

Description

The present invention relates to a camera in accordance with the generic part of claim 1.

5 The US-A-3,246,590 shows such a camera with a photographic optical means comprising a zoom lens with an optical axis, means for driving that zoom lens and a finder optical assembly with one different optical axis. That finder optical assembly comprises an optical means for varying its field of view. The camera has means for driving that optical means so as to associate the field of view of said zoom lens and that of said finder optical assembly and has an actuating assembly including at least one gear.

10 DE-A 27 06 551 describes a camera having a zoom lens, means for driving said zoom lens, a strobe assembly comprising optical means for varying the illumination angle of said strobe assembly and means including a cam plate for driving said optical means.

Generally, in conventional lens shutter (i.e., between the lens shutter) types of auto focus cameras, it is impossible to vary the focal length of the photographic optical system. Other lens shutter types of auto focus cameras comprise a two focal length system, in which a lens is provided for varying the focal length and can be selectively inserted in the photographing optical system. In such a system, two focal lengths are provided; however, it is possible to use only the two focal lengths provided, e.g., a wide angle and a telephoto range for the zoom lens, or, e.g., a standard range and a telephoto range for the zoom lens. While taking advantage of such dual focal lengths, it is impossible to cover the range of focal lengths between the two extreme focal lengths, or between a wide angle and a medium telephoto focal length. Under such circumstances, taking pictures with the use of a zoom lens has heretofore only been possible by using a single lens reflex camera.

20 However, single lens reflex cameras are more expensive and heavier than lens shutter type cameras, and, accordingly, it is not easy for a photographer who is unfamiliar with cameras to freely use such single lens reflex cameras. Because of the heavy weight and relatively large size of such single lens reflex cameras, female photographers and travelers who are desirous of reducing the weight and the amount of baggage carried tend to hesitate to use such a single lens reflex (hereinafter SLR) camera, even if they appreciate the high quality pictures which are generally taken by such cameras.

25 Accordingly, users who would otherwise hesitate to use single lens reflex cameras which are relatively bulky and heavy, as noted above, have only two alternate choices: (a) a relatively small, light lens shutter type of automatic camera which has heretofore not been capable of controlling the focal length of the photographing optical system; or (b) a dual focal length type of auto focus camera in which only two extreme focal lengths can be used.

30 The invention is based on the problem of providing a small, light and compact lens shutter type of camera with a zoom lens, a finder assembly and a strobe assembly, wherein the field of view of the finder assembly is adapted to the field of view of the zoom lens in any position of the latter, wherein the illumination field of the strobe assembly is varied in accordance with the variation of the zoom lenses field of view and in which the finders field of view can be simply adapted to the field of view of the zoom lens by assembly the camera.

This problem is solved by a camera in accordance with claim 1.

35 The present invention provides a lens shutter type of camera having a subject distance measuring device, a photographing optical system which is driven in response to measurement of the subject distance which is detected by the subject distance measuring device, a finder optical system which is independent of the photographing optical system, and a strobe. In accordance with the present invention, the photographing optical system comprises a zoom lens assembly which is capable of successively varying the focal length of this optical system; the finder optical system is independent of the photographing optical system and comprises a variable power finder optical lens assembly which is capable of varying the field of view of the finder lens assembly, in accordance with the specific focal length of the zooming lens system at any point in time; and the zoom lens system and the variable power finder optical system are driven by a single zooming motor.

40 With such an arrangement, only the zooming operation and the shutter release operation will be manually effected, resulting in a high quality, compact automatic camera.

45 The lens shutter type of camera used in the present invention is functionally equivalent, or in fact superior, to a single lens reflex camera, insofar as it incorporates a strobe device, thereby providing a highly systematized, auto-focus camera which is easy to use and handle.

The strobe device is a variable illumination angle strobe device which is capable of varying the illumination angle in accordance with, or in response to, the variable focal length of the zoom lens system.

50 In accordance with the present invention, the zoom lens system can either be partially or completely moved in the direction of the optical axis of the photographing optical system, beyond one of the focal length extremities, when the camera is placed into the macro mode. Another feature of the present invention is that the finder optical system comprises a variable power finder optical system which includes an optical element which is capable of varying the field of view, the optical element varying the field of view in accordance with or in re-

sponse to the particular focal length of the zoom lens system. The finder system includes an optical element which is capable of deflecting the finder optical axis towards the optical axis of the photographing optical system in order to correct parallax in the macro mode of the camera.

In accordance with yet another feature of the present invention, a strobe device comprises a variable illumination angle strobe device which is capable of varying the strobe illumination angle in accordance with the focal length of the zoom lens system and in association with or in response to movement or transfer of the zoom lens (photographing lens) system into the macro mode.

The object distance measuring device of the present invention is capable of detecting the object distance by a conventional triangulation measuring method, which has been adapted to ensure precise detection of the object distance, even when the camera is in its macro mode; this distance measuring device includes an optical element which is capable of deflecting the distance measuring light in order to optically extend the base length of the measuring device in response to transfer or movement of the zoom lens system into the macro mode.

In one aspect of the present invention a lens shutter type of auto focus camera is provided which has a zoom lens which is continuously movable between an extreme wide angle position and an extreme telephoto position. The lens is movable beyond the extreme telephoto position into a macro or close-up photographing position; and it is movable beyond the extreme wide angle position into a closed position in which the photographing lens is completely collapsed and in which lens barriers are provided to close an opening in a lens barrier block. The finder field of view and strobe illumination angle in the camera vary in accordance with the zooming operation of the lens, as well as when the picture of a subject is taken in a macro mode at a close distance. Focusing can be automatically controlled in both the macro mode and in any range of the zooming lens. An optical wedge is adapted to be positioned along the optical path of the distance measuring device which forms a portion of the automatic focusing system of the camera. A prism is adapted to be pivoted into the optical path of the finder optical system in order to correct for parallax in the macro mode. A cam plate is provided which is driven by a single motor, which also drives the zoom lens via a cam ring; and the cam plate is adapted to drive the finder optical system and the strobe light assembly in accordance with zooming operation of the zoom lens.

In a second aspect, the present invention provides a lens shutter type of camera having a zoom lens driven by a motor. The camera further comprises a finder optical assembly and means for moving the finder in accordance with zooming movement of the lens in order to vary the field of view through the finder.

In a third aspect, the present invention provides a lens shutter type of camera having a zoom lens driven by a motor, a movable strobe light assembly with a variable illumination angle, and means for moving the strobe assembly in accordance with zooming movement of the zoom lens.

In a fourth aspect of the present invention, a lens shutter type of camera is provided having a zoom lens driven by a motor, means for driving the zoom lens continuously between an extreme wide angle position and an extreme telephoto position, as well as means for driving the zoom lens beyond the telephoto terminal position in order to take a close-up or macro photograph.

The camera includes an automatic focusing mechanism which comprises a subject distance measuring device which measures the distance of the subject from the film plane of the camera by triangulation.

The distance measuring device includes an optical wedge which is movable into the path between a light emitter and a light receiver in order to extend the base length of the subject distance measuring device when the camera is placed into the close-up photographic mode.

A rotatable cam ring is attached to the zoom lens which houses the photographic optical assembly, and a rotatable gear is positioned about the cam ring. The cam ring includes a recess and an adjacent projection which are adapted to engage a lower end of the optical element and to pivot the optical element in front of the light receiver of the distance measurement device, and against the biasing force of a spring attached to the optical element.

The finder optical assembly and the strobe assembly can be positioned into a plurality of positions in response to or coordination with continuous movement of the lens over an infinite number of positions. This is achieved by the use of a code plate which defines thirteen positions, including extreme telephoto and extreme wide angle positions.

In a fifth aspect, the present invention discloses an automatic focus camera with a lens movable into a macro photographic position. This camera includes a subject distance measuring device which comprises means for determining the distance of a subject from a film plane in the camera. The camera further includes a photographic optical system which is automatically focused in accordance with the detected distance of the subject. The optical system is movable to an extreme telephoto position and to a macro or close-up position beyond the extreme telephoto position. The subject distance measuring device comprises an optical element and means for selectively inserting the optical element into the optical path of the subject distance measuring device. The optical element is positioned within a frame or mask which is attached to a flexible correction flag;

the flag is pivotably connected to a camera base at one end, and has a second, free end to which the compensating optical element is positioned. A cam ring includes a rotatable gear thereon and includes a recess and an adjacent projection which are adapted to pivot the flag to overcome the bias of a spring which continuously biases the correcting flag into a retracted position away from the optical path of the light receiving element of the distance measuring device.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a zoom lens adapted to be positioned in a camera. The lens includes at least a first lens group and a second lens group and means for positioning the photographing optical system of the zoom lens in an extreme wide angle position and an extreme telephoto position. The zoom lens further comprises means for moving only the first lens group into a position beyond the extreme telephoto position in order to provide close-up focusing of the photographic optical system when the camera is in a macro photographing mode.

In a further aspect of the present invention, a camera is provided having a zooming lens positionable in an extreme wide angle position, an extreme telephoto position, and a plurality of variable magnification positions located between these two extreme positions, as well as in a close-up position beyond the extreme telephoto position. The camera includes an auto focus assembly comprising a light emitter and a light receiver, the light receiver comprising a position sensing device which has a first area which is used to sense the position of an object during automatic focusing for all lens positions except a macro position, and a second area closely adjacent to the first area and which comprises means for sensing the position of an object during macro focusing of the camera. These two areas can either be identical or overlapping.

The camera can comprise a zoom lens movable between an extreme wide angle position and an extreme telephoto position, and a plurality of variable magnification positions between the two extreme positions, as well as into a position which is located beyond the extreme telephoto position. The camera includes a device for measuring the distance of an object from the film plane of the camera which incorporates a light receiver and a light emitter. An optical element is selectively positionable in the optical path between the light receiver and the light emitter, and a motor is provided for driving the lens. Means are provided for drivably connecting the motor to the lens, and for positioning the optical element between the light emitter and the light receiver when the lens is moved into the close-up or macro focusing position.

The lens shutter type camera includes a photographic optical system having a zooming function and a macro function, and includes an independent finder optical system which comprises a first lens group having a negative refractive index and which comprises a positive lens and a negative lens, a second lens group comprising a negative lens, a third lens group having a positive refractive index, and a prism which is adapted to be selectively inserted into the optical path between the two lenses of the first lens group. The prism comprises means for deflecting the optical path of the finder optical system towards the optical axis of the photographic optical system when the prism is positioned between the lenses of the first group.

In still another aspect of the present invention, a finder optical system is provided in a lens shutter type of camera which has a photographing optical system which can have a macro photographing position. The finder optical system is independent of the photographing optical system and comprises at least one lens and an optical element which is selectively inserted into the finder optical system when the photographic optical system, i.e., the zoom lens, is in the macro mode. The optical element comprises means for correcting parallax by deflecting the optical axis of the finder optical system towards the optical axis of the photographic optical system.

A movable cam plate can be provided for the camera, and will be adapted to be driven by a motor. The cam plate comprises a substantially flat main portion, a downwardly extending rack attached to a rear end of the main portion, and a plurality of grooves located in the main portion. The grooves include a parallax compensating cam groove having a non-projecting section, a forward macro feeding section, and a macro fixing section; a strobe assembly guide groove having a wide angle section, a variable power section, and a telephoto section; and a variable lens guide groove having a wide angle section, a telephoto section, and a variable power magnification section.

In still another aspect, the lens shutter type camera comprises a photographing optical system including a zoom lens with a movable variable power lens group for varying the focal length of this optical system. An independent finder optical system is provided which has a variable power lens group for varying the finder field of view in accordance with the varying focal length of the zoom lens system, and a variable illumination angle strobe assembly is provided with a lamp which is movable in accordance with the focal length of the zoom lens system. A motor is provided for moving the zoom lens system variable power lens group, and a single cam plate is adapted to move in association with movement of the zoom lens. Movement of the cam plate moves the finder optical system via a first driven pin which is engaged in one groove in the cam plate, and the strobe assembly is moved via a pin which is attached to the strobe assembly and which is engaged in a second groove in the cam plate.

In another aspect of the present invention, a lens shutter type of camera is provided having a photographing optical system with a zoom lens having a rotatable cam ring with cam grooves engaged by at least one lens group in the zoom lens which is movable along an axis of the photographing optical system in order to vary the optical length of this optical system in response to rotational motion of the cam ring. The cam ring includes
 5 at least one flexible code plate attached to the ring which includes zoom lens positional information thereon.
 Other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will hereinafter be described.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

- 10 The above and other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention will be described in greater detail with respect to the accompanying drawings, in which like reference numerals represent similar elements throughout the several views, and wherein:
- Fig. 1 is a schematic perspective view of a first embodiment of a lens shutter type of camera having a zoom lens formed in accordance with the present invention;
- 15 Fig. 2 is a front elevational view of a lens barrel block, a light emitter, a light receiver, and a macro-compensating optical element which forms a part of a distance measuring device, together with a zooming motor, all forming a portion of the invention of Fig. 1;
- Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the apparatus of Fig. 2;
- Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken along line IV-IV of Fig. 2;
- 20 Fig. 5 is a sectional view of the apparatus of Fig. 2 taken along line V-V of Fig. 2;
- Fig. 6 is a longitudinal sectional view of a lens barrel block and two photographing optical lenses formed in accordance with the present invention;
- Fig. 7 is a developed view of the camming grooves in a "flattened" cam ring used to surround the front and rear lens element groups of the photographic optical system of the camera of Fig. 1;
- 25 Fig. 8 is an exploded perspective view of a lens barrel block used in the camera of Fig. 1;
- Fig. 9 is a sectional view illustrating an optical arrangement for adjusting the focus point of the camera when the camera is placed into its macro mode;
- Fig. 10 is an enlarged plan view of the prism, frame (i.e., mask) and one light receptor lens of the system of Fig. 9;
- 30 Fig. 11 is a front elevational view illustrating the assembly of Fig. 10;
- Fig. 12 is a sectional view of an optical arrangement used in a two lens group zooming lens in the camera of Fig. 1;
- Fig. 13 is a schematic view illustrating the light emitter and light receptor of a distance measuring device used in the camera of Fig. 1;
- 35 Fig. 14 is a sectional view of an optical arrangement of a system for adjusting the focal point of the object distance measuring system when the camera is in a macro mode;
- Figs. 15A - 17A are vertical sectional views of a first embodiment of a finder optical system used in accordance with the present invention, in which:
- Fig. 15A is a side plan view of the finder optical assembly when in a wide field, small magnification position;
- 40 Fig. 16A is a plan view of the assembly of Fig. 15A when the camera is in a narrow field, large magnification mode;
- Fig. 17A is a plan view of the assembly of Fig. 15A when the camera is in a narrow field, large magnification position when the camera is in its macro mode;
- Figs. 15B, 16B and 17B, respectively, illustrate the aberrations of the optical systems of Figs. 15A, 16A and 17A, respectively;
- 45 Fig. 18 is a perspective view of a double-wedge shaped prism used in the present finder optical system;
- Fig. 19 is a top plan view of the prism of Fig. 18; and
- Fig. 20 is a right hand side plan view of the prism of Fig. 18.
- Fig. 21 is a plan view of a cam plate which can be attached to a portion of the finder block and the strobe lamp assembly of the present invention;
- 50 Fig. 22 is a sectional view taken along line XXII-XXII of Fig. 21;
- Fig. 23 is a back plan view of the cam plate of Fig. 21;
- Fig. 24 is a plan view of the apparatus of Fig. 21 with the cam plate removed;
- Fig. 25 is a sectional view taken along line XXV-XXV of Fig. 21;
- 55 Fig. 26 is a sectional view taken along line XXVI-XXVI of Fig. 25 showing the finder plate in a first position;
- Fig. 27 is a sectional view similar to that of Fig. 26 but illustrating the finder plate in a second, operational position;
- Fig. 28 is a sectional view similar to the view of Fig. 26, in which a deflecting prism actuating plate has

been removed to facilitate consideration;

Fig. 29 is a front elevational view of the apparatus of Fig. 25, shown in a position in which a deflection prism actuating plate is inserted;

Fig. 30 is a sectional view taken along line XXX-XXX of Fig. 29;

5 Fig. 31 is an exploded perspective view of a light intercepting mechanism positioned adjacent to a lens barrel block;

Fig. 32 is a developed or schematic view of a code plate, with the lens of the code plate and grooves of the cam being illustrated on a flattened cam ring, illustrating the functional relationship between conductive lands on the code plate and the cam (ring and plate) grooves;

10 Fig. 33 is a table illustrating the zoom code on the code plate of Fig. 32 and the stopping positions which are located on the code plate;

The present invention will now be described below in greater detail, with specific reference to the accompanying drawings which illustrate a variety of embodiments and features of the present invention.

15 The overall construction of a lens shutter type of camera formed in accordance with the present invention is well illustrated in Figs. 1-8. A lens shutter type of camera formed in accordance with the present invention essentially comprises a zoom lens barrel block 1, a finder and strobe block 2 (hereinafter referred to as a finder block), a light emitter 3 and a light receiver 4 forming a portion of a distance measuring, i.e., AF, device, and a zooming motor 5 which is used for the zooming operation of the photographing optical system. All of these elements are secured to a base 6 which forms an immovable portion of the camera body.

20 Base 6 includes, as is best illustrated in Figs. 2-4, a lens barrel supporting plate portion 6a which lies in a plane which is perpendicular to the optical axis of the lens; and a horizontal supporting plate portion 6b is provided which extends at right angles from the lens barrel support plate portion 6a. Support plate portion 6b extends beyond the side edge of plate 6a, as seen in Fig. 2, in order to support finder assembly 8 and strobe assembly 9. The base further comprises motor supporting plate portions 6c which are positioned perpendicularly with respect to the horizontal support plate portion 6b. Lens barrel block 1 is supported on lens barrel support plate portion 6a, which has a central opening (unreferenced) for receiving the lens barrel block as illustrated in Fig. 2. A zooming motor 5 is attached to motor support plate portions 6c and is located above the central portion of lens barrel block 1. Preferably, only a single such motor (e.g., a DC motor) is used to drivingly engage all of the movable elements of the system. A distance measuring device includes a light emitter 3 and a light receiver 4, which are secured to the horizontal support plate portion 6b of base 6, and which are located on opposite sides of zooming motor 5 (see Figs. 2 and 3). Finder block 2 is secured to the right hand portion of horizontal support plate portion 6b, as viewed from the front of the camera as seen in Fig. 2. A gear train support plate portion 6e is connected to motor support plate portion 6c via spacer 6f, as best illustrated in Fig. 3.

35 Lens barrel block 1 is adapted to be actuated by zooming motor 5, and the construction of this block will be described hereinbelow with more specific reference to Figs. 6-10. A rear securing plate 11 is mounted to lens barrel support plate portion 6a of base 6 by fastening screws 10, as is best illustrated in Fig. 6. Rear securing plate 11 includes four guide rods 12 which are attached to and through bores in the rear portion of the guide plate and which are located about the optical axis of the photographing optical system and parallel to this axis. A front securing plate 13 is secured to the front ends of guide rods 12; these guide rods and plates are the main securing elements for lens barrel block 1.

40 A rotatable cam ring 14 is positioned between front and rear securing plates 13 and 11, respectively; a sector gear 15 is provided about a substantial portion (but preferably not the entire 360°) of the outer periphery of cam ring 14; this gear can be attached to the cam ring by conventional means, e.g., via set screws 15a, as seen in Fig. 6; this gear is adapted to engage, either directly or indirectly, a first pinion 7 (Fig. 1) which is positioned between the gear train support plate 6e and the motor support plate portion 6c, as seen in Figs. 3 and (particularly) Fig. 5. Gear 15 can be a sector gear which will cover a predetermined range of rotational movement of cam ring 14; a turning recess 44a and cam surface 44 are provided adjacent to each other on (a flat surface portion of) the gear. The cam ring is itself provided with zooming cam grooves 20 and 21 (see Fig. 7) which are used to engage the front and rear lens element groups, respectively.

50 Fig. 7 is a schematic or developed view of zooming cam grooves 20 and 21 of ring 14. Cam groove 21, used to engage the rear lens element group, includes an extreme wide angle fixing section 21a, a variable magnification section 21b inclined upwardly (as seen in Fig. 7) from section 21a, and an extreme telephoto fixing section 21c. Cam groove 20, used for the front lens element group, includes a section 20a for opening and closing barrier block 30, a lens retraction section 20b, an extreme wide angle fixing section 20c, a variable magnification section 20d, an extreme telephoto fixing section 20e, a macro transfer section 20f, and an extreme macro fixing section 20g.

When the term macro is used throughout this specification, it refers to a "close-up" photographing config-

uration for the camera. Previously, the term "macro" has occasionally been used to mean "bigger than life"; however, the term macro has been used throughout this specification as an equivalent term for close-up, and whenever it is used it should be taken to have such a meaning unless indicated to the contrary herein.

The total angle θ_1 of the rotational displacement of cam ring opening and closing section 20a, lens retraction section 20b, and extreme wide angle fixing section 20c of zooming cam groove 20 is identical to angle θ_1 of the extreme wide angle fixing section 21a of zooming cam groove 21. Angle θ_2 of the variable magnification, i.e., variable power, section 20d of zooming cam groove 20 is identical to angle θ_2 of the variable magnification i.e., variable power, section 21b of zooming cam groove 21. Further, the total angle θ_3 of the extreme telephoto fixing section 20e, the macro position fixing section 20g, and the macro transfer section 20f, is equal to the angle θ_3 of the extreme telephoto fixing section 21c. In the illustrated embodiment, the zooming range is between approximately 35mm and approximately 70mm.

A roller 17, as illustrated in both Figs. 6 and 8, is positioned within zooming cam groove 20; this roller is attached to a front lens group frame 16. A roller 19 of rear lens group frame 18 is positioned within zooming cam groove 21, again as illustrated in Figs. 6 and 8. Front lens group frame 16 and rear lens group frame 18 are movably guided by guide rods 12, and a decorative frame 22 and shutter block 23 are secured to the front lens group frame 16 via set screws 22a, as best seen in the exploded view of Fig. 8, as well as in the cross-sectional view of Fig. 6.

The front lens frame 24 which supports front lens element group L1 is engaged by shutter block 23 via helicoid 25, which is shown in Fig. 8. Front lens frame 24 includes an arm 24a which engages lens feeding lever 23a of shutter block 23 (see Fig. 6), so that when lens feeding lever 23a rotates in a circumferential direction in order to rotate front lens frame 24, the front lens frame will move along the direction of the optical axis of the photographing optical system under the guidance of helicoid 25. Rear lens element group L2 is directly attached to rear lens group frame 18, as seen in Fig. 6. One desired configuration of lens groups L1 and L2, as illustrated in Fig. 6, are disclosed in commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 935,982, filed on November 28, 1986, the disclosure of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein.

The structure of shutter block 23 is known per se. This shutter block rotates lens feeding lever 23a over a predetermined angular displacement in accordance with a detection signal which is received by the shutter block from the distance measuring device, as described hereinafter, via a pulse motor which is incorporated within the camera body and which is adapted to open shutter sector 23b, which has been closed for a predetermined time, and to thereafter return lens feeding lever 23a into its original position after the shutter has again closed. This type of shutter block is disclosed, e.g., in unexamined Japanese Published Patent Application (KOKAI) No. 60-235,126, dated November 21, 1985, the disclosure of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein. The present camera utilizes such a shutter block in the fundamental way disclosed therein.

Finder block 2 includes finder assembly 8 and strobe assembly 9. The finder device and the strobe device are adapted to vary, respectively, the field of finder view and the illumination angle, i.e., the intensity of the strobe, in accordance with variance in the focal length of the lens barrel block 1. Zooming motor 5 is used as a power source both for finder control and strobe control; only a single motor need therefore be used.

As seen in Fig. 1, sector gear 15 of cam ring 14 is engaged by a second pinion 50 which is different from the first pinion 7 referred to previously. Shaft 51, to which pinion 50 is attached, extends rearwardly towards the rear portion of base 6, and is provided with a reduction gear train 52 adjacent a rear end of the shaft. The reduction gear train includes a final gear 52a which meshes with a rack 53a of movable cam plate 53. This substantially flat cam plate 53 is slidable in right and left hand lateral directions, as viewed in Fig. 1, and includes a downwardly bent portion 53b at its rear end, as best shown in Fig. 1. Rack 53a is formed on the lower end of bent portion 53b of cam plate 53. Reduction gear train 52 is adapted to reduce rotation of gear 15 in order to restrict or limit the lateral movement of cam plate 53. The cam plate is provided with a variable power cam groove 55 for guiding movement of finder device 8, a parallax correction cam groove 56, and a strobe cam groove 57 for guiding movement of strobe device 9.

The lens system used in finder optical assembly 8 essentially comprises a object lens group L3, an eyepiece group L4, and a movable variable power lens group L5, and further comprises a deflection prism P1 which is used when the camera is placed into the macro or close-up mode.

Variable power lens group L5 makes the image picture size, which is adapted to vary in accordance with the variable power operation of lens barrel block 1, be coincident with the field of view in finder device 8. Deflection prism P1 will enter the optical path of the finder lens system only in the macro mode, in order to adjust parallax which otherwise occurs in such mode. Specifically, parallax which inevitably occurs when using lens shutter type of cameras will increase as the object whose picture is being taken approaches the camera; and, accordingly, a large parallax would normally result in the macro mode. In order to solve this problem and reduce the large parallax which otherwise occurs in the macro mode, deflection prism P1 is provided in the form of a wedge with a thicker lower end and a thinner upper end. Deflection prism P1, when located along the optical

axis of the finder optical system, serves to deflect rays downwardly in order to take a picture of a object which is located extremely close to the camera. Fig. 28 illustrates the optical path of light rays when the deflection prism P1 is located along the optical axis of the camera. As described hereinafter, the wedge prism which is used is preferably selected to be a double wedge prism, which varies in width in both the vertical and in the horizontal directions, as clearly illustrated in Figures 53A, B and C. The use of such a prism bends the light rays downwardly and rightwardly, to move them into substantial alignment with the photographic optical axis.

Strobe assembly 9 restricts or limits the illumination angle when the focal length of the photographing lens is large, namely, as the zoom lens is fed forwardly; and the strobe assembly 9 is moved to increase the illumination angle in the macro mode, in order to decrease the amount of light which reaches the object. In the embodiment illustrated, strobe device 9 includes a fixed Fresnel Lens L6, a movable concave reflector 59, and a xenon lamp 58 which can be moved along the direction of the optical axis of the strobe. Alternately, a simple strobe could be used in which the illumination angle would be fixed. Although such a strobe arrangement is possible, it is preferable to move the lamp in the optical axis direction in accordance with movement of the zoom lens in order to optimize the quantity of light given to a subject during photography, dependent upon the position occupied by the photographing optical system in the zoom lens.

Before looking in a detailed fashion at the distance measuring device of the present invention and its relationship to the macro function of the camera, the relationship between the distance of a object from the two lens group zoom lens and the displacement or forward feed of the zoom lens will be now be discussed.

Fig. 12 illustrates a relatively simple construction for a two lens group zoom lens. In such a construction, the distance of the object and the displacement of the zoom lens have a relationship as follows:

$$U = f_1 (2 + X/f_1 + f_1/X) + HH + \Delta \quad (1),$$

wherein:

U equals the distance of a object from the film plane;

f₁ equals the focal length of the first lens group;

X equals the displacement of the zoom lens;

HH equals the principal point distance; and

Δ equals the distance between the focal point of the first lens group and the focal point of the two lens group zoom lens.

From equation (1) it can be calculated that:

$$X = \{ -2f_1 - HH - \Delta + U - \sqrt{(2f_1 + HH + \Delta - U)^2 - 4f_1^2} \} / 2 \quad (2)$$

Fig. 13 illustrates the relationship between the distance U of a subject and the positional deviation (t) on a position detection element 4a, which forms a portion of the distance measuring device which detects the distance of a object from the film plane based upon the principle of triangulation.

The triangulation distance measuring device includes a light emitter 3 having a light source 3a and a light emitting lens 3b; and a light receiver 4 having a light receiving lens 4b and a position detection element 4a, e.g., a photo sensitive detector (hereinafter PSD). The rays of light emitted from light source 3a are reflected by the object, and the light reflected therefrom is received by position detecting sensor 4a in order to detect the distance of the object from the film plane F. Namely, the deviation (t) of the image on position detection sensor 4a, from a reference point represented by the position of an image of a object at an infinite distance, relative to distance U of the object from film plane f, is given by the following equation:

$$t = Lxf/(U - f - d) \quad (3),$$

in which:

L represents the base length of the distance measuring device;

f represents the focal length of the light receiving lens; and

d represents the distance between film plane F and the focal plane of the light receiving lens.

The deviation (t) can be detected by the electric current, i.e., output, of position detecting sensor 4a in accordance with the quantity of light received by position detecting sensor 4a, in a well known fashion. The photographing optical system of the camera is adjusted to form an image on a focal point of the image plane in accordance with the output signal, i.e., electric current, of position detecting sensor 4a, based upon equations (2) and (3), so that automatic focusing can be effected. The actuating or driving mechanism of the photographic optical system is noted above.

It is necessary to shift the range of measurement of the object distance by the distance measuring device towards a close subject distance side in order to achieve the macro function of the camera. In the macro mode, the photographing optical system is either partially or entirely displaced, from a standard picture taking position, towards the object to be taken, as is well known.

In the embodiment of Fig. 12, the first lens group of the photographing lens is moved forward, towards the object over a predetermined displacement, in the macro mode, independently of (and beyond) the displacement

effected by the automatic focusing device during normal photography.

Fig. 14 represents one mechanism for shifting the range of measurement of the subject distance in the macro mode in accordance with the present invention. In Fig. 14, a relatively conventional prism P having an apex angle of δ is inserted in front of light receiving lens 4b in order to shift the range of measurement of the object distance towards the object whose photograph is being taken. In other words, the zoom lens camera system uses a pivotable prism or wedge which is adapted to be positioned in front of light receiver 4.

Assuming, e.g., that the apex angle and the refractive index of prism P are δ and n , respectively, the deviation t_1 of the image on position detecting sensor 4a, with respect to the object distance U_1 , can be obtained as follows: firstly, the incident angle α of the rays of light on the plane of prism P adjacent to the subject is determined by the following equation:

$$\alpha = \tan^{-1} \{L/(U_1 - f - d)\} + \delta$$

Refraction angle β of the rays of light which are incident upon prism P having an apex angle δ at the incident angle α is determined by the following equation:

$$\beta = \alpha - \delta + \sin^{-1} [n \sin \{\delta - \sin(\alpha/n)\}],$$

and, therefore $\gamma = \alpha - \delta - \beta$.

Accordingly, deviation t_1 of the image on position detecting sensor 4a will be determined by $t_1 = f \times \tan \gamma$.

Object distance U_{mf1} , which is obtained when light which is coincident with the optical axis of light receiving lens 4b intersects the optical axis of light emitting lens 3b is determined as follows, provided that the thickness of prism P is negligible:

$$U_{mf1} = L/\tan \{\sin^{-1} (n \sin \delta) - \delta + f + d\}.$$

In one example, the present Applicants calculated the values of U , U_1 , t , t_1 , and $t-t_1$, in a camera in which the photographing optical system included a two lens group zoom lens, wherein: f_1 , i.e., the focal length of the first group, equals 24.68mm; HH (i.e., the principal point distance) equals 7.02mm; δ , i.e., the distance between the focal point of the first lens group and the focal point of the zoom lens, equals 30.04mm;

d , i.e., the distance between the film plane and the focal plane of the light receiving lens, equals 6.292mm; the displacement of the first group at the macro setting equals 0.5502mm. L , i.e., the base length of the distance measuring device, equals 30mm; f , i.e., the focal length of the light receiving lens, equals 20mm.; δ , i.e., the apex angle of the prism P, equals 2.826°; n , i.e., the refractive index of prism P, equals 1.483; the distance range which can be measured equals 0.973m~ infinity; and the number of steps of forward feeding movement of the zoom lens is 18, so that the range of 0.973m ~ 6m is divided into 17 forward feeding motion steps of the zoom lens. The results of these calculations are illustrated in Table 1 hereinbelow. In these calculations, the distance range of 0.973m~ 6m is shifted towards the range of 0.580m~ 1.020m.

In Table 1 hereinafter, step 17-18 represents a shifting point at which the 17th step changes to the 18th step; similarly, the step 0-1 represents a point of transfer between 0 and the first step.

TABLE 1
POSITIONS OF IMAGES ON THE POSITION DETECTING SENSOR
AT DIFFERENT SUBJECT DISTANCES

	<u>STEP NO.</u>	<u>U (m)</u>	<u>U₁ (m)</u>	<u>t (mm)</u>	<u>t₁ (mm)</u>	<u>t₁-t (mm)</u>
5	17-18	6.000	1.020	0.1004	0.1274	0.0270
	17	5.154	0.996	0.1170	0.1423	0.0253
10	16	4.027	0.951	0.1500	0.1719	0.0219
	15	3.310	0.911	0.1827	0.2013	0.0186
	14	2.814	0.875	0.2153	0.2305	0.0153
	13	2.450	0.841	0.2476	0.2595	0.0120
15	12	2.172	0.810	0.2797	0.2884	0.0087
	11	1.952	0.782	0.3115	0.3170	0.0055
	10	1.775	0.756	0.3432	0.3455	0.0023
20	9	1.628	0.732	0.3747	0.3738	-0.0009
	8	1.504	0.709	0.4059	0.4018	-0.0041
	7	1.399	0.688	0.4369	0.4298	-0.0072
	6	1.309	0.668	0.4678	0.4575	-0.0103
25	5	1.230	0.650	0.4984	0.4850	-0.0134
	4	1.161	0.633	0.5288	0.5124	-0.0165
	3	1.100	0.616	0.5591	0.5396	-0.0195
30	2	1.045	0.601	0.5891	0.5666	-0.0225
	1	0.996	0.587	0.6189	0.5934	-0.0255
	<u>0-1</u>	<u>0.973</u>	<u>0.580</u>	<u>0.6338</u>	<u>0.6068</u>	<u>-0.0270</u>

$$U_{mfl} = 1.283m$$

35

As can be seen from Table 1, an image deviation of 0.027mm occurs at the position detecting sensor 4a at the two extremities of the range of measurement of the object distance which can be measured, as a result of compensation by prism P. Such a deviation corresponds substantially to about 1 step, in the sense of the number of feeding steps of the zoom lens. Accordingly, it is not possible to move the photographic lens into a correct focal point by directly controlling displacement of the photographing optical system in response to the output of position detecting sensor 4a, thus resulting in an "out of focus" situation.

In other words, it is impossible to completely compensate for deviation in the images by using only prism P, since the rate of change of deviation t_1 of the image on position detecting sensor 4a with respect to object distance U_1 cannot be varied by prism P. The prism begins to compensate for the image deviation, but cannot alone do so.

In view of such results, the present inventors have found that complete compensation of such deviation can be achieved if the rate of deviation t_1 is adjusted by multiplying this rate by 1.1130 (calculated by dividing 0.5334 by 0.4794), which equals the change in t from step 0-1 to step 17-18 divided by the change in t_1 between step 0-1 and step 17-18, since decreases in the deviations t and t_1 between steps 17-18 and 0-1 are 0.5334mm and 0.4794mm, respectively. To this end, in the present invention, a macro mode compensating optical element is adapted to be selectively moved in front of the distance measuring optical system only when the camera is placed in the macro mode, in order to optically extend the base length between the light emitter and the light receiver of the distance measuring optical system, and in order to intersect the optical axis of the light emitter and the optical axis of the light receiver with a finite distance. Further, in this embodiment, an actuating mechanism is provided for moving the macro compensating optical element in front of the light receiver in coordination with transfer or movement of the photographing optical system, i.e., the zoom lens, from the normal photographic mode to the macro mode, as discussed in detail hereinafter.

Figure 9 illustrates an optical arrangement of the distance measuring device when in the macro mode, in the automatic focus camera of the present invention. In this figure, macro compensating element 4e comprises a prism 4c and a mask or frame 4d, rather than only the optical wedge of Fig. 14. Element 4e is moved in front of light receiving lens 4b of the distance measuring device when the camera is in the macro setting. In the normal photographic mode, element 4e is retracted away from the optical axis of light receiving lens 4b.

Prior to discussing the mechanical structure which is adapted to actuate the compensation element 4e, the actual construction of the macro compensating element 4e and the reasons why measurement accuracy can be improved or increased in the macro mode will be described in detail. The element includes a prism 4c which is adapted to optically extend the base length of the distance measuring device and to refract rays of light which enter the prism.

Figure 10 illustrates in detail prism 4c, mask 4d, and light receiving lens 4b. Figure 11 is a front elevational view of Figure 10; and both of these figures illustrate how mask or frame 4d is capable of intercepting rays of light out of the path of light approaching the prism. Mask 4d includes a front opening 4f which is shown in the form of a generally rectangular, elongated slot, on the (front) side of the frame located most closely adjacent to the object being photographed, and a rear opening 4g (see Fig. 10) on the side of the frame or mask most closely adjacent to light receiving lens 4b. Opening 4f is in the form of a slit spaced from optical axis O of light receiving lens 4b by a distance (1) which is measured on the opposite side of the optical axis from light emitting lens 3b. Rear opening 4g is also in the form of a elongated slit, which is substantially located along the optical axis O of light receiving lens 4b.

When prism 4c, together with mask 4d, move in front of light receiving lens 4b, i.e., when the camera is in the macro mode, a first lens group of the photographic lens is fed forwardly by a constant displacement, independently of the displacement of the lens which is fed forwardly during the normal photographic mode by the automatic focusing device. As best seen in Figs. 9 and 10, when prism 4c is located in front of light receiving lens 4b, the range of measurement of the distance of the object can be shifted to the macro mode range. Prism 4c serves to move light incident thereon in a parallel fashion, over a displacement (1) in the direction of the base length, so that base length L can be optically extended to equal the distance (L+1).

Assuming that the angle and the refractive index of prism 4c are δ_1 , and n, respectively, and that the parallel displacement of light by prism 4c is represented by the distance (1), deviation t2 of the image on position detecting element 4a, as viewed with respect to the object distance U2, can be obtained as hereinafter detailed.

The incident angle of light on the plane of prism 4c which is adjacent to the object is provided by the following equation:

$$\alpha_1 = \tan^{-1} \{(L + 1)/(U2 - f - d)\} + \delta_1.$$

This equation indicates that the base length of the triangulation distance measuring device is extended from L to (L+1) by the insertion of prism 4c in front of the light receiving lens 4b. The refraction angle β_1 of light which is incident upon a prism having an angle δ_1 , which light is incident upon the prism at an incident angle of α_1 , is calculated in accordance with the following equation:

$$\beta_1 = \alpha_1 - \delta_1 + \sin^{-1}[\sin \delta_1 - \sin(\alpha_1/n)],$$

and, therefore: $\gamma_1 = \alpha_1 - \delta_1 - \beta_1$.

Accordingly, deviation t2 of the image on position detecting sensor 4a is equal to $f \times \tan \gamma_1$, i.e., $t2 = F \times \tan \gamma_1$.

The object distance Umf2 which is obtained when light coincident with the optical axis of light receiving lens 4b intersects the optical axis of light emitting lens 3b is yielded by using the following equation, provided that the thickness of prism 4c is negligible:

$$Umf2 = (L + 1)/\tan \{\sin^{-1}(n \times \sin \delta_1) - \delta_1\} + f + d.$$

In operation, it is possible to automatically focus the camera within any zooming range, including the macro setting of the camera, by actuating previously discussed shutter unit 23 in accordance with the output signals, i.e., the measurement data, which are sent by position detecting sensor 4a. Specifically, when driving pulses are applied to the pulse motor of shutter unit 23 in accordance with the measurement data which has been received from detecting sensor 4a, a lens actuating or feeding lever 23a, as seen in Fig. 8, rotates over an angle corresponding to the driving pulses which it has received in order to rotate front lens frame 24 together with it. As a result of this rotation of front lens frame 24, the front lens element group L1 is moved along the direction of the photographing optical axis, via the action of helicoid 25, in order that focusing of the photographic lens assembly will be automatically effected.

Lens barrel block 1 rotates cam ring 14 when zooming motor 5 is driven. Rotation of cam ring 14 causes roller 17 of front frame 16 to engage the extreme macro position fixing section 20g of cam groove 20, i.e., roller moves into section 20g from macro transfer section 20f of cam ring 14, so that front lens element group L1 will be fed further forwardly to move into position for macro mode operation of the camera.

As clearly seen in Figs. 1 and 2, macro compensating element 4e is secured to a free end of a flexible

compensation or correcting flag 42, which is pivoted at its base end to camera base plate 6 via a shaft 41 located below light receiver 4. Flag 42 is normally retained in a substantially straight position when no external force is applied to the flag, and is elastically deformed whenever an external force is applied to the flag. Also attached to shaft 41, and having a pointed surface directed away from the flag, is a projection 43, which can
 5 either be formed integrally with the flag and attached to shaft 41, or which can be formed separately from the flat and attached to shaft 41 at a central bore of the projection. The macro compensating element 4e is continuously and rotatably biased into a retracted position in which it is retracted away from the optical axis of light receiver 4 by a tension spring 46, as illustrated in Fig. 2. As seen in Fig. 2 and (better) in Fig. 1, cam ring 14 includes a projection 44 on sector gear 15 (or on the cam ring) which engages flag projection 43 in order
 10 to move macro compensating optical element 4e into the optical axis of the distance measuring device and in front of light receiver 4 whenever the cam ring 14 rotates to the macro setting position. As shown in Fig. 1, a substantially semi-cylindrical recess (or other recess configuration) 44a is provided on the gear 15 adjacent to the camming surface or projection 44. This recess is provided to facilitate the pivoting or rotating motion of flag projection 43 as the cam ring rotates. In other words, recess 44a is necessary to facilitate turning movement of the projection and hence pivoting or rotating motion of optical element 4e into the position illustrated in dotted lines in Fig. 2, in front of light receiver 4. Alternately, ring 14 or gear 15 can be formed with a smaller diameter in order to provide sufficient pivoting room for projection 43. Camming projection 44, which effects, via its engagement with projection 43, rotational or advancing motion of macro compensating optical element 4e, is positioned and configured so that the optical element will be rotated slightly past the position in which the element would be aligned with the optical axis of light receiver 4. However, the flat end of the element 4e which most closely approaches support plate 6e which is integrally attached to base 6, is adapted to engage the left hand side surface of plate 6e (as seen in Fig. 2) via a shock absorbing nub or button 4g, shown in both Figs. 1 and 2. Accordingly, over rotational motion of element 4e which is effected by projection 44 will be absorbed both by the flexible flag 42, which is formed from a resilient plastic, rubber, or other resilient material and/or the provision of nub 4g, which will serve to engage the side edge of plate 6e.
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Thus, when cam ring 14 moves into the macro setting position, the macro compensating optical element 4e can automatically be brought into alignment with the optical axis of the light receiver, into a position in front of the light receiver, in order to optically extend the base length between the light emitter 3 and the light receiver 4.
 30

The finder optical system is best illustrated in Figures 1 and 15-20.

The finder optical system is designed not only to vary magnification between a wide field of view with a small magnification, and a narrow field of view with a large magnification, in accordance with the zooming operation of the photographing lens system, but also to provide a field of view having less parallax when the camera is used in its macro mode.

One significant feature of the present invention is that the finder optical system is capable of automatically moving in association with both zooming of the photographic lens and movement of the photographic lens into a macro setting in order to satisfy all of the requirements of a finder system as set forth immediately above. While conventional finders appear to provide a plurality of bright frames with different sizes in the field of view of the finder, this is not a satisfactory solution to the problems noted above, e.g., the use of such frames alone will not minimize parallax in a macro operational mode such as that used in the present camera.
 40

Under such circumstances, and in accordance with the present invention, a finder optical device is provided in a lens shutter type of camera having a zoom lens which essentially comprises an improved inverted Galilean finder. In other words, the finder optical system of the present invention includes a first lens group having a negative refracting power which comprises a positive lens in the form of a fixed lens L3 and a movable negative lens in the form of a variable power lens L5, a second lens group having a negative lens L4-1 which is one lens in a fixed eyepiece group L4, and a third lens group having a positive refracting power lens L4-2 which defines a second lens in the fixed eyepiece lens group L4. A prism P1 is adapted to be selectively moved between the positive lens L3 and the negative lens L5 of the first lens group in order to refract rays of light towards the optical axis. The negative lens L5 of the first group can be displaced from a position adjacent to the object towards a position which is adjacent to a photographer's eye in order to vary the magnification from a wide field of view having a small magnification to a narrow field of view having a large magnification. Prism P1, selectively brought into alignment with the optical axis of the finder optical system, serves to decrease the parallax when the photographic optical system is in the macro setting and when the negative lens L5 of the first group moves closest to the eye of the photographer along the optical axis.
 50

The negative lens L5 of the first group is movable, as noted above, so that it will move from a position which it is located adjacent to the object into a position in which it is more closely adjacent to the eye of a photographer, in order to increase the focal length of the photographic optical system during the normal zooming operation, so that magnification can be varied from a wide field of view having a small magnification to a narrow
 55

field of view having a large magnification. When a picture is taken in the macro (beyond telephoto) mode with a narrow field of view and large magnification, a prism is inserted between the movable lens L5 and stationary lens L3 in order to decrease parallax, so that light will be refracted towards the location of the axis of the photographic optical system.

5 Enough room is provided for the prism to pivot upwardly for macro focusing, i.e., thereby creating a need to move the lens L5 a relatively large distance, as shown in Figs. 16A and 17A, in order to insert the prism P1 therein in a pivotable or rotatable fashion.

On advantage of the system is that it incorporates only a single moving lens L5, rather than zooming a plurality of lenses or the entire finder optical lens system and having to thereafter compensate for such zooming movement of all of the lenses. This serves to simplify the zooming cam plate structure, as movement of only 10 a single lens will suffice to change the magnification of finder image.

Fixed viewing frames are provided in order to avoid having to make a viewing adjustment. The two rear eyepiece lens groups L4-1 and L4-2 which include the frames are fixed, and the curvatures of their respective surfaces are controlled so that the reflected frames will have a desired magnification which is compatible with 15 the image magnification over the entire range of zooming operation of the photographic lens.

The apex angle or angles of the selectively insertable prism are defined by the resultant angles in the horizontal and vertical directions, in accordance with the positions of the optical finder system and the photographic optical system. The prism can be a single wedge prism, or can be a double wedge shaped prism, as illustrated in Figs. 53A, 53B, and 53C, which illustrate a double wedge prism P1' which is advantageous because it is 20 capable of bending light downwardly and rightwardly towards the optical axis of the photographic optical system.

As illustrated in Figs. 18, 19 and 20, double wedge prism P1 has a surface which increases, when viewed from the top in the direction of arrow A (see Figs. 18 and 19) and which also increases from the left hand to the right hand direction, as viewed from the front of the camera from the photographing optical axis, and as 25 shown by arrow B (Figs. 18 and 20). In the example illustrated, the angle $\angle H$ can be 2.8° , the angle $\angle V$ can be 4.2° , the angle $\angle H'$ could be 4.2° , and the angle $\angle V'$ could be 5.0° .

The wedge prism is adapted to be inserted between the first convex single lens element L3 and the movable concave single lens element L5 in a rotatable fashion. This permits the finder unit to be made compactly and allows the prism to be inserted between these two elements. The viewing distance of the false image of 30 an object and the bright frames remain stationary throughout the zooming range of the photographic lens, and parallax compensation is provided by moving the prism between the lenses in the macro or close up picture taking mode. The viewing magnification or size of the bright frame images is also maintained constant throughout the zooming range of the photographic lens, as well as in the macro setting, due to the placement of the bright frames on the stationary lens element L4-2. The distance between the eye of a viewer and the image 35 distance, i.e., the diopter of the finder, virtually does not vary, because the zooming concave lens element moves over an image magnification of 1x, or, i.e., is life size.

Parallax compensation in the macro or close up picture taking mode is effected by positioning the wedge prism between the lens elements, as well as by the use of the compensation framing marks illustrated in Fig. 52 (which is the normal means of parallax compensation in a close focusing mode in viewfinder type cameras). 40 The edges of the wedge prism are tinted green to highlight the frame that illustrates the photographic area in the macro or close-up mode.

Theoretically, the prism could be located in front of the first lens group; however, by so arranging the prism, it would increase the overall size of the finder optical system. The prism cannot, however, be located between the second and third lens groups, because if it were inserted between these groups, the positions of the bright 45 frame and of the virtual image of the subject could vary in accordance with movement of the prism. However, when the prism is retractably inserted between the positive lens and the negative lens of the first lens group, as is the case in the present invention, the prism is free from such problems, and virtually no change in dioptric power to the virtual image of the subject will occur.

An example of a finder optical system formed in accordance with the present invention will now be discussed: 50

Figs. 15A, 15B, 16A, 16B and 17A, 17B illustrate different positions of a embodiment of a finder device formed in accordance with the present invention. Fig. 15A illustrates the finder optical system when it is providing a wide field of view with a small magnification; Fig. 16A illustrates this finder system when it is providing a narrow field of view with a large magnification; and Fig. 17A illustrates the finder system whenever it is providing a narrow field of view with large magnification and when it is in the macro mode, respectively. Figs. 15B, 16B and 17B, respectively, are views illustrating the aberrations of the finder lens system in the positions of 55 Figs. 15A, 16A and 17A, respectively.

This finder optical system includes a positive single lens L3 and a negative single lens 15 which form the

first lens group; a negative single eyepiece lens L4-1 which forms the second lens group; and a positive single eyepiece lens L4-2 forming the third lens group; together with a selectively positionable prism P1. Among all of these optical elements, only the negative single lens L5 is movable along the direction of the optical axis, and prism P1 is selectively movable into alignment with this optical axis; all of the other lenses remain stationary.

Tables 3 and 4 which follow illustrate the curvatures r , the distances d , the refractive indexes N_d and Abbe's numbers μ_d of the opposite side faces of optical elements L3, L5, L4-1, L4-2, and P1 (Table 4 only), respectively. As shown in the following tables 3 and 4, each of features r , d , N_d and μ_d are designated by any one of numbers 1-8 and 1-10, respectively, as viewed from the side of the positive single lens L3 which is closest to the subject, i.e., from the left hand portion of the figures towards the eye or right hand portion of the figures.

Table 3 represents the position of the lens when it is in its wide field of view, small magnification position (0.38x) and when it is in its narrow field of view, large magnification position (0.70x), and Table 4 illustrates the position of the lens when it is in the macro mode. The apex angles of prism P1 used in this mode, when it is in a double wedge prism are, e.g., 2.8° in horizontal section and 4.2° in vertical section.

The bright frame which defines the picture taking range is applied to surface A of the positive single lens L4-2 of the third lens group which is most closely adjacent to the subject being photographed, and the surface B of the negative single lens L4-1 of the second lens group which is most closely adjacent to the photographers eye is semi-transparent. As a result, a virtual image of the bright frame applied to face A of the positive single lens L4-2 is formed and reflected by face B, and is thereafter enlarged and viewed through the positive single lens L4-2, again as discussed previously.

TABLE 3

No.	r	d	N_d	$\sqrt{d}$
1	30.800	4.50	1.49186	57.4
2	-2221.231	0.50 (0.38x) ~ 15.80 (0.70x)		
3	55.555	1.21	1.49186	57.4
4	9.680	18.30 (0.38x) ~ 3.00 (0.70x)		
5	-8.327	1.00	1.60311	60.7
6	50.845	7.33		
7	∞	2.23	1.60311	60.7
8	-11.780			

TABLE 4

No.	r	d	N_d	$\sqrt{d}$
1	30.800	4.50	1.49186	57.4
2	-2221.231	1.70		
3	∞	2.70	1.49186	57.4
4	∞	11.40		
5	55.555	1.21	1.49186	57.4
6	9.680	3.00		
7	-8.327	1.00	1.60311	60.7
8	50.845	7.33		
9	∞	2.23	1.60311	60.7
10	-11.780			

As illustrated in Fig. 17A, the finder optical device of the present invention preferably satisfies the following conditions:

(1) $0.3 < dP < 0.5$;

(2) $f1+ < 1.8$; and (3) $0.45 < f3/LD < 0.7$; wherein:

LD = the total length of the finder;

dP = the distance between the face of lens L3 which is most closely adjacent to prism P1 and the face of lens L5 which is most closely adjacent to prism P1;

f1+ = the focal length of the positive lens of the first lens group, and f3 = the focal length of the third lens group.

These criteria are useful and helpful to enable prism P1 to be retractably inserted between the movable lens L3 of the first lens group and the negative lens L5 of the first lens group and to minimize the effective diameter of the prism when it is brought into alignment with the optical axis.

The first condition, i.e., $0.3 < dP < 0.5$ is based upon the fact that if the value of dP exceeds the noted upper limit, the effective diameter of the lens L3 will become large, making it difficult to provide a compact camera as does the present invention; to the contrary, if the value of dP was < 0.3 , it would become extremely difficult to smoothly and easily rotate prism P1 so that it would come into alignment with, and be capable of retracting away from, the optical axis in a position between lenses L3 and L5.

Conditions 2 and 3, in which $f1+ < 1.8$, and $0.45 < f3/LD < 0.7$, are provided to minimize the effective diameter of prism P1. The second criteria noted above is substantially equivalent to setting or establishing the focal length FR of the lens system which is positioned rearwardly of prism P1 when the prism is in alignment with the finder optical axis. Namely, if f1+ exceeds its noted upper limit of 1.8, the effective diameter of the prism will become large, thereby resulting in difficulty in realizing a compact prism and finder.

Condition three is basically equivalent to a requirement for the third lens group located rearwardly of the prism. Namely, if f3/LD is less than the lower limit of 0.45, the tolerance of the system will become quite small. To the contrary, if the value of f3/LD exceeds the upper limit of 0.7, the effective diameter of the prism will increase.

The values of dP, f1+, and f3/LD in the embodiment above will now be listed; all of these values are set to satisfy conditions 1, 2 and 3 noted above.

dP	0.45
f1+	1.76
f3/LD	0.56

The driving mechanism which serves to actuate finder optical assembly 8 and strobe assembly 9 is best illustrated in Figs. 21-30.

A mother plate 60 is attached to a finder block 54 which is mounted to base plate 6 via horizontal support plate extension 6b. The mother plate is provided with guide pins 62 integrally attached to the mother plate and which are adapted to fit within a substantially linear guide groove 61 of cam plate 53. Sliding motion of cam plate 53 is in the lateral direction, with respect to the optical axis of the camera, and is restricted by the engagement between guide grooves 61 and guide pins 62; and a guide projection or flange 60a (shown in both Figs. 21 and 22) is formed integrally with mother plate 60 and serves to prevent cam plate 53 from floating or moving away from the front surface of the mother plate, particularly at the front end of cam plate 53 where the flange engages the cam plate.

Finder mother plate 60 includes a variable power lens guide groove 63, a deflection prism guide groove 64, and a strobe assembly guide groove 65. Each of these guide grooves extends parallel to the photographic optical axis of the camera. A guide projection 66a of variable finder lens frame 66, which carries the variable finder power lens group L5, is fitted within variable power lens guide groove 63. Guide projection 67a of deflection prism actuating plate 67 is slidably positioned or fitted within deflection prism guide groove 64; and guide projection 68a of strobe assembly case 68, which casing has a concave reflector 59 attached thereto, is fitted or positioned within strobe guide groove 65.

Variable power lens frame 66, deflection prism actuating plate 67, and strobe assembly case 68, together move in a direction which is parallel with respect to the optical axis, along the respective guide grooves. Guide projections 66a, 67a, and 68a are provided with driven pins 69, 70 and 71, which fit within the variable power cam groove 55, the parallax compensating cam groove 56, and the strobe cam groove 57, respectively. Accordingly, when cam plate 53 moves laterally, variable power lens frame 66, reflection prism actuating plates 67, and strobe case 68 move along the respective camming grooves 55, 56 and 57.

The sections of the variable power cam groove 55, parallax compensating cam groove 56, and strobe cam groove 57 correspond to sections of zooming cam grooves 20 and 21 of cam ring 14 which have been illustrated in Fig. 7 and described with respect thereto. Specifically, the variable power cam groove 55 includes an extreme wide angle fixing section 55a, a variable power section 55b, and an extreme telephoto fixing section

55c, with the angles $\varnothing_1$, $\varnothing_2$ and $\varnothing_3$, respectively, of these three sections corresponding to the similar angles in the cam ring Fig. 7. The parallax compensating cam groove 56 includes a non-projecting section 56a, a projecting movement section 56b, i.e., a forward feed section used for the macro mode, and a projected position fixing section 56c, i.e., an extreme macro fixing section. Strobe cam groove 57 includes an extreme wide angle fixing section 57a, a variable power section 57b, an extreme telephoto fixing section 57c, a macro feeding section 57d, and an extreme macro fixing section 57e. The relationship between cam grooves 55, 56 and 57, and zooming cam grooves 20 and 21, is best illustrated in the schematic or plan view illustrated in Fig. 32.

The variable power lens frame 66 which supports the variable power lens group L5 is movably supported along guide face 54a of finder block 54 so that frame 66 will hang therefrom, as best illustrated in Fig. 25. The frame can be formed, e.g., from a resin which can slide with respect to the finder block in a substantially frictionless fashion. When variable power lens frame 66 moves along variable power cam groove 55, magnification of the finder optical system, including lens group L3, eye piece group L4, and variable power lens group L5, will vary, so that the photographic range over which lens barrel block 1 moves will be substantially coincident with the field of view of the finder.

The deflection prism actuating plate 67 is illustrated in Figs. 26-28, and is hereinafter described in greater detail.

Deflection prism P1, which is formed of synthetic resin, is rotatably supported by finder block 54 via two lower opposed prism support pins 74 of the prism. These supporting pins include torsion springs 75 which surround them, with one end of each spring bearing against a respective abutment 76 which abutments are provided along the side faces of deflection prism P1, so that the deflection prism will be continuously biased into a position in which the prism P1 moves into alignment with the optical axis of finder lenses L3-L5. Abutment 76 are located in arc-shaped grooves 79 formed in finder block 54, as best illustrated in Figs. 26-28. The deflection prism actuating plate 67 is held between finder block 54 and a guide plate 80 (see Fig. 25) connected to finder block 54 so that a guide pin 81 which is positioned on the side face of finder block 54 will fit within linear guide groove 82 of guide plate 80.

Position restricting abutments 76 on the prism can be engaged by a stop surface 77 and a guiding surface 78 of deflection prism actuating plate 67; further, the prism abutments 76 can come into contact with an end surface of the groove 79 in plate 67 (see Fig. 27). Deflection prism actuating plate 67 serves to retract the deflection prism from the optical path of lenses L3-L5, against the bias of springs 75, when pin 70 is located in the non-projection section 56a of parallax compensating cam groove 56, insofar as the rotation preventing face 77 of the plate will move into engagement with abutment 76 (see Fig. 26). When pin 70 moves into the projecting movement section 56b, guide surface 78 will move into a butting contact with abutment 76, so that deflection prism P1 will rotate into a position in which it is in alignment with the finder system optical axis with the help of torsion spring 75. During such movement, abutments 76 move on and along face 78, and deflection prism P1 will gradually move into the optical path, as illustrated in Figs. 27 and 28, so that the optical path of the finder will be deflected downwardly by prism P1, as illustrated by the arrow in Fig. 28. As a result of this movement, a subject which is otherwise located below the finder optical axis will come into the camera field of view, and parallax in the macro mode of the camera will be decreased. It is even further decreased, as noted above, when a double wedge prism (Fig. 53A) is used to deflect the finder optical axis downwardly and (rightwardly) towards the optical axis of the photographing optical system.

A guide block 85 is provided along the side face of strobe case 68 and is fitted within a linear guide groove 84 which is parallel to the optical axis of the camera which is formed in guide plate 80, as illustrated in Fig. 30. Further, height adjusting pins 86 (see Figs. 23 and 29) are provided on the upper and lower faces of strobe case 68 and are adapted to prevent the strobe case from falling downwardly. The strobe case 68 moves along strobe cam groove 57 when cam plate 53 moves in the lateral direction. Variable power section 57b of strobe cam groove 57 is adapted to move xenon lamp 58 rearwardly, away from Fresnel lens L6. Rearward movement of the xenon lamp 58 causes the illumination angle of light emitted from Fresnel lens L6 to decrease so as to substantially increase the guide number in accordance with an increase in the focal length. To the contrary, in macro feeding section 57d, the illumination angle is increased, and the guide number is therefore substantially decreased in the macro mode.

The light interception mechanisms are best illustrated in Figs. 6 and 31 of the present application.

In a lens shutter type of camera as described herein, the front and rear lens element groups can be independently moved along the photographing optical axis direction in order to effect a lens zooming operation. Since a gap exists between the front lens group frame 16 and the rear lens group frame 18, and since cam ring 14, which includes through cam grooves 20 and 21 for actuating movement of lens frames 16 and 18, is located about the outer peripheries of the lens frames, the possibility exists that undesirable light rays would otherwise penetrate into the photographic optical system of the camera through the gap between the front and rear lens group frames and through the cam grooves 20 and 21. The front cover 200 covers the front face

of lens barrel block 1 and supports lenses L3 and L6 of the finder as well as strobe block 2. Opening 201 is formed along and defined by an inner flange 202 of front cover 200, so that the movable decorative frame 22, i.e., which includes the front group lens frame 16, will move through opening 201 when the camera is in its zooming operation. An annular space 203 having a relatively small width W is provided between inner flange 202 and front stationary plate 13. The front stationary plate is substantially annular in configuration.

In order to prevent rays of light from penetrating into the camera, as noted above, a light intercepting mechanism has been provided. Specifically, a light intercepting assembly 210 which comprises a plurality of sections is provided about the outer periphery of cam ring 14 and is adapted to cover through or continuous cam grooves 20 and 21 in order to intercept rays of light and prevent them from entering the interior of lens barrel block 1. In the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 31, intercepting assembly 210 comprises a gear ring 15, a flexible code plate 90 which is adjacent to gear member 15 along one side of the gear member, and a light intercepting tape 211 which extends on the opposite side of the gear member 15. In other words, the annular gear member is located between the flexible code plate 90 which is wrapped about lens barrel block 1 over cam grooves 20 and 21, and the light tape 211, which is also flexible and which is wrapped about the lens barrel block so that it covers cam grooves 20 and 21.

Code plate 90 is provided to detect the angular position of cam ring 14 in order to automatically detect a change in the focal length of the zoom lens, a change of the F number which will vary in accordance with the changing focal length of the zoom lens, the extreme wide angle position of the zoom lens, the extreme telephoto position of the zoom lens, the collapsed position of the zoom lens, the extreme macro position of the zoom lens, e.g., in order to effect a variety of controls which are disclosed in detail hereinafter with respect to the mechanism for detecting the position of the zoom lens and for deciphering information relating to the position of the zoom lens.

Code plate 90 is formed from a flexible material having a light intercepting property. Intercepting tape 211 comprises a flexible material also having such a property, e.g., a dull-finish black paper. The code plate and the intercepting (paper) tape are applied to the cylindrical outer surface of cam ring 14, along opposite sides of gear member 15, in order to cover the major portions of zooming cam grooves 20 and 21. Gear 15 is preferably superimposed or overlapped over the side edges of the code plate and the intercepting tape in order to ensure the interception of rays of light, as illustrated in Fig. 6.

An annular light intercepting member 220 which forms an additional portion of the light intercepting assembly is provided in annular space 203, which is defined by the space between front stationary plate 13, which rotatably supports the front portion of cam ring 14, and front cover 200, as best seen in Fig. 6.

With such a light intercepting mechanism, undesirable light rays will not enter the camera lens system through the circumference of the front lens group frame 16 and/or the rear lens group frame 18, nor through the front annular opening between the lens barrel and camera cover.

As noted previously, in a lens shutter camera formed in accordance with the present invention, the photographic optical system is moved along the optical axis by the rotation of cam ring 14, so that the focal length of the photographic optical system will vary, and so that the optical system will move from one extreme angular position of the cam ring into the macro setting position, and from the other extreme angular position of the cam ring into a lens (totally) collapsed position. In such a lens shutter type of camera, which includes a zoom lens, it is necessary, e.g., to detect the focal length of the photographic optical system, the macro setting position, and the two extreme positions of the cam ring in order to indicate the focal length, to control the exposure which varies in accordance with the F number, and to control the direction of rotation of the motor which drives the cam ring.

In the present invention, the above information, i.e., relating to the focal length and the two extreme positions of the zoom lens, can easily be detected by code signals on the single flexible code plate 90 which is provided on cam ring 14. Specifically, code plate 90, as illustrated in Fig. 32, is provided on cam ring 14 (which is shown in Fig. 1) and is brought into sliding contact with a brush 92 (Fig. 32) which is secured at its base end to a stationary frame 91 positioned on the outside of cam ring 14. This is well illustrated in Fig. 1.

Fig. 32 illustrates the developed code plate 90, in a flattened condition, in which the upper half of the drawing illustrates the cam profiles of zooming cam groove 20 and 21 of cam ring 14, and cam grooves 55, 56 and 57 of cam plate 53, respectively. Brush 92 includes a common terminal C and independent (bristles) terminals T0, T1, T2, and T3. When each of terminals T0-T3 is electrically connected to the conductive lands 93 of code plate 90, a signal "0" is issued, and when each of the terminals T0-T3 are not electrically connected to conductive lands 93, a signal "1" is issued. The angular position of cam ring 14 can be detected by the combination of signals "0" and "1". A plurality of dummy terminals 94 are formed in conductive lands 93. The purpose of the dummy terminals, which are formed from the same material as conductive lands 93, is that the flexible code plate bent about the cam ring, and in order to improve the physical strength of the plate and still provide an area without electrical contact the dummy terminals were so positioned to increase flexibility while preserv-

ing strength. Additionally, these dummy terminals provide (non-conductive) lands upon which the terminals T0-T3 of the brush can ride as the cam ring is rotated.

The four bit information received from terminals T0-T3 are provided as zoom code data ZP0, ZP1, ZP2, and ZP3, respectively, of a zoom code encoder, as is clearly illustrated in Fig. 33. This figure comprises a table of combinations of signals "0" and "1", in which the angular position, i.e., POS, of cam ring 14 is divided into 13 steps between "0" and "9", and "A", "B", and "C", respectively, which are hexadecimal numbers. The number "0" designates a locked position, and the "C" position designates a position in which the camera is in its macro mode. Between the locked position and the macro position, there are nine focal length positions f0-f7'. The locked position and the macro position correspond to the two extreme angular positions of the cam ring 14. Zooming motor 5 is controlled so that the cam ring 14 will not rotate beyond the two extreme positions. These angular or rotational positions are shown on the code plate in Fig. 32.

Rotation of cam ring 14 is controlled by a mode changing switch and a zoom switch in accordance with positional information of cam ring 14 as determined by code plate 90.

Mode changing switch and zoom switch actuate the camera of the present invention as detailed hereinafter. In actual use, positional information relating to the position of cam ring 14 which is indicated by code plate 90 will be used.

1. For the LOCK position of the mode changing switch 101, zooming motor 5 is reversed to rotate cam ring 14. When the angular position POS of cam ring 14 becomes "0" (see Figs. 32 and 33) as detected by code plate 90 and brush 92, zooming motor 5 will stop rotating.

2. For the MACRO position of the mode changing switch, zooming motor 5 rotates in the forward direction and stops rotating when POS reaches the "C" position.

3. For the ZOOM position of the mode changing switch, zooming motor 5 reverses when zoom switch is in the WIDE position, and rotates in the forward direction when the zooming switch is in the TELE position. Zooming motor 5 will stop rotating when POS reaches the "A" position, when the zoom switch is in the TELE position. When the zoom switch is in its WIDE position, zooming motor 5 will continue reversing for a predetermined short span of time after POS reaches the "1" position. After this time, zooming motor 5 will begin rotating in a forward direction and will stop rotating when POS becomes 2.

When zoom switch is turned to the OFF, i.e., neutral, position, during rotation of zooming motor 5, the zooming motor will immediately stop rotating when the zoom switch is in the TELE position, and will stop after it rotates in the forward direction for a predetermined short period of time when it is in the WIDE position, respectively.

Details of several of the positions will now be described.

POS 1: Since the code signals change at the LOCK position and at the extreme WIDE position, these extreme positions are detected. More precisely speaking, the LOCK position is not "POS 0", but is instead a point which is located between POS 0 and POS 1. However, when the camera is in the LOCK position, the brush is in POS 0, in a location very close to POS 1. Similarly, the WIDE extreme position is a point between POS 1 and POS 2. However, when the camera is in the extreme WIDE position, (which is not a wide zone), brush 92 is in POS 2, which is very close to POS 1. Accordingly, POS 1 denotes a range in which the cam ring 14 moves from the extreme WIDE position to the LOCK position, and vice versa.

POS f7': This zone is provided for absorbing the backlash of cam ring 14 (i.e., backlash from movement of the lens system). Specifically, as illustrated in Fig. 33, during rotation of the cam ring from POS 0 towards POS C, the cam ring will stop immediately when a stop signal is given, i.e., when the zoom switch is turned to an off position. To the contrary, rotation of the cam ring from POS C towards POS 0 causes the cam ring 14 to reverse slightly after it overruns its desired position by a predetermined displacement, and then stops the cam ring at a first changing POS point. POS f7' is the extreme TELE position, and, accordingly, when cam ring is in its extreme TELE position (with the TELE zone being a zone in which the cam ring operates at the TELE exposure), the brush will be located at position POS A, which is very close to POS 9. The focal length information or the F number information are fed to the shutter by the code plate and the brush. Accordingly, the same focal length information is fed at the TELE zone and the TELE extreme positions. This is the reason that POS 9 is represented by f7 and POS A is represented by f7' in order to distinguish it from f7. The zone f7' is quite small, and accordingly the zone f7' can essentially be considered identical to the extreme TELE position.

POS B: In a fashion similar to POS 1, this zone is provided to distinguish the extreme MACRO and TELE positions. Unlike POS 1, in which the WIDE extreme position is a changing point between POS 1 and the WIDE extreme position, and POS B is an extreme TELE position representing changing points between POS 9 and POS A, respectively.

POS 2 = POS A: These are intermediate focal length positions which comprise a plurality, e.g., 9 in the illustrated embodiment, steps.

The CPU then checks the code information and the setting positions for the various switches when they are turned into their ON positions. If the mode changing switch is in a zoom position, no zooming will be necessary when the cam ring is in any position between and including POS 2 and POS A. If, however, the mode changing switch is in a position other than the zoom position, i.e., in either the LOCK position, an intermediate position between LOCK and WIDE, an intermediate position between TELE and MACRO, or the MACRO position, zooming operation of the lens will be immediately effected. This is also true when the switch is brought into the zoom position during rotation of the zooming motor in the forward direction and when the switch is brought into the zoom position during reverse rotation of the zooming motor. Specifically, when in the zoom position, whether the zoom code is within the range between and including POS 2 to POS A (within which range zooming is effected) will be checked by the CPU. If the zoom code is out of the range, no picture can be taken, and, accordingly, the cam ring will be moved into the zooming position. In other words, POS 1 and POS B are areas in which the cam ring is prohibited from stopping and in which a picture cannot be taken.

15 Claims

1. A camera having a finder optical assembly (8) with an optical axis, said finder optical assembly (8) comprising first optical means (L5) for varying the field of view of said finder optical assembly (8), a photographic optical assembly (1) with a different optical axis, said photographic optical assembly (1) comprising a zoom lens (L1, L2), driving means (5, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24) for driving said zoom lens (L1, L2) including at least one gear (15) rotatable so as to result in linear movement of said zoom lens (L1, L2) along the optical axis of said photographic optical assembly (1), and means (50, 51, 52, 52a, 53) for driving said first optical means (L5) in association with the movement of said zoom lens (L1, L2) in order to associate the fields of view of said zoom lens (L1, L2) and of said finder optical assembly (8), characterized in that the camera has a strobe assembly (9) comprising second optical means (59) for varying the illumination angle of said strobe assembly, and a cam mechanism (53) being arranged such that the rotary movement of said gear (15) is coupled to said second optical means (59) and also to said first optical means (L5) in order to associate the field of view of said zoom lens (L1, L2) and said finder optical assembly (8) and the illumination angle of said strobe assembly (9).
2. A camera in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a motor (5) for driving said zoom lens (L1, L2).
3. A camera in accordance with claim 2, wherein the driving means (5, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24) for driving said zoom lens (L1, L2) comprises a generally cylindrical, rotatable cam ring (14) positioned about said zoom lens (L1, L2) and driven by said motor (5).
4. A camera in accordance with claim 3, wherein the at least one gear (15) is a sector gear (15) and is attached to the outer periphery of said cam ring (14).
5. A camera in accordance with claim 3 or 4, wherein said zoom lens includes a front lens group (L1) and a rear lens group (L2), said cam ring (14) having a front lens group cam groove (21) and a rear lens group cam groove for slidably receiving pins (17, 19) attached to frames (16, 18) for each of said lens groups.
6. A camera in accordance with claim 3, 4 or 5, wherein said sector gear (15) extends over more than 180° about said ring (14).
7. A camera in accordance with one of the claims 3 to 6, further comprising a first pinion (7) attached to a shaft (5a) of said motor (5), said first pinion (7) engaging said at least one gear (15) to rotatably drive said cam ring (14).
8. A camera in accordance with one of the claims 1 to 7, further comprising a second pinion (50) engaging said at least one gear (15), said gear (15) comprising means for rotatably driving said second pinion (50).
9. A camera in accordance with claim 8, further comprising at least two additional gears (52, 52a) driven by rotation of said second pinion (50).
10. A camera in accordance with one of the foregoing claims, wherein said means (50, 51, 52, 53) for driving said first optical means (L5) comprises a movable cam plate (53) and means (50, 51, 52, 52a) for moving said cam plate (53) in a linear fashion in response to rotation of said at least one gear (15).



The CPU then checks the code information and the setting positions for the various switches when they are turned into their ON positions. If the mode changing switch is in a zoom position, no zooming will be necessary when the cam ring is in any position between and including POS 2 and POS A. If, however, the mode changing switch is in a position other than the zoom position, i.e., in either the LOCK position, an intermediate position between LOCK and WIDE, an intermediate position between TELE and MACRO, or the MACRO position, zooming operation of the lens will be immediately effected. This is also true when the switch is brought into the zoom position during rotation of the zooming motor in the forward direction and when the switch is brought into the zoom position during reverse rotation of the zooming motor. Specifically, when in the zoom position, whether the zoom code is within the range between and including POS 2 to POS A (within which range zooming is effected) will be checked by the CPU. If the zoom code is out of the range, no picture can be taken, and, accordingly, the cam ring will be moved into the zooming position. In other words, POS 1 and POS B are areas in which the cam ring is prohibited from stopping and in which a picture cannot be taken.

15 Claims

1. A camera having a finder optical assembly (8) with an optical axis, said finder optical assembly (8) comprising first optical means (L5) for varying the field of view of said finder optical assembly (8), a photographic optical assembly (1) with a different optical axis, said photographic optical assembly (1) comprising a zoom lens (L1, L2), driving means (5, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24) for driving said zoom lens (L1, L2) including at least one gear (15) rotatable so as to result in linear movement of said zoom lens (L1, L2) along the optical axis of said photographic optical assembly (1), and means (50, 51, 52, 52a, 53) for driving said first optical means (L5) in association with the movement of said zoom lens (L1, L2) in order to associate the fields of view of said zoom lens (L1, L2) and of said finder optical assembly (8), characterized in that the camera has a strobe assembly (9) comprising second optical means (59) for varying the illumination angle of said strobe assembly, and a cam mechanism (53) being arranged such that the rotary movement of said gear (15) is coupled to said second optical means (59) and also to said first optical means (L5) in order to associate the field of view of said zoom lens (L1, L2) and said finder optical assembly (8) and the illumination angle of said strobe assembly (9).
2. A camera in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a motor (5) for driving said zoom lens (L1, L2).
3. A camera in accordance with claim 2, wherein the driving means (5, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24) for driving said zoom lens (L1, L2) comprises a generally cylindrical, rotatable cam ring (14) positioned about said zoom lens (L1, L2) and driven by said motor (5).
4. A camera in accordance with claim 3, wherein the at least one gear (15) is a sector gear (15) and is attached to the outer periphery of said cam ring (14).
5. A camera in accordance with claim 3 or 4, wherein said zoom lens includes a front lens group (L1) and a rear lens group (L2), said cam ring (14) having a front lens group cam groove (21) and a rear lens group cam groove for slidably receiving pins (17, 19) attached to frames (16, 18) for each of said lens groups.
6. A camera in accordance with claim 3, 4 or 5, wherein said sector gear (15) extends over more than 180° about said ring (14).
7. A camera in accordance with one of the claims 3 to 6, further comprising a first pinion (7) attached to a shaft (5a) of said motor (5), said first pinion (7) engaging said at least one gear (15) to rotatably drive said cam ring (14).
8. A camera in accordance with one of the claims 1 to 7, further comprising a second pinion (50) engaging said at least one gear (15), said gear (15) comprising means for rotatably driving said second pinion (50).
9. A camera in accordance with claim 8, further comprising at least two additional gears (52, 52a) driven by rotation of said second pinion (50).
10. A camera in accordance with one of the foregoing claims, wherein said means (50, 51, 52, 53) for driving said first optical means (L5) comprises a movable cam plate (53) and means (50, 51, 52, 52a) for moving said cam plate (53) in a linear fashion in response to rotation of said at least one gear (15).



11. A camera in accordance with claim 10, wherein said cam plate (53) comprises a rack (53a) attached to a flat portion of said cam plate (53), said rack (53a) extending downwardly from said flat cam plate portion in a substantially perpendicular fashion.
- 5 12. A camera in accordance with claim 11, wherein said cam plate (53) includes a plurality of camming grooves (55, 56, 57).
13. A camera in accordance with one of the claims 10 to 12, said finder optical assembly and said strobe assembly each including at least one pin (69, 71) extending outwardly therefrom, said cam plate (53) including means (55, 57) for engaging said pins (69, 71).
- 10 14. A camera in accordance with claim 10, 11, 12 or 13, wherein said cam plate (53) is connected (50, 51, 52, 52a, 53a) to said at least one gear (15) so that movement of said gear (15) moves said platelike member (53).
- 15 15. A camera in accordance with one of the claims 5 to 14, wherein only said front lens group (L1) zooms in order to focus said camera.
16. A camera in accordance with one of the claims 5 to 15, wherein both of said lens groups (L1, L2) are capable of moving over different linear displacements.
- 20 17. A camera in accordance with one of the foregoing claims, wherein said finder optical assembly (8) comprises a plurality of stationary lenses (L3, L4) and at least one movable lens assembly (L5) positioned between at least two of said stationary lenses (L3, L4-1).
- 25 18. A camera in accordance with one of the foregoing claims, wherein said finder optical assembly further comprises a prism (P1) and means (56, 70) for selectively moving said prism (P1) into a position along the optical axis of said finder optical assembly (8).
- 30 19. A camera in accordance with one of the foregoing claims, wherein said movable strobe assembly (9) comprises a zooming strobe lamp (58) and a concave reflector (59), said lamp (58) and said reflector (59) being movable rearwardly in association with forward motion of said zooming lens (L1, L2) and forwardly in association with rearward motion of said zooming lens (L1, L2).
- 35 20. A camera in accordance with one of the claims 2 to 17, wherein said motor (5) is positioned above said lens (L1, L2).
21. A camera in accordance with claim 20, further comprising an object distance measuring assembly (3, 4).
- 40 22. A camera in accordance with claim 21, wherein an optical element (4e) is selectively pivotably movable in front of said distance measuring assembly 3, 4).
23. A camera in accordance with claim 21 or 22, wherein said distance measuring assembly (3, 4) comprises a light receiver (4) and a light emitter (3) on opposite sides of said motor (5).
- 45 24. A camera in accordance with one of the foregoing claims, further comprising a preferably flexible code plate (90) which is slideably engaged by a plurality of conductive brushes (92), wherein free ends of said brushes (92) selectively contact said code plate (90) in accordance with zooming movement of said zoom lens (L1, L2).
- 50 25. A camera in accordance with claim 2, wherein the zoom lens driving means (5, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24) includes a motor driven cam mechanism (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21) for moving the photographic optical system (1, L1, L2) in a zoom range (20d, 21b), thereby varying the focal length of said optical system (1, L1, L2) and for moving said optical system (1, L1, L2) to and from an accommodating position (20a, 20b, 21a) where lenses (L1, L2) of said photographic optical system (1) are in a position behind said zoom range (20e, 21b),
characterized in that a code plate (90) is provided with an area (Pos2 to PosA) for obtaining focal length information of said optical system (1) and with a detecting area (Pos1) for detecting a transient state (20b) from said zoom range (20d, 21b) to said accommodating position (20a, 21a) and that the driving of said cam mechanism (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21) cannot be stopped when said detecting area (Pos1) sig-
- 55



nalises a position of the optical system in said transient state (20b, 21a).

Patentansprüche

- 5
1. Eine Kamera, die eine optische Sucheranordnung (8) mit optischer Achse und mit einem ersten optischen Element (L5) zum Variieren des Gesichtsfeldes der optischen Sucheranordnung (8) hat, eine Aufnahmeobjektiv-Anordnung (1) mit abweichender optischer Achse hat, die ein Varioobjektiv (L1, L2), eine Antriebsvorrichtung (5, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23 und 24) zum Antreiben des Varioobjektivs (L1, L2) mit mindestens einem Zahnrad (15), das in geeigneter Weise drehbar ist, um eine Linearbewegung des Varioobjektivs (L1, L2) entlang der optischen Achse der Aufnahmeobjektivanordnung (1) zu bewirken und eine Vorrichtung (50, 51, 52, 52a, 53) zum Antreiben des ersten optischen Elementes (L5) in Übereinstimmung mit der Bewegung des Varioobjektivs (L1, L2) umfaßt, um die Gesichtsfelder des Varioobjektivs (L1, L2) und der Sucheranordnung (8) in Übereinstimmung zu bringen, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Kamera eine Blitzanordnung (9) hat mit einem zweiten optischen Element (59) zum Variieren des Ausleucht winkels der Blitzanordnung sowie einem Nockenmechanismus (53), der derart angeordnet ist, daß eine Drehbewegung des Zahnrades (15) an das zweite optische Element (59) angekoppelt ist und außerdem an das erste optische Element (L5), um das Gesichtsfeld des Varioobjektivs (L1, L2) und das der Sucheranordnung (8) sowie den Ausleucht winkel der Blitzanordnung (9) in Übereinstimmung zu bringen.
- 10
2. Kamera nach Anspruch 1, gekennzeichnet durch einen Motor (5) zum Antreiben des Varioobjektivs (L1, L2).
- 15
3. Kamera nach Anspruch 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Antriebsvorrichtung (5, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24) zum Antreiben des Varioobjektivs (L1, L2) einen im wesentlichen zylindrischen, drehbaren, um das Varioobjektiv (L1, L2) angeordneten und durch den Motor (5) angetriebenen Nockenring (14) umfaßt.
- 20
4. Kamera nach Anspruch 3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das mindestens eine Zahnrad (15) ein Sektorzahnrad ist und am äußeren Umfang des Nockenringes (14) befestigt ist.
- 25
5. Kamera nach Anspruch 3 oder 4, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Varioobjektiv eine vordere Linsengruppe (L1) und eine rückwärtige Linsengruppe (L2) enthält, daß der Nockenring (14) eine Nockennut (21) für die vordere Linsengruppe und eine Nockennut für die rückwärtige Linsengruppe hat, um an den Rahmen (16, 18) der jeweiligen Linsengruppen befestigte Stifte (17, 19) aufzunehmen, wobei eine Gleitbewegung zugelassen ist.
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6. Kamera nach Anspruch 3, 4 oder 5, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Sektorzahnrad (15) sich über mehr als 180° um den Ring (14) erstreckt.
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7. Kamera nach einem der Ansprüche 3 bis 6, gekennzeichnet durch ein an einer Welle (5a) des Motors (5) befestigtes erstes Ritzel (7), das mit dem mindestens einen Zahnrad (15) in Eingriff steht, um den Nockenring (14) zu einer Drehbewegung anzutreiben.
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8. Kamera nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 7, gekennzeichnet durch ein zweites Ritzel (50), das mit dem mindestens einen Zahnrad (15) in Eingriff steht, wobei das Zahnrad (15) ausgestaltet ist, um das zweite Ritzel (50) zu einer Drehbewegung anzutreiben.
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9. Kamera nach Anspruch 8, gekennzeichnet durch mindestens zwei zusätzliche Zahnräder (52, 52a), die durch das Drehen des zweiten Ritzels (50) angetrieben werden.
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10. Kamera nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Vorrichtung (50, 51, 52, 52a, 53) zum Antreiben des ersten optischen Elementes (L5) eine bewegliche Nockenplatte (53) umfaßt und eine Vorrichtung (50, 51, 52, 52a), um infolge der Drehung des mindestens einen Zahnrades (15) die Nockenplatte (53) linear zu bewegen.
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11. Kamera nach Anspruch 10, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Nockenplatte (53) eine an einem flachen Teil der Nockenplatte (53) angebrachte Zahnstange (53a) hat, wobei die Zahnstange (53a) sich von dem



flachen Nockenplattenteil im wesentlichen rechtwinklig abwärts gerichtet erstreckt.

12. Kamera nach Anspruch 11, dadurch **gekennzeichnet**, daß die Nockenplatte (53) eine Vielzahl von Nockennuten (55, 56, 57) enthält.
- 5 13. Kamera nach einem der Ansprüche 10 bis 12, dadurch **gekennzeichnet**, daß die optische Sucheranordnung und die Blitzanordnung jeweils mindestens einen daraus herausragenden Stift (69, 71) enthält und daß die Nockenplatte (53) Mittel (55, 57) enthält, um in Eingriff mit diesen Stiften (69, 71) auf diese einzuwirken.
- 10 14. Kamera nach Anspruch 10, 11 oder 13, dadurch **gekennzeichnet**, daß die Nockenplatte (53) derart mit dem mindestens einen Zahnrad (15) in Verbindung steht (50, 51, 52, 52a, 53a), daß eine Bewegung dieses Zahnrades (15) die Nockenplatte (53) bewegt.
- 15 15. Kamera nach einem der Ansprüche 5 bis 14, dadurch **gekennzeichnet**, daß nur die vordere Linsengruppe (L1) eine Variobewegung ausführt, um die Kamera zu fokussieren.
16. Kamera nach einem der Ansprüche 5 bis 15, dadurch **gekennzeichnet**, daß die beiden Linsengruppen (L1, L2) über unterschiedliche Entfernungen linear bewegt werden können.
- 20 17. Kamera nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, dadurch **gekennzeichnet**, daß die optische Sucheranordnung (8) eine Vielzahl von feststehenden Linsen (L3, L4) enthält und mindestens eine bewegliche Linsenanordnung (L5), die zwischen mindestens zwei der feststehenden Linsen (L3, L4-1) angeordnet ist.
- 25 18. Kamera nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, dadurch **gekennzeichnet**, daß die optische Sucheranordnung außerdem ein Prisma (P1) enthält und Mittel (56, 70) zum wahlweisen Bewegen des Prismas (P1) in eine Stellung entlang der optischen Achse der optischen Sucheranordnung (8).
- 30 19. Kamera nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, dadurch **gekennzeichnet**, daß die bewegliche Blitzanordnung (9) eine eine Variobewegung ausübende Blitzlampe (58) enthält und einen Konkavreflektor (59), und daß die Lampe (58) und der Reflektor (59) in Übereinstimmung mit einer Vorwärtsbewegung des Varioobjektivs (L1, L2) in Rückwärtsrichtung bewegbar sind und in Übereinstimmung mit einer Rückwärtsbewegung des Varioobjektivs (L1, L2) in Vorwärtsrichtung bewegbar sind.
- 35 20. Kamera nach einem der Ansprüche 2 bis 17, dadurch **gekennzeichnet**, daß der Motor (5) oberhalb des Objektivs (L1, L2) angeordnet ist.
21. Kamera nach Anspruch 20, **gekennzeichnet** durch eine Objektabstandsmeßanordnung (3, 4).
- 40 22. Kamera nach Anspruch 21, dadurch **gekennzeichnet**, daß ein optisches Element (4e) wahlweise vor die Abstandsmeßanordnung (3, 4) schwenkbar ist.
23. Kamera nach Anspruch 21 oder 22, dadurch **gekennzeichnet**, daß die Abstandsmeßanordnung (3, 4) einen Lichtempfänger (4) und einen Lichtemitter (3) enthält, die auf gegenüberliegenden Seiten des Motors (5) angeordnet sind.
- 45 24. Kamera nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, **gekennzeichnet** durch eine vorzugsweise flexible Codeplatte (90), mit der eine Vielzahl von leitfähigen Kontaktbürsten (52) gleitend in Eingriff stehen, wobei die freien Enden der Kontaktbürsten (52) die Codeplatte (90) wahlweise in Übereinstimmung mit der Variobewegung des Varioobjektivs (L1, L2) kontaktieren.
- 50 25. Kamera nach Anspruch 2, wobei die Antriebsvorrichtung (5, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24) zum Antreiben des Varioobjektivs einen motorgetriebenen Nockenmechanismus (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21) zum Bewegen des optischen Aufnahmesystemes (1, L1, L2) innerhalb eines Variobereiches (20d, 21b) enthält, um damit die Brennweite des optischen Systemes (1, L1, L2) zu variieren und das optische System (1, L1, L2) in einer Aufbewahrungsstellung, in der Linsen (L1, L2) des optischen Aufnahmesystemes (1) sich in einer hinter dem Variobereich (20e, 21b) befindlichen Position befinden hinein und aus dieser heraus zu bewegen (20a, 20b, 21a), dadurch **gekennzeichnet**, daß eine Codeplatte (90) mit einer Zone (Pos2 bis PosA) versehen ist, um Brennweiteninformationen des optischen Systemes
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(1) zu erhalten und mit einem Erfassungsbereich (Pos1) zum Erfassen eines Übergangszustandes (20b) von dem Variobereich (20d, 21b) zu der Aufbewahrungsstellung (20a, 21a) und daß das Antreiben des Nockenmechanismus (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21) nicht angehalten werden kann, wenn der Erfassungsbereich (Pos1) eine Stellung des optischen Systemes innerhalb dieses Übergangszustandes (20b, 21a) signalisiert.

Revendications

1. Appareil photo comportant un module optique de viseur (8) avec un axe optique, ledit module optique de viseur (8) comprenant un premier moyen optique (L5) pour faire varier le champ de vision dudit module optique de viseur (8), un module optique de photographie (1) avec un axe optique différent, ledit module optique de photographie (1) comprenant un objectif zoom (L1, L2), un moyen d'entraînement (5, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24) pour entraîner ledit objectif zoom (L1, L2) comprenant au moins un engrenage (15) mobile en rotation de manière à provoquer un déplacement rectiligne dudit objectif zoom (L1, L2) suivant l'axe optique dudit module optique de photographie (1) et un moyen (50, 51, 52, 52a, 53) pour entraîner ledit premier moyen optique (L5) en association avec le déplacement dudit objectif zoom (L1, L2) afin d'associer les champs de vision dudit objectif zoom (L1, L2) et dudit module optique de viseur (8), caractérisé en ce que l'appareil photo comporte un module de flash (9) comprenant un second moyen optique (59) pour modifier l'angle d'éclairement dudit module de flash, et en ce qu'un mécanisme à cames (53) est agencé de telle façon que le mouvement de rotation dudit engrenage (15) est couplé audit second moyen optique (59) et également audit premier moyen optique (L5) afin d'associer le champ de vision dudit objectif zoom (L1, L2) et dudit module optique de viseur (8) et l'angle d'éclairement dudit module de flash (9).
2. Appareil photo selon la revendication 1, qui comprend en outre un moteur (5) pour entraîner ledit objectif zoom (L1, L2).
3. Appareil photo selon la revendication 2, dans lequel le moyen d'entraînement (5, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24) pour entraîner ledit objectif zoom (L1, L2) comprend une bague à cames mobile en rotation (14), globalement cylindrique, placée autour dudit objectif zoom (L1, L2) et entraînée par ledit moteur (5).
4. Appareil photo selon la revendication 3, dans lequel ledit au moins un engrenage (15) est un engrenage sectoriel (15) et est fixé à la périphérie extérieure de ladite bague à cames (14).
5. Appareil photo selon la revendication 3 ou 4, dans lequel ledit objectif zoom comprend un groupe de lentilles avant (L1) et un groupe de lentilles arrière (L2), et dans lequel ladite bague à cames (14) comporte une rainure de came de groupe de lentilles avant (21) et une rainure de came de groupe de lentilles arrière pour recevoir de manière coulissante des ergots (17, 19) fixés aux montures (16, 18) de chacun desdits groupes de lentilles.
6. Appareil photo selon la revendication 3, 4 ou 5, dans lequel ledit engrenage sectoriel (15) s'étend sur plus de 180° autour de ladite bague (14).
7. Appareil photo selon l'une des revendications 3 à 6, comprenant en outre un premier pignon (7) fixé à un arbre (5a) dudit moteur (5), ledit premier pignon (7) étant en prise avec ledit au moins un engrenage (15) pour entraîner en rotation ladite bague à cames (14).
8. Appareil photo selon l'une des revendications 1 à 7, comprenant en outre un second pignon (50) en prise avec ledit au moins un engrenage (15), ledit engrenage (15) comprenant un moyen pour entraîner en rotation ledit second pignon (50).
9. Appareil photo selon la revendication 8, comprenant en outre au moins deux engrenages supplémentaires (52, 52a) entraînés par rotation dudit second pignon (50).
10. Appareil photo selon l'une des revendications précédentes, dans lequel ledit moyen (50, 51, 52, 53) pour entraîner ledit premier moyen optique (L5) comprend une plaque à cames mobile (53) et un moyen (50, 51, 52, 52a) pour déplacer ladite plaque à cames (53) d'une façon rectiligne en réponse à la rotation dudit



au moins un engrenage (15).

- 5 11. Appareil photo selon la revendication 10, dans lequel ladite plaque à cames (53) comprend une crémaillère (53a) fixée à une partie plate de ladite plaque à cames (53), ladite crémaillère (53a) s'étendant vers le bas à partir de ladite partie plate de plaque à cames de façon sensiblement perpendiculaire.
12. Appareil photo selon la revendication 11, dans lequel ladite plaque à cames (53) comprend une pluralité de rainures formant cames (55, 56, 57).
- 10 13. Appareil photo selon l'une des revendications 10 à 12, dans lequel ledit module optique de viseur et ledit module de flash comprennent chacun au moins un ergot (69, 71) s'étendant vers l'extérieur de ceux-ci, ladite plaque à cames (53) comprenant un moyen (55, 57) pour coopérer avec lesdits ergots (69, 71).
14. Appareil photo selon la revendication 10, 11, 12 ou 13, dans lequel ladite plaque à cames (53) est reliée (50, 51, 52, 52a, 53a) audit au moins un engrenage (15) de sorte que le mouvement dudit engrenage (15) déplace ledit élément en forme de plaque (53).
- 15 15. Appareil photo selon l'une des revendications 5 à 14, dans lequel seul ledit groupe de lentilles avant (L1) se déplace pour mettre au point ledit appareil photo.
- 20 16. Appareil photo selon l'une des revendications 5 à 15, dans lequel les deux groupes de lentilles (L1, L2) sont capables de se déplacer dans des plages de déplacement rectiligne différentes.
17. Appareil photo selon l'une des revendications précédentes, dans lequel ledit module optique de viseur (8) comprend une pluralité de lentilles fixes (L3, L4) et au moins un module de lentille mobile (L5) placé entre au moins deux desdites lentilles fixes (L3, L4-1).
- 25 18. Appareil photo selon l'une des revendications précédentes, dans lequel ledit module optique de viseur comprend en outre un prisme (P1) et un moyen (56, 70) pour déplacer de manière sélective ledit prisme (P1) dans une position suivant l'axe optique dudit module optique de viseur (8).
- 30 19. Appareil photo selon l'une des revendications précédentes, dans lequel ledit module de flash (9) mobile comprend une lampe de flash de changement de plan (58) et un réflecteur concave (59), ladite lampe (58) et ledit réflecteur (59) étant mobiles vers l'arrière en association avec le déplacement vers l'avant dudit objectif zoom (L1, L2) et vers l'avant en association avec le déplacement vers l'arrière dudit objectif zoom (L1, L2).
- 35 20. Appareil photo selon l'une des revendications 2 à 17, dans lequel ledit moteur (5) est situé au-dessus dudit objectif (L1, L2).
- 40 21. Appareil photo selon la revendication 20, comprenant en outre un module de mesure de distance d'objet (3, 4).
22. Appareil photo selon la revendication 21, dans lequel un élément optique (4e) est mobile de manière à pouvoir pivoter de manière sélective devant ledit module de mesure de distance (3, 4).
- 45 23. Appareil photo selon la revendication 21 ou 22, dans lequel ledit module de mesure de distance (3, 4) comprend un récepteur de lumière (4) et un émetteur de lumière (3) situés de chaque côté dudit moteur (5).
- 50 24. Appareil photo selon l'une des revendications précédentes, comprenant en outre une plaque de codage (90) de préférence souple, qui est contactée de manière coulissante par une pluralité de balais conducteurs (92) dans lequel les extrémités libres desