

Vivitar 35 EM Compact

Plain-English guide (the Revue 35 Compact Electronic is the same camera)

Translated from the original German manual. Numbers in [brackets] match the parts diagram on the last page. Yellow notes are my comments, not the manual's.

1. Batteries (do this first)

The camera needs batteries for everything. The shutter is electronic, so with no battery it will not take pictures.

1. Look at the camera bottom. Open the battery door [24] by putting a fingernail in the notch and sliding it toward the hinge side.
2. Insert **two 1.5 V button batteries**, matching the + and - marks. The manual names Revue no. 2608 (Varta 4076, Mallory MS 76H).
3. Press the door back until it clicks.
4. Press the **battery test button [6]** on top. A **red light [4]** should glow. That means the batteries are good and correctly placed.
5. If it does not light even with fresh batteries, check they are the right way round.

Note, the manual contradicts itself: page 2 calls the batteries "mercury" cells (Quecksilberbatterien). The spec table on page 9 calls the same part number "silver oxide". Mercury cells are no longer sold. **Replacement (checked against maker charts):** the Mallory MS76H named in the manual is listed as replaced by the common 357 / SR44 silver-oxide cell in Rayovac's and Energizer's cross-reference guides. I could not find a chart that lists the Varta 4076 number itself, so check the new cell is the same button size as the old one (about 11.6 mm wide, 5.4 mm tall), and buy silver oxide (SR44 or 357) rather than the cheaper alkaline LR44. Look in the battery compartment for white or green crust first.

2. Opening the lens

1. Hold the camera in your left palm, front facing up.
2. Tip the **lever [23]** on the bottom to the **right**. The front cover [1] slides back and the lens comes out into shooting position.
3. To close it, tip the lever to the **left**.

Caution from the manual: keep your finger off the shutter button and off the front cover while the lens extends. Because of this retracting design, filters cannot be used on this camera.

3. Set the film speed

Turn the ring [8], on top of the camera next to the rewind crank, until your film's speed lines up with the index mark. The camera handles 25 to 500 ASA. The number is on the film box.

4. Loading film

1. Extend the lens.
2. Press the shutter button [3] so the film wheel [17] can turn to the right.
3. Slide the **back-door lock [25]** down and open the back [19].
4. Push the rewind shaft [27] up. The film chamber [26] is now open.
5. Put the film cassette in the chamber. Push the rewind crank [7] down so the shaft seats, and make sure the cassette spool clicks onto the shaft. If needed, turn the rewind knob gently in the direction of the arrow shown inside the crank.
6. Slide the tip of the film into a slot on the take-up spool [18]. Make sure the sprocket teeth [16] fit into the film holes.
7. Turn the film wheel [17] and check the film is firmly caught on the spool. If the wheel sticks, press the shutter button and it frees up. Repeat until the top and bottom teeth are both in the film holes.
8. Close the back until you hear a **click**.
9. The film counter window [2] now shows a red **S** at the mark.
10. Advance by turning the film wheel and pressing the shutter button, again and again, until the number **1** sits at the mark. You are ready.

5. Taking a picture

Set the distance. There is no rangefinder, so estimate the distance to your subject. Turn the focus ring [13] until that distance is at the index mark. Green numbers are meters, white numbers are feet. Closest focus is 0.9 m (about 3 feet).

Set the aperture. Turn the aperture ring [14] to the f-number you want (f/2.8 to f/16). The camera picks the shutter speed itself (1 second to 1/1000). There is no shutter speed dial.

Read the meter. A needle at the right side of the viewfinder shows the shutter speed. To read it, press the battery test button [6] (safer than the shutter button, which could fire by accident) or press the shutter button lightly.

The shutter button works in 3 stages:

1. Light press: the needle appears in the viewfinder.
2. Firmer press: the reading disappears.
3. All the way down: the picture is taken.

Warning zones. In very dim or very bright light the needle sits in a warning zone at the top or bottom. **Top** zone: overexposed. Turn the aperture ring to a **smaller** opening (bigger f-number) until the needle leaves the zone. **Bottom** zone: underexposed. Turn to a **larger** opening (smaller f-number) until it leaves the zone.

Then frame your picture and press the shutter button.

6. Using a flash

The hot shoe [5] on top has a center contact (X sync). Slide the flash on and use it as the flash maker instructs. With a flash attached, the shutter is fixed at **1/125 second** and the automatic metering stops. Take the flash off when you do not need it.

