

RODINA

РОДИНА

From Jean Loup Princelle/ Document P. A. Tikhomirov

Text and arrangement: Luiz Paracampo



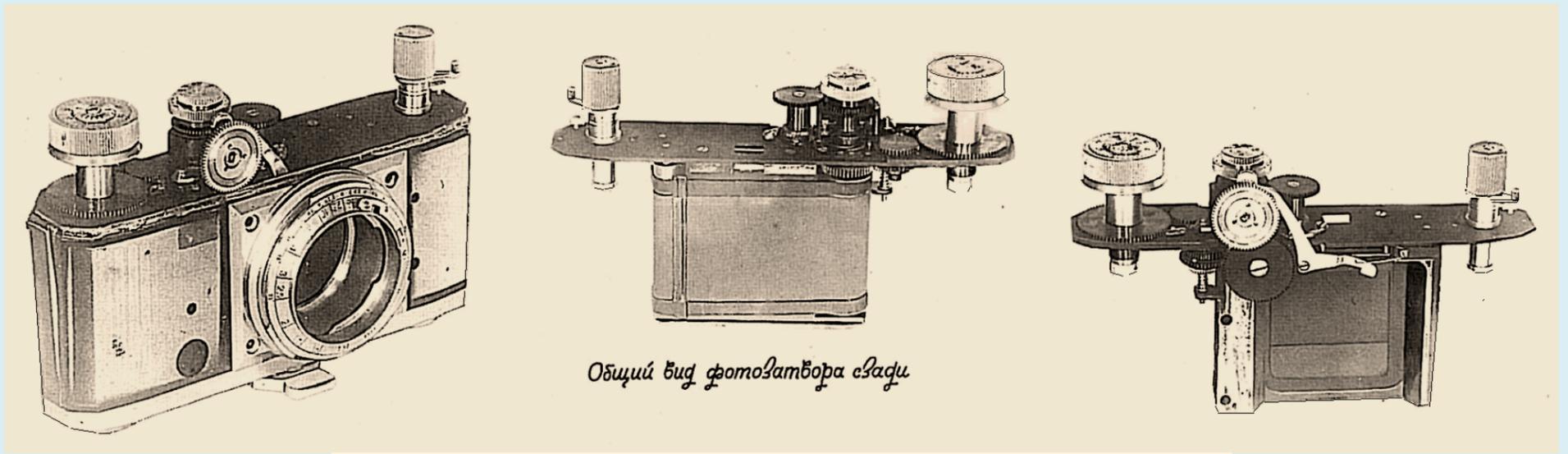
Cover of presentation leaflet of the camera.

Фотоаппарат "Родина"

Camera "Rodina"

Фотоаппарат состоит из 136 деталей крепеж 64

The camera consists of 136 pieces and 64 basic parts



Общий вид фотозатвора сзади
General view of the shutter from behind

Around 1952 Soviet Union was in the trend towards building a top reputation in World's technology. Camera building was one of the branches of those ones.

Several groups were formed after the II WW for studying and constructing full systems and developing and expanding new factories in order to achieve full mass production of top quality products. The project "Rodina" (Fatherland) was one of them, together TSVVS and GOI Leningrad.

The Rodina was created by I.M. Marensov and developed by P.A. Tikhomirov at KMZ works.

My decision in doing such a description is due the fact that the two most important sites dedicated to Soviet cameras have no detailed reference about such a jewel.

The KMZ site at has a brief reference about it at <http://www.zenitcamera.com/archive/history/our-tasks-in-1951.html> pointing a note at Soviet Patriot newspaper of December 31st 1950.

Nor the Abramov's general site dedicated to Soviet and Russian cameras equipment and accessories.

This High Standard level camera was created bearing in mind a unique project with high reliability and prominent resources. The new camera joined ideas from Contax, Leica and Exakta cameras, in a specially designed body using some parts from the already built Kiev, The Contax made in Soviet Union.

The camera was built to use Contax and Kiev lenses already built at the time at the same KMZ factory. Its mount was a redeveloped plate from TSVVS. The camera was a promise... although it was not materialized by the reasons that will be discussed later. During this time lapse GOI at Leningrad produced the first prototype of Helios 40 with Kiev mount! Further adapted for Kometa bayonet!



