

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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(54) PHOTOGRAPHIC CAMERA

(71) We, EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY, a Company organized under the Laws of the State of New Jersey, United States of America of 343 State Street, Rochester, New York 14650, United States of America, do hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The present invention relates generally to photographic apparatus and in particular to a mechanism for ensuring correct actuation of the shutter mechanism in either a daylight or a flash mode.

It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved mechanism for ensuring correct actuation of a camera shutter mechanism in both daylight and flash modes.

According to the present invention, there is provided a camera, for use with a photoflash unit, comprising a shutter mechanism, means for operating the shutter mechanism, means for actuating the photoflash unit, means for providing a compensating force to simulate actuation of the photoflash unit, and means for selectively coupling either the actuating means or the compensating force providing means with the shutter operating means.

The invention will be described further, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a fragmentary view of a photographic apparatus having a shutter operating and flash firing mechanism in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is a view similar to Figure 1, during operation of the mechanism;

Figure 3 is a view similar to Figure 1 of the photographic apparatus in a condition for a daylight mode of operation; and

Figure 4 is a view similar to Figure 3 during operation of the mechanism.

As photographic cameras are well known, the present description will be directed in particular to elements forming

part of, or cooperating more directly with, the apparatus of the present invention. Camera elements not specifically shown or described herein are understood to be selectable from those known in the art.

In Figure 1, photographic apparatus according to the invention is illustrated which apparatus is adapted for use with a multilamp flash unit of a type known in the art. The photographic apparatus is shown broken away to reveal an inner frame member 10. A shutter blade 12 is rotatably mounted on frame member 10 by means of a fixed pin 14. Shutter blade 12 is biased in a counterclockwise direction by spring 16 into abutment with a stop 17 mounted on frame member 10. In its counterclockwise position, as illustrated, shutter blade 12 is in covering relationship with an aperture 20 shown in phantom in Figure 1. Frame 10 has integrally formed thereon a raised portion 18 in which is formed a recessed portion 19 for use as a fulcrum. A socket 22 is also mounted on frame member 10. Socket 22 is of the type known in the art which is adapted to receive and releasably hold a multilamp flash unit consisting of a plurality of flashlamps 24. Each flashlamp 24 has associated with it a percussive primer element 26 and a pre-energized striker 28, which is releasable for movement into impact with primer element 26 to fire the associated flashlamp 24.

The shutter operating and flash actuating mechanism of the camera comprises a body release 30, a release lever 50, a firing member 80, a signal device 100 and a retracting member 110. Body release lever 30 is movably mounted on frame member 10 by means of a fixed pin 32. Body release 30 is biased in a clockwise direction by a spring 34 so that a release button 36 extends outwardly of the camera body and may be operated by the camera operator. Body release 30 further has integrally formed thereon a lug 38 and upper and lower engaging surfaces 40 and 42.

Release lever 50 defines a recessed portion 52 and is movably mounted on frame

member 10 by mating recessed portions 19 and 52, thereby providing a fulcrum for lever 50. Lever 50 is elongate in form and has opposed ends 54 and 56. End 54 terminates in a lug 58 which is selectively engageable by engaging surfaces 40 and 42 on body release 30. End 56 terminates in an upwardly extending drive lug 60. Release lever 50 further defines a latch portion 62 engageable with a high energy lever 64 to maintain high energy lever 64 in its cocked condition and a ramped portion 63. High energy lever 64 is movably mounted within the camera for movement to the left as illustrated in Figure 1 to engage shutter blade 12 and drive it in a clockwise direction to its aperture uncovering position. Mounted on end 54 of release lever 50 is an elongated spring wire form shutter operating spring 66 having a movable end 70. End 70 is positioned for engagement by lug 38 on body release 30 when body release 30 is rotated by operator contact with button 36. Lever 50 further includes an upright arm 68 ending in a bent-over portion 72 which engages spring end 70 and maintains spring end 70 out of engagement with lug 38. A blade form compensating spring 74 is mounted as a cantilever on release lever 50. One end 78 of spring 74 is fixed to lever 50 while the other end 76 is free to move. Spring 74 could alternatively be mounted at end 76 with end 78 free to move or could take the form of a spiral, wire or other type spring.

Sensing and firing member 80 is rotatably mounted on frame member 10 by a fixed pin 82 and is biased in a counterclockwise direction by a spring 84. Sensing and firing member 80 includes an actuating arm 86, a compensating arm 88, a sensing and firing arm 90, a retracting surface 92 and a drive lug 94. Actuating arm 86 terminates in an actuating surface 87 which is engageable by drive lug 60 on release lever 50. Compensating arm 88 terminates in an end 89 which is engageable by compensating spring 74 in daylight mode operation of the camera as illustrated in Figure 4. Compensating arm 88 further has an integrally formed stop lug 96, shown in phantom. Sensing and firing arm 90 terminates in a sensing and firing end 91 which is movable into engagement with a pre-energized striker 28 associated with a flashlamp 24 which is in firing position. Spring 84 is not strong enough to cause release of a pre-energized striker 28 and thus movement of arm 90 is terminated by contact with a striker 28.

