The

Contax

Technical Evolution

IV a

Lenses of the second Period

Luiz Paracampo

Introduction

The second period can be considered in Germany, as the one of the immediate post war, beginning in march 1945 up to the end of the Contax rangefinder construction by Zeiss Ikon in Sttutgart that means as 1958, time of issue the firsts Contarex cameras, although RF Contaxes were commercialized up to 1962.

There are some historians that consider this era as up to 1987 when finally ended the construction of Kievs 35mm rangefinder, that really was the continuation of the pre war Contax II/III.

Lenses for Contax cameras suffered, from the end of WWII, enormous alterations in origins place of manufacturing, design, manufacturing materials and glass types. and of course, quality.

Lens manufacturing suffered different processes than camera production.

The split of Germany in militarized zones, which later led to the advent of two Germanys, shocked the original main lens production at Jena, through the new Oberkochen plant in the West Germany.

Beyond a natural reduction of market share, the Jena of Eastern Germany, payed a tribute to Russians due the need of war compensations.

Jena Factory paid Soviet Union a new Contax factory at full operation level, later transferred to Kiev, as well as produced in large scales finished lenses and parts to be assembled, concentrating its pilot production in Krasnogorsk, near Moscow, where a new generation of lenses was born.

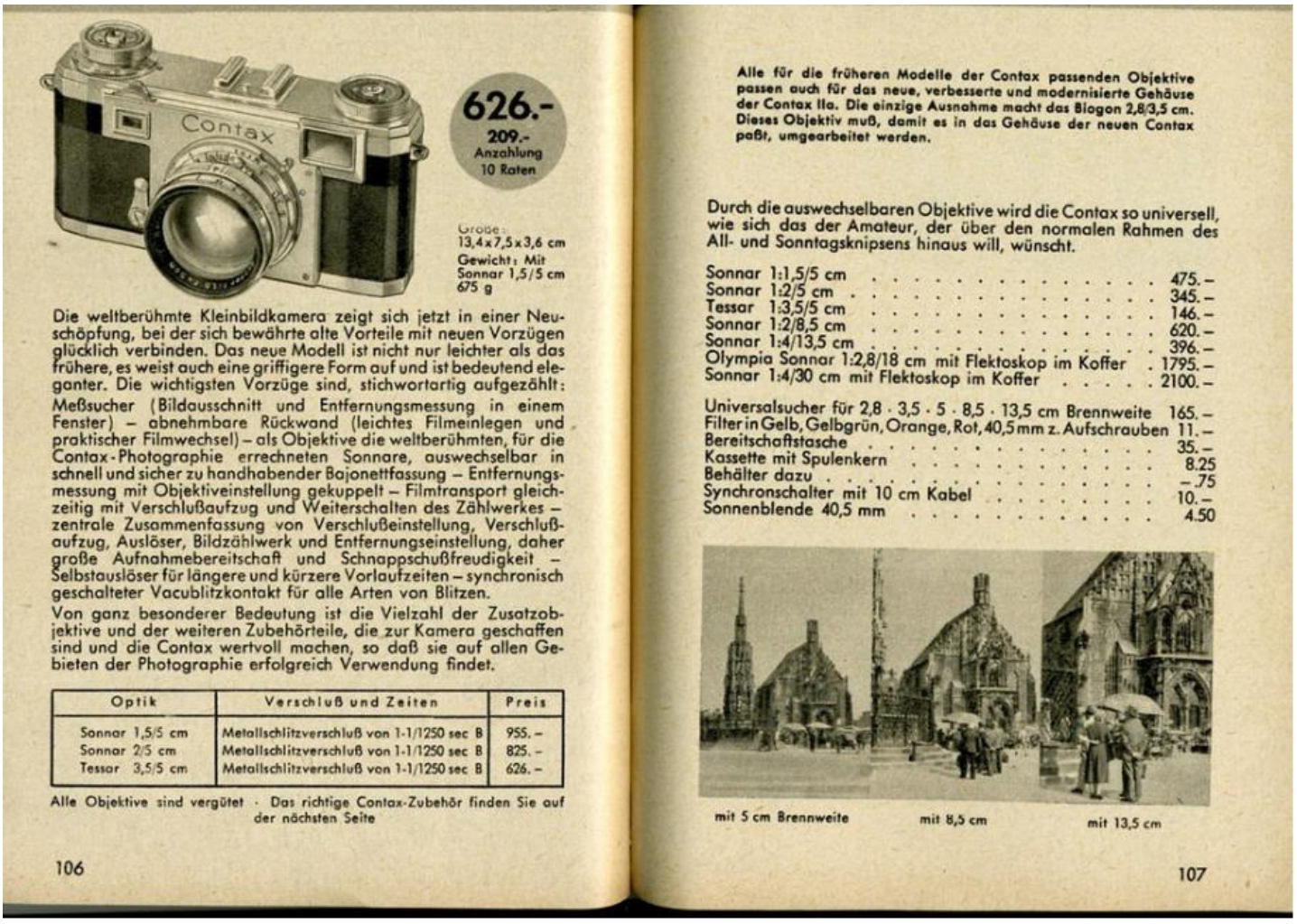
West Germany received the "benefits" of the Marshall Plan opening new factories at West Germany.