GOI Helios 40 first edition (site KMZ)

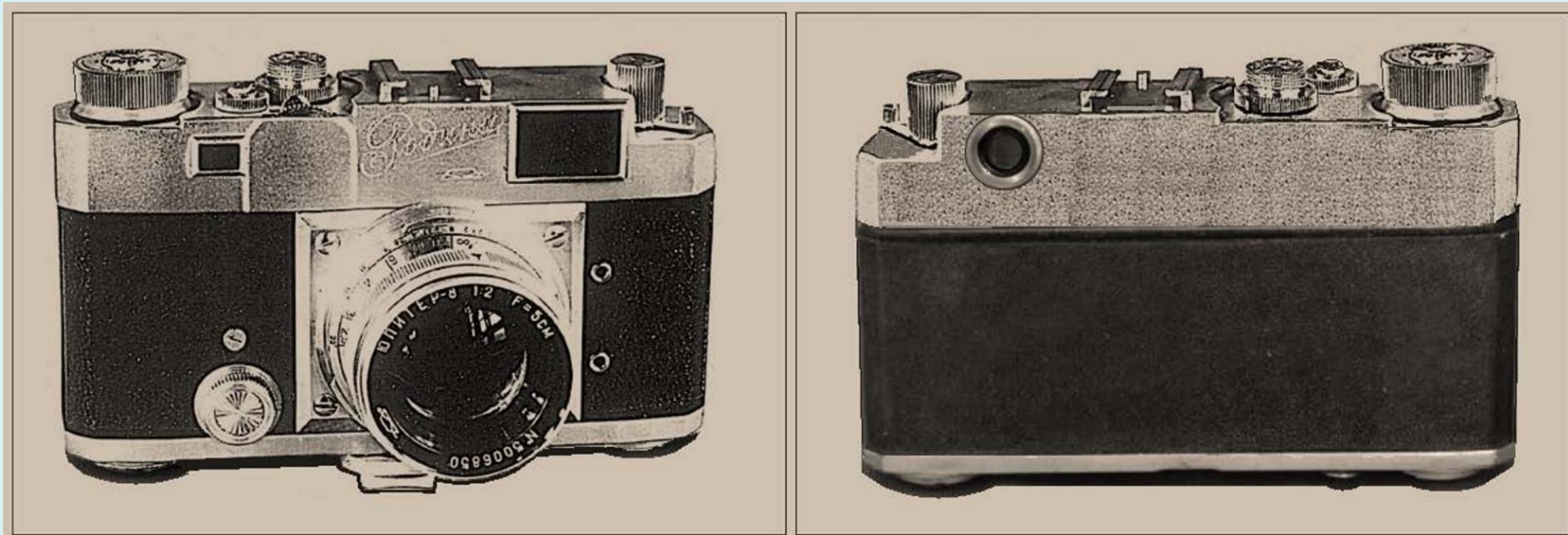
Several new technologies were employed in the new born prototypes such as the cloth focal plane shutter to 1/2000th which was only seen again in 1959 in the Canon RP2000, and twelve years later in the new Leicaflex from Leitz, one of the World's top cameras at that era (1964). The introduction of a flash synchronized shutter of such a nature was also on pair with the top cameras of the time but probably Rodina was the first camera with horizontal focal plane shutter to synchronize electronic flash at 1/50 sec. seen only on Leica M3 in 1954.

The new large base rangefinder with diopter arrangement was employed on Zorki 5, Zorki 6, and in the FED 2.

Carefully studying the pictures of Princelle's book, we can clearly see use of several Kiev parts such as the part 4 (Shoe for Universal Finder), part 6 (Bottom cover for the body), part 8 (Assembly of pressure plate and spring), (tripod and holding shoe) and the full self timer mechanics(self release mechanism) but with a new cocking button Similar to Canon RP2000 of 1959.

The shutter concept was a hybrid from the Leica lay-out with synchronizing posts and also using two cocking wheels, the high speed 1/50 to 1/2000 was normally coupled to the film advance, and the slow shutter speeds 1- to 1/25 which was cocked separately coming from Exakta ways.

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(Front view from JL Princelle Made in USSR, Rear view artist conception from L. Paracampo)

The Rodina influenced KMZ and FED production in the following models:

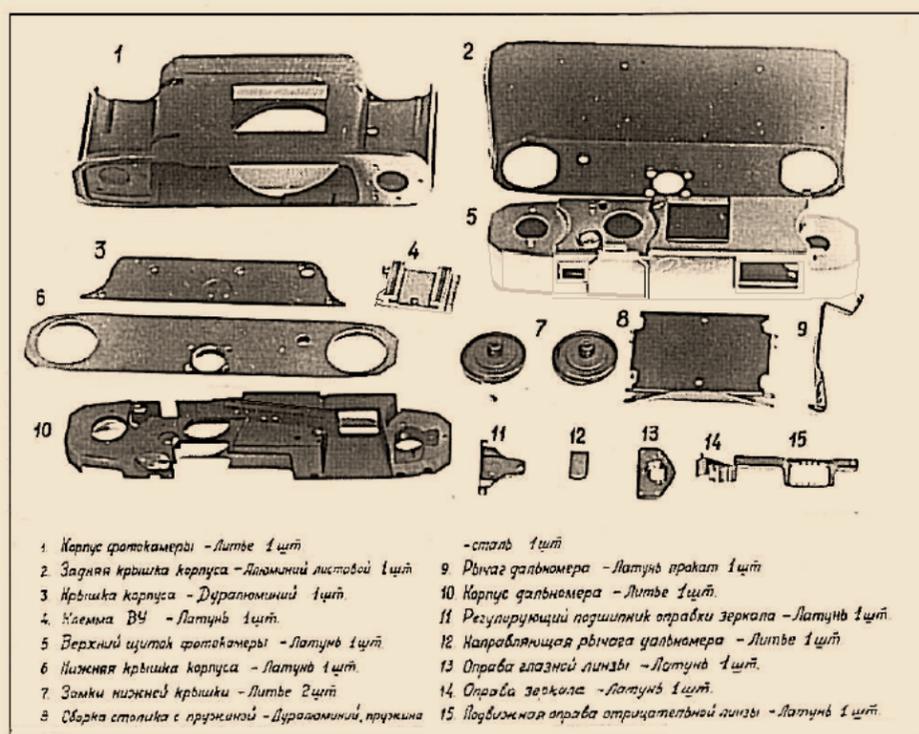


Zorki 5, produced from 1958 to 1959, Zorki 3 produced from 1951 to 1954 and FED 2 produced from 1955 to 1970 (source Sovietcams.com)



and this unnamed camera from the same era, probably a TSVVS 2, with the long base rangefinder, the advance knob type, the synchronizing posts, the two knobs for speed control, and the unlocking Contax bayonet.

Camera parts



- 1- Корпус фотокамеры - Литые 1 шт
- 2- Задняя крышка корпуса - Алюминий листовой 1 шт
- 3- Крышка корпуса- Дуралюминий 1 шт
- 4- Клемма ВУ - Латунь 1 шт
- 5- Верхний щиток фотокамеры - Латунь 1 шт
- 6- Нижняя крышка корпуса- Латунь 1 шт
- 7- Замки нижней крышки - Литые 2 шт
- 8- Сборка столика с пружиной - Дуралюминий , Пружина стал 1 шт
- 9- Рычаг дальномера - Латунь прокат 1 шт
- 10- Корпус дальномера - Литые 1 шт
- 11- Регулирующий подшипник оправки зеркала - Латунь 1 шт
- 12- Направляющая рычага дальномера - Литые 1 шт
- 13- Оправа глазной линзы - Латунь 1 шт
- 14- Оправа зеркала - Латунь 1 шт
- 15- Подвижная оправа отрицательной линзы - Латунь 1 шт

- 1- Camera body - die-cast 1 pc
- 2- Rear cover of the body - aluminum sheet 1 pc
- 3- Cover of the body - duraluminum 1 pc
- 4- Shoe for Universal Finder - brass 1 pc
- 5- Top head of the camera - brass 1 pc
- 6- Bottom cover of the body - brass 1 pc
- 7- Locks of the bottom cover - die-cast 2 pc
- 8- Assembly of pressure plate and spring - duraluminum and spring, became 1 pc
- 9- Range finder lever - laminated brass 1 pc
- 10- Range finder holder - die-cast 1 pc
- 11- Pivoting mirror guiding bearing - brass 1 pc
- 12- Transmitting movement range finder lever - die-cast 1 pc
- 13- Ocular support - brass 1 pc
- 14- Mirror support - brass 1 pc
- 15- Negative lens mobile support - brass 1 pc

