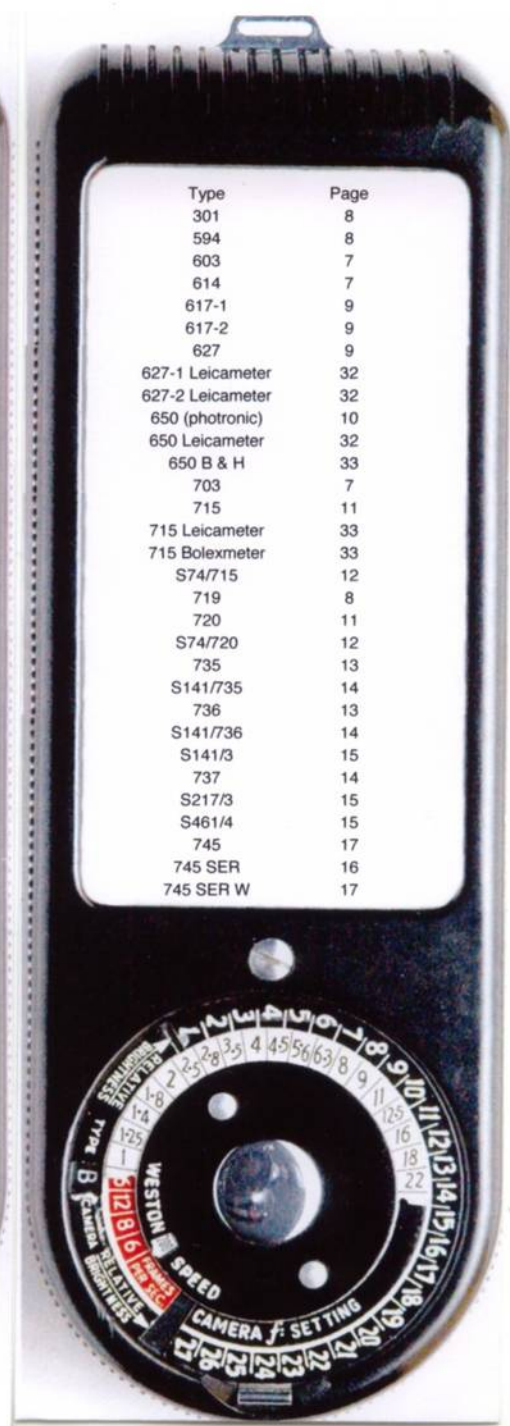


Pierre DALGER

Booklet about the history of the Weston exposure meters, "Les Cahiers de Déclit N°2b" published by "Les Iconomécanophiles du Limousin", a French camera collector club.

The author, P. Dalger describes about sixty different models with color photographs, Weston and other brand accessories, vintage leaflets, booklets and advertisements, copies and clones of the famous Weston meters. He also describes the chronology of the different companies, and gives tricks to check your light meter.

A complete guide in English about the famous brand.
44 pages (28 in color) 21 cm X 29,7 cm (A4 format).



WESTON *Master* : 1939 to 1945.

The WESTON *Masters* are the best known light meters of the Weston range. Their history is rather difficult to relate because of two distinct brands :

one in the USA, Newark (New Jersey) by WESTON

one in the United Kingdom, Enfield (Middlesex) by SANGAMO WESTON Ltd.

From the *Master IV*, WESTON *Masters* were no longer manufactured in the USA but only in the United Kingdom and ... in Japan.

To see a simplified representation of this evolution, see page 15.

In the next pages, you will find all of the models manufactured in this range, shown from the front and the back to make identifica-

tion easier, not only for models known by the name written on their dial (*Master II*, *Master III*, *Master IV*, and so on...) but also for all models and variations, indicated by their reference number (S74/715, 720, S74/720, and so on...) written on their back on an identification plate.

All meters from the WESTON *Master* range have a selenium cell and a hinged baffle mechanically coupled to a meter scale-changing mechanism.

Despite much difficult research, absolute accuracy of launching dates of different models is not guaranteed. However, dates found on user's manuals and advertising of that time were used as reference and they are as accurate and as complete as possible.

USA (1939) *Universal Exposure Meter*

Note : The 715-a and 715-b designations are arbitrary and are only used to distinguish the two types of dials found on the 715 model.

715-a



Except dials, nothing can distinguish these two models. According to serial numbers, the 715-a model would be the earlier model.

Features :

0.3 to 800° Weston
Bakelite case, calculator disk made of engraved and painted nickel
f/stops from 1.5 to 32
Shutter speeds from 100 sec to 1/1200
Dial calibrated from 0.2 to 50 and from 25 to 1600.

715-b



Ciné Exposure Meter

720

The 720 model is the cine version of the 715.

Features :

0 to 800° Weston, 6 to 96 images/sec for movie cameras A type (from 1/30 at 16im/sec., or B type, high speed)

Bakelite case, black dial, engraved nickel calculator disks.

f/stops from 1 to 22

Dial calibrated from 0 to 17 and from 12 to 27.

As for the 715 model, a white panel on the rear of the meter allows recording of the film speed used with a soft pencil.



WESTON Accessories.

With the exception of carrying cases, there are very few accessories available for the WESTON meters.

Those which are available concern the WESTON *Master* range and are adapters fitting on to the photo sensitive cell to take an incident light measure or a colorimetric measure.

Accessories of WESTON origin are the well known "*Invercones*".

Around 1948, they appeared in the WESTON *Master 735* and *736* user's manuals. They make possible the incident light measurement.

Named "*Invercones*" (inverted cone) three different models, not

interchangeable, were available.

"Other" accessories :

The accessory for colorimetry (see page 31) comes from an independant maker, HARRISON & HARRISON, who made the same accessory for the type *DW GENERAL ELECTRIC* light-meters.

The watertight body especially designed for the *Pixie* model comes also from an independant maker : A. GIDDINGS Under Water Enterprises (see page 31).

1st model Invercone

This is a two piece kit containing a neutral density filter and the *Invercone* itself. It fits the *Master Universal* (Master I), *Master II* and *Master III* meters.

On the high sensitivity range the baffle is opened and the *Invercone* inserted over the cell opening. In bright light the baffle is left opened and the filter is inserted over the cell. This also changes the meter scale to the low sensitivity one. Lastly, the *Invercone* is inserted over the filter.



From the left to the right : the complete accessory (in its box with its user's manual). Invercone and neutral density filter. Opposite, filter fitted, Invercone fitted (Master II).



2nd model Invercone

Hard to find (except in the USA) because it fitted the *Master IV* which was only marketed for three years; this accessory has only one element.

Designed for the *Master IV*, it can be fitted on later models having the same case shape, but not on the earlier models. In the USA, the *Master V* was sold packaged with this accessory. The 3rd model described below seems to be uncommon in this country.

The 2nd model *Invercone* consisted of only the plastic cone which fitted over the cell with the baffle in either position.



From the left to the right : *Invercone* alone, *Invercone* fitted on a *Master IV*.

3rd model Invercone

Unlike the two previous models, this one is easy to find. There is a simple reason for this : the earlier *Invercones* were sold separately, this one was sold with every meter from the *Master V* to the *Euro-Master II*.

Its shape change : it is larger and rounder, but its functions are the same.

As noted above, in the USA, the *Invercone* model 2 was sold with the *Master V*.

The center photograph shows an opened *Invercone* : actually it is made of two parts (elements "carefully" split by the author).



From the left to the right : the *Invercone* alone, the *Invercone* opened, the *Invercone* fitted on a *Master V*.

Order

Worldwide :

18 € (Including shipping and handling)

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