7. Rewinding and removing film

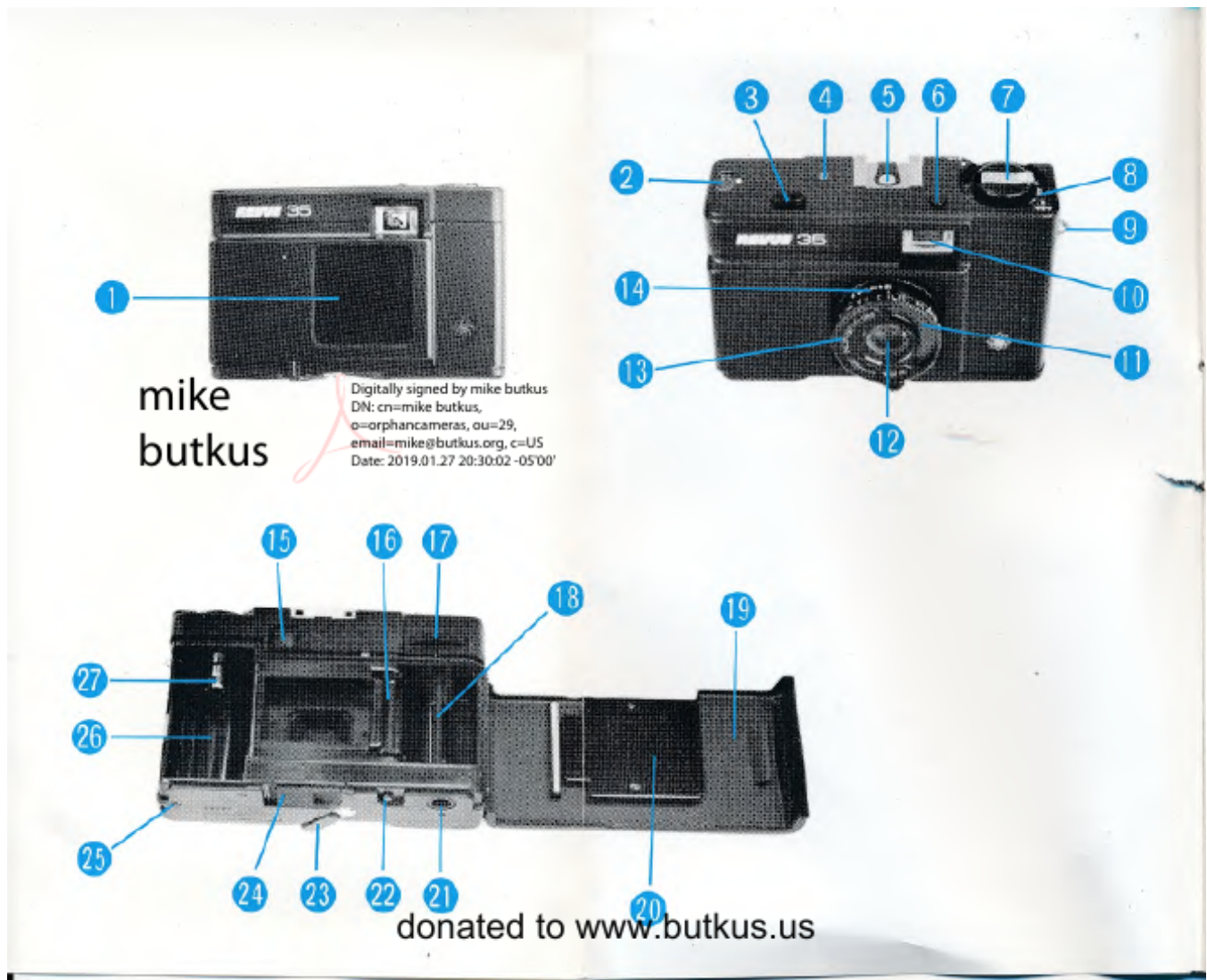
1. When the film is used up you will feel resistance on the film wheel. Do not force it.
2. Press the **rewind release button [22]** on the bottom.
3. Flip out the rewind crank [7] and turn it in the arrow direction (clockwise) until the resistance eases.
4. **Only after the resistance eases**, open the back, pull the rewind knob up, and take out the cassette. Do not open the back before the film is fully rewound, or the film will be exposed to light and spoiled.

Quick specs

Lens: Revuenon 35 mm f/2.8, 4 elements. Shutter: electronic, 1 s to 1/1000 s. Film: 25-500 ASA. Size 107 x 35 x 69 mm, 270 g. Flash sync 1/125.

Before buying film: put in batteries, press the test button, open the lens, and see whether the needle moves in the viewfinder. If the lens will not extend or the light never comes on, you will want to know first.

Parts diagram



- 1 Lens cover • 2 Film counter • 3 Shutter button • 4 Battery test light •
- 5 Hot shoe • 6 Battery test button • 7 Rewind crank • 8 Film speed ring
- 9 Strap lug • 10 Viewfinder • 11 Light meter (CdS) • 12 Lens • 13
- Focus ring • 14 Aperture ring • 15 Viewfinder eyepiece • 16 Film
- sprocket teeth • 17 Film wheel • 18 Take-up spool • 19 Back door •
- 20 Film pressure plate • 21 Tripod socket • 22 Rewind release button •
- 23 Lens release lever • 24 Battery door • 25 Back door lock • 26 Film
- chamber • 27 Rewind shaft

Source: Revue/Vivitar 35 EM German manual,
https://cameramanuals.org/revue/revue_35_vivitar_35em.pdf (scan from butkus.org).