Детали механизма дополнительных скоростей

Details of the slow speeds mechanism

Детали механизма самоспуска

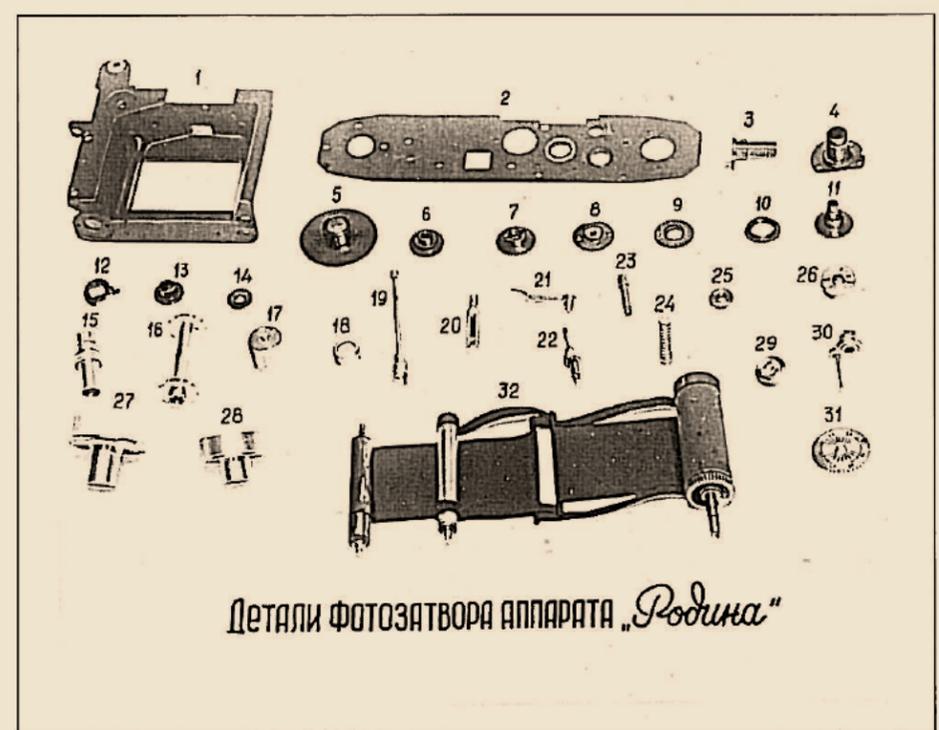
Details of the self-release mechanism

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Оправа в разобранном виде
View of unassembled structure (focus ring)

- 1- Дистанционное кольцо - Латунь 1 шт
- 2- Подвижное кольцо с байонетом - Латунь 1 шт
- 3- Не подвижная часть оправы со шкалой глубины резкости - Латунь 1 шт
- 4- Шестеренка ведущая кольцо с байонетом - Латунь 1 шт
- 5- Кольцо со спиральной нарезкой для работы дальномера - Латунь 1 шт



Детали фотозатвора аппарата "Родина"