During the War, justified by the necessary efforts towards the victory, USA government launched the "War Bonus" in order to remove the Country rolling stock, and Government decided to buy cash all the factories military production, putting all people living in factories in order to mass produce needed war goods. Workers would only receive the essential and voided any superfluous in internal commerce. – Salaries and Goods were paid under massive money issues. After the war, in order not to cause internal inflation, factories of Germany, Japan and Italy supplied goods at limited prices to American people who paid with their forced budgets money made during the war years, and that way consolidating the US Dollar as an international trade money.

The solution apparently good caused the demise of all American camera factories in the forthcoming years.

After the war, the Eastern part of Carl Zeiss (Jena) continued to produce lenses for the Contax, mostly alloy versions:

One of the reasons was the expectancy of resume prewar Contax II/III production, that never reached large quantities, other was to have alternative quality lenses for the new Kiev range, and alternatively supplement the original Contax IIa of Sttutgart, what really happened in the early 1950 , as can be seen in the following publication of the same year. Observe that there are no Contax IIIa yet once photoelectric selenium meters was halted in 1939 and the remaining stock was employed in the Jena Contaxes III and Kiev 3.



Die weltberühmte Kleinbildkamera zeigt sich jetzt in einer Neuschöpfung, bei der sich bewährte alte Vorteile mit neuen Vorzügen glücklich verbinden. Das neue Modell ist nicht nur leichter als das frühere, es weist auch eine griffigere Form auf und ist bedeutend eleganter. Die wichtigsten Vorzüge sind, stichwortartig aufgezählt: Meßsucher (Bildausschnitt und Entfernungsmessung in einem Fenster) – abnehmbare Rückwand (leichtes Filmeinlegen und praktischer Filmwechsel) – als Objektive die weltberühmten, für die Contax-Photographie errechneten Sonnare, auswechselbar in schnell und sicher zu handhabender Bajonettfassung – Entfernungsmessung mit Objektiveinstellung gekuppelt – Filmtransport gleichzeitig mit Verschlußaufzug und Weiterschalten des Zählwerkes – zentrale Zusammenfassung von Verschlußeinstellung, Verschlußaufzug, Auslöser, Bildzählwerk und Entfernungseinstellung, daher große Aufnahmebereitschaft und Schnappschußfreudigkeit – Selbstauslöser für längere und kürzere Vorlaufzeiten – synchronisch geschalteter Vacublitzkontakt für alle Arten von Blitzen.

Von ganz besonderer Bedeutung ist die Vielzahl der Zusatzobjektive und der weiteren Zubehörteile, die zur Kamera geschaffen sind und die Contax wertvoll machen, so daß sie auf allen Gebieten der Photographie erfolgreich Verwendung findet.

Optik	Verschluß und Zeiten	Preis
Sonnar 1,5/5 cm	Metallschlitzverschluß von 1-1/1250 sec B	955.–
Sonnar 2/5 cm	Metallschlitzverschluß von 1-1/1250 sec B	825.–
Tessar 3,5/5 cm	Metallschlitzverschluß von 1-1/1250 sec B	626.–

Alle Objektive sind vergütet · Das richtige Contax-Zubehör finden Sie auf der nächsten Seite

Alle für die früheren Modelle der Contax passenden Objektive passen auch für das neue, verbesserte und modernisierte Gehäuse der Contax IIa. Die einzige Ausnahme macht das Biogon 2,8/3,5 cm. Dieses Objektiv muß, damit es in das Gehäuse der neuen Contax paßt, umgearbeitet werden.

Durch die auswechselbaren Objektive wird die Contax so universell, wie sich das der Amateur, der über den normalen Rahmen des All- und Sonntagsknipsens hinaus will, wünscht.

Sonnar 1:1,5/5 cm	475.–
Sonnar 1:2/5 cm	345.–
Tessar 1:3,5/5 cm	146.–
Sonnar 1:2/8,5 cm	620.–
Sonnar 1:4/13,5 cm	396.–
Olympia Sonnar 1:2,8/18 cm mit Flektoskop im Koffer	1795.–
Sonnar 1:4/30 cm mit Flektoskop im Koffer	2100.–

Universalsucher für 2,8 · 3,5 · 5 · 8,5 · 13,5 cm Brennweite	165.–
Filter in Gelb, Gelbgrün, Orange, Rot, 40,5 mm z. Aufschrauben	11.–
Bereitschaftstasche	35.–
Kassette mit Spulenkern	8.25
Behälter dazu	–.75
Synchronschalter mit 10 cm Kabel	10.–
Sonnenblende 40,5 mm	4.50

mit 5 cm Brennweite mit 8,5 cm mit 13,5 cm

In the booket above one can see the preferential lenses elected for the new Contax and finder with 28mm field of view. All new lenses are red "T" coated.

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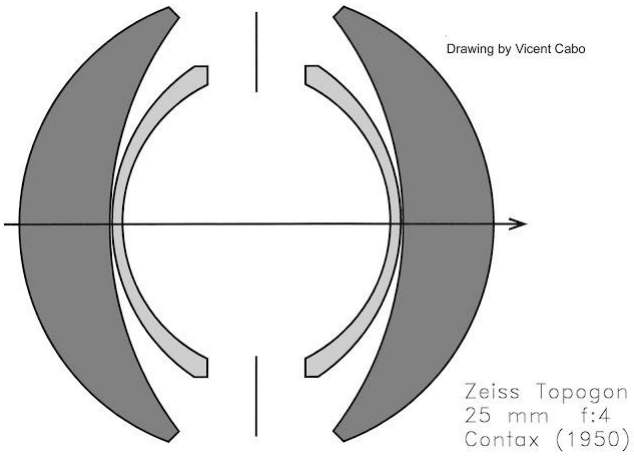
- **Topogon 2.5cm f:4.5,** 50 ex. made in 1936, several examples survived
- **Topogon 2,5cm f:4** (new model) enjoyed a reissue (rare)



The bayonet of this lens, although completely compatible with external Contax bayonet, differs from all previous and future Contax lenses, forerunning the future Praktina mount and all other Eastern German changeable lens camera.

An external rotating collar ties the lens to camera body. Los<->Fest (Loose –Fast)