Signal device 100 is rotatably mounted on frame member 10 by a fixed pin 102 and is biased in a counterclockwise direction by a spring 104. Signal device 100 has a drive end 106 and a flag portion (not illustrated)

which is positionable within the viewfinder of the camera upon clockwise rotation of device 100.

Retracting member 110 is movably mounted on frame member 10 by means of pins 112. A sleeve (not illustrated) is mounted in the camera to surround socket 22 and the sleeve is urged upwardly by a spring to bear against the underside of the rear of retracting element 110. The sleeve and its spring are represented schematically by a spring 114 which moves a retracting lug 116 on member 110 into engagement with retracting surface 92 on sensing and firing member 80 in the daylight mode shown in Figure 3. Retracting member 110 is movable to the position illustrated in Figure 1 by a T-bar structure (not illustrated) which senses the presence of a multilamp flash unit in socket 22 and moves the sleeve downward against the bias of its spring thereby disengaging lug 116 from surface 92 on member 80 and permitting member 80 to move under the bias of spring 84.

For operation of the camera in the flash mode, a multilamp flash unit is inserted in socket 22. The T-bar structure senses the presence of the flash unit and rotates retracting member 110 to the position illustrated in Figure 1 in which retracting lug 116 is separated from surface 92 on flash sensing and firing member 80. Sensing and firing member 80 moves under the bias of spring 84 until firing end 91 comes into contact with a pre-energized striker 28 of a flash-lamp 24. However, the bias of spring 84 is not sufficient to cause release of the pre-energized striker 28.

The camera operator now initiates operation of the camera mechanisms by depressing release button 36 on body release 30, causing counterclockwise rotation of body release 30 until lug 38 comes into engagement with end 70 of shutter spring 66. Motion of body release 30 will be transmitted through spring 66 to release lever 50, causing counterclockwise rotation of lever 50 until drive lug 60 comes into contact with actuating surface 87 on actuating arm 86. Movement of lever 50 now ceases, thereby causing energy to be stored within spring 66 as body release 30 continues to move. However, spring 66 does not store sufficient energy to cause actuation of the flash firing mechanisms. Actuation does not occur until engaging surface 40 comes into engagement with lug 58 on body release lever 50, thereby establishing direct contact between body release 30 and release lever 50. Further movement of body release 30 now directly causes counterclockwise rotation of release lever 50. Continuous movement of release lever 50 causes counterclockwise rotation of firing member 80 about fixed pin 82 and

subsequent release of a pre-energized striker 28 by means of firing end 91. Upon release of a striker wire, spring 66 expands, causing further rotation of release lever 50 and freeing high energy lever 64 from latch portion 62. High energy lever 64 moves to engage shutter blade 12 and drive it to the aperture uncovering position illustrated in Figure 2. Stored energy in spring 66 ensures shutter and flash synchronization and prevents incomplete camera actuation by the operator.

Shutter blade 12 will be returned to its aperture covering position by means of spring 16 after a predetermined aperture time has elapsed. Alternatively, a stop such as stop lug 96 can be positioned to terminate movement of shutter blade 12, after which blade 12 will move to its closed position under the bias of spring 16. Release of button 36 permits clockwise rotation of body release 30 and lever 50 to their initial positions. However, high energy lever 64 will remain in its uncocked position until film advance and cocking operation of the camera is achieved in any conventional manner. During the cocking operation, high energy lever 64 is returned over ramped portion 63 to engagement with latch portion 62. Lever 50 and body release 30 will remain in their initial positions as illustrated in Figure 1.

The presence of a fired flashlamp 24 in firing position will be indicated to the operator by means of signal device 100. When retracting member 110 is moved away from engagement with sensing and firing member 80, sensing and firing arm 90 moves into sensing position within the flash device. If sensing and firing arm 91 fails to come into contact with a pre-energized striker wire 28, movement of firing member 80 in a counterclockwise direction continues until engagement of drive lug 94 with drive end 106 causes clockwise rotation of device 100 to position the indicating flag within the viewfinder of the camera. The camera operator may now rotate the flash device until a usable flashlamp 24 is advanced to the firing position in which case sensing and firing end 91 will sense a pre-energized striker wire 28 and hold the flag out of the viewfinder.

Daylight operation of the camera may best be illustrated by reference to Figures 3 and 4. In the absence of a flash unit within socket 22, retracting member 110 moves under the bias of spring 114 to bring retracting lug 116 into engagement with retracting surface 92. Spring 114 is stronger than spring 84 and causes movement of firing member 80 in a clockwise direction until sensing and firing arm 90 is held in a retracted position within the camera. Such

movement of firing member 80 removes actuating surface 87 from the path of movement of drive lug 60 on release lever 50, thereby ensuring that sensing and firing member 80 will not be moved to its firing position in the absence of a flash unit in socket 22. Thus, the force which must be exerted on button 36 by the camera operator would be different for daylight mode operation. This difference is compensated for by the compensating mechanism of the present invention.

As may be seen in Figure 3, compensating arm 88 has been moved until end 89 is positioned over cantilever end 76 of compensating spring 74 mounted on release lever 50. Upon actuation of body release 30 by the camera operator, lug 38 is moved into engagement with end 70 of spring 66. Movement of body release 30 will be transmitted through spring 66 to release lever 50 until compensating end 89 comes into contact with spring 74. Contact between end 89 and compensating spring 74 adds a force into the system which must be overcome by operator contact with button 36. This force is designed to simulate the force required to release a pre-energized striker wire when a flash unit is present in socket 22. Movement of release lever 50 now ceases and continued movement of body release 30 stores energy within spring 66 until engaging surface 40 comes into engagement with lug 58 on release lever 50. Further movement of body release 30 causes counterclockwise rotation of lever 50 until latch portion 62 releases high energy lever 64. Release of high energy lever 64 permits it to move into engagement with shutter blade 12, thereby driving shutter blade 12 to its aperture uncovering position.

In daylight mode operation exposure is terminated by the presence of stop lug 96 on compensating arm 88. Lug 96 terminates movement of shutter blade 12 prior to full tensioning of spring 16, thereby ensuring a shorter exposure time for daylight mode operation of the camera. Shutter blade 12 will be returned to its aperture covering position by means of spring 16. Operator release of button 36 will permit clockwise rotation of body release 30 and lever 50 to their initial positions. However, high energy lever 64 will remain in its uncocked position until film advance and cocking operation of the camera is achieved in any conventional manner. During the cocking operation, high energy lever 64 is returned over ramped portion 63 to engagement with latch portion 62. Lever 50 and body release 30 will remain in their initial positions as illustrated in Figure 3.

The invention has been described in detail with particular reference to a preferred embodiment thereof, but is will

be understood that variations and modifications can be effected within the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

5 WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A camera, for use with a photoflash unit, comprising a shutter mechanism, means for operating the shutter mechanism, means for actuating the photoflash unit, means for providing a compensating force to simulate actuation of the photoflash unit, and means for selectively coupling either the actuating means or the compensating force providing means with the shutter operating means.

2. A camera as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the means for actuating the photoflash unit comprises means engageable by the shutter operating mechanism and the selective coupling means includes means for preventing engagement of the actuating means by said shutter operating means.

3. A camera as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 wherein the selective coupling is arranged to be disengaged from the force providing means in response to receipt of a photoflash unit by the camera.

4. A camera as claimed in any of Claims 1, 2 or 3, for use with a flash unit having at least one lamp ignitable by striking and at least one pre-energized striker releasable to effect such striking, the camera comprising means for receiving such a flash unit, means for releasing a preenergized striker of a received flash unit, and means for disabling the releasing means when a flash unit has not been received by the receiving means.

5. A camera as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the releasing means comprises means for sensing and subsequently releasing a pre-energized striker of a receiver flash unit, and means for actuating the sensing and releasing means.

6. A camera as claimed in Claim 4 or 5 wherein the force providing means includes a spring for applying a compensating force to the shutter operating means to simulate release of a pre-energized striker.

7. A camera, for use with a photoflash unit, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in the drawing.

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1. A camera, for use with a photoflash unit, comprising a shutter mechanism, means for operating the shutter mechanism, means for actuating the photoflash unit, means for providing a compensating force to simulate actuation of the photoflash unit, and means for selectively coupling either the actuating means or the compensating force providing means with the shutter operating means.

2. A camera as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the means for actuating the photoflash unit comprises means engageable by the shutter operating mechanism and the selective coupling means includes means for preventing engagement of the actuating means by said shutter operating means.

3. A camera as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 wherein the selective coupling is arranged to be disengaged from the force providing means in response to receipt of a photoflash unit by the camera.

4. A camera as claimed in any of Claims 1, 2 or 3, for use with a flash unit having at least one lamp ignitable by striking and at least one pre-energized striker releasable to effect such striking, the camera comprising means for receiving such a flash unit, means for releasing a preenergized striker of a received flash unit, and means for disabling the releasing means when a flash unit has not been received by the receiving means.

5. A camera as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the releasing means comprises means for sensing and subsequently releasing a pre-energized striker of a receiver flash unit, and means for actuating the sensing and releasing means.

6. A camera as claimed in Claim 4 or 5 wherein the force providing means includes a spring for applying a compensating force to the shutter operating means to simulate release of a pre-energized striker.

7. A camera, for use with a photoflash unit, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in the drawing.

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