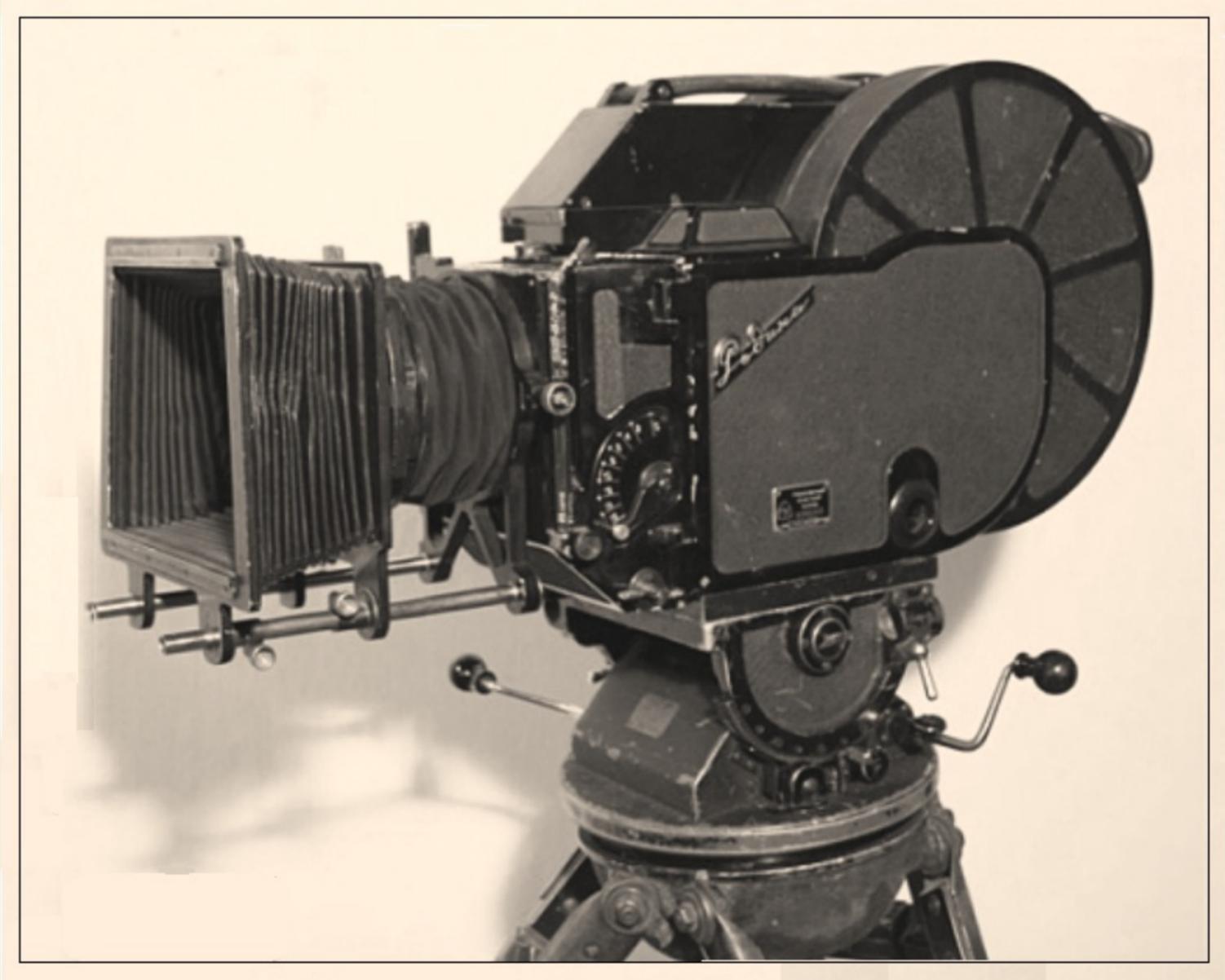
Details of the focal plane shutter of "Rodina"

- 1- Distance scale ring - brass 1 pc
- 2- Mobile ring with internal bayonet - brass 1 pc
- 3- Static ring of depth of field view - brass 1 pc
- 4- Internal bayonet ring operating gear - brass 1 pc
- 5- Helicoid ring for range finder operation - brass 1 pc

During 1952 KMZ was building Zorkis and Zenits that had similar construction between them, but differ too much from the new models. Soviet Union was known by big factories with vertical product construction, where almost all items are produced in the same factory by different departments. Although Rodina needed only 136 pieces with only 64 structural parts, less than the future cameras like Zorki 3, these parts differ too much from the already established manufacturing technologies and the series building of such cameras would require too much investments for building new parts. And more, the high precision assembly techniques needed for achieving 1/2000th of a second would contribute at a high level price in the final product, so only few examples were made. The Zorki 3, 3M and 3S received on heritage several improvements that made its debut on Rodina such as the diopter regulation on finder, the tripod base, locks and the Universal Finder shoe. During the evolution towards Zorki 4 several changes were made but KMZ decisively opted for the M39 Leica screw instead the complex Contax double bayonet mount.

The last work of Tikhomorov was the pre-run series of Horizon 202, called TECHNOPAN in the first show and presented to the public in 1990.

There were other “Rodina” cameras, these were professional movie cameras.



RodinaKSH produced by Moskinap from 1953 to 1975. Picture from okidoki.com

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