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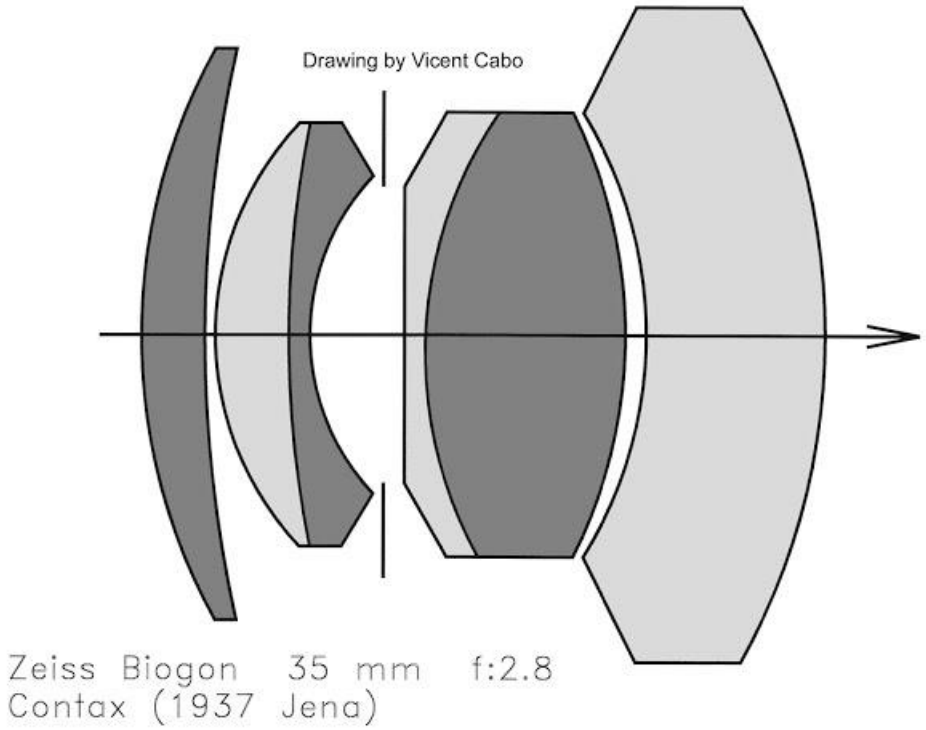
- **Biogon 3,5cm f:2.8** (large rear element, does not mount on Contax IIa or IIIa)



14.6 A test version of the Biogon, engraved "Muster-Sonnar" (example Sonnar) f/2.8, 35mm focal length with an internal bayonet mount.

- The Original Biogon 35mm lens is a Sonnar formula lens with an increased rear divergent element. At left the "Muster-Sonnar" with internal bayonet mount for fixed focus - evtifeev.com

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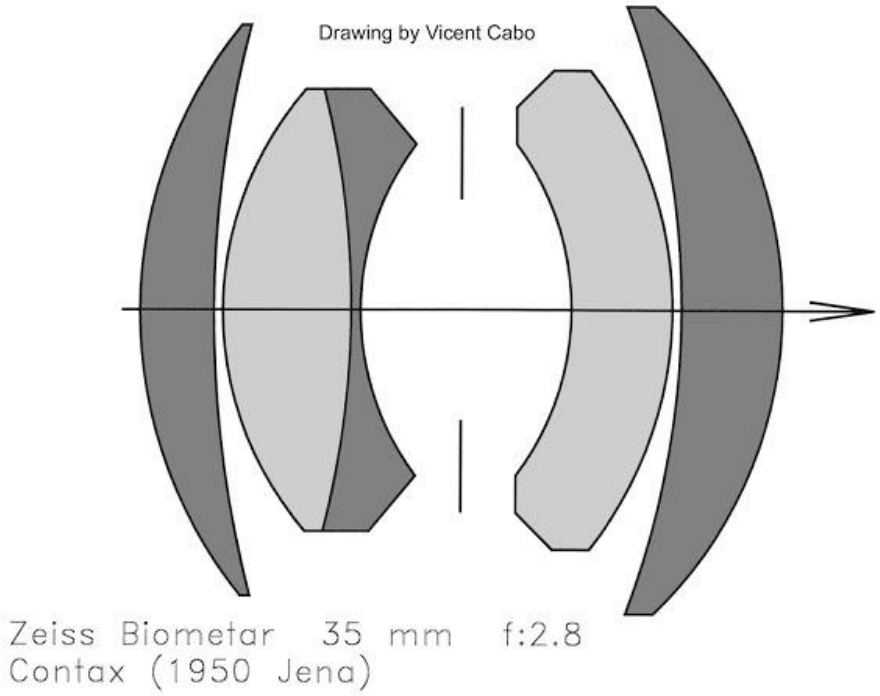
- **Biometar 3,5cm f:2.8** (rare)



The Biometar was an Eastern Germany trial to produce a wide angle for the new Contax IIa at a lower cost, but its quality let too much to be desired. The same lens in reversed position became the Excellent Planar lens.

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The Normal lenses

Follow the same pre war formulas

- Sonnar 5cm f:1.5 (rigid)

- Sonnar 5cm f:2 (rigid)

- Tessar 5cm f:3.5 (rigid)

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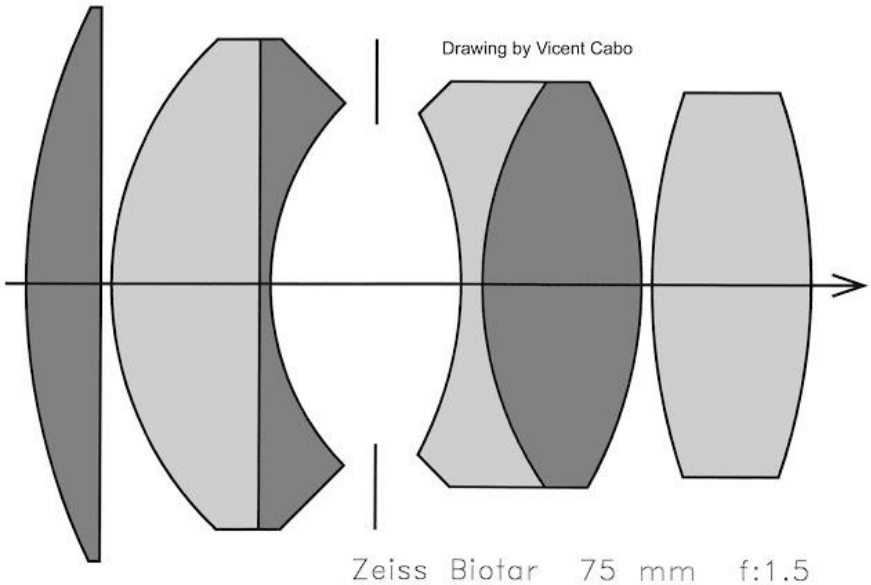
- **Biotar 7,5cm** f:1.5 (rare)



Two versions of Biotar 75 1.5

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- **Biometar 8cm f:2.8** (extremely rare, only 5 lenses were made)

This Biometar of the first era suffered from the same fate of the wide angle, so the production was soon halted.

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- **Sonnar 8,5cm f:2** (different body construction) with same prewar optical construction.

Note that after the war Jena did no nore produce the lower cost 85mm Triotar and so influenced Russia in their new production at KMZ.

A 1949 version with feet and meters engraved scale

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- **Sonnar 13,5cm f:4** maintained the same formula in a new body that was later followed by Oberkochen . This same lens continued in Russia under the old standards.

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The Large Telephotos for reflex housings

In order to spread the scope of Contax cameras, the pre-war lenes were perfected and now ncorporate the pre-set diaphragm in all models

- **Sonnar 18cm f:2.8,** first Flektoskop mount, then from 1949 in Flektometer mount

- **Sonnar 30cm f:4,** a new Sonnar telephoto lens appeared after the war. first in Flektoskop mount, then then from 1949 in Flektometer mount .

- **Fernobjektiv 50cm f:8,** only Flektometer mount

As the Fernobjektiv is extremely long, the tube is split in two parts for transportation.

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At the beginning, (pre-war years) the Sonnar 2.8 180 was rangefinder coupled.

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An excellent pge about Flektoscope and panflex could be seen at:

http://www.marcocavina.com/articoli_fotografici/Pierpaolo_Ghisetti/26/00_pag.htm

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The Reflex Housings (Zeiss Historica)

Post war Jena reflex housings evolution from left to right:

Flektoscope with reversing sides. (the original prewar had the image fully reversed)
Flektoscope fully corrected (intermediate model)
Flektometer integrated system

Use of the Flektometer

With Sonnar 300mm

With 180mm and 300mm Sonnars down the Fernobjektiv 500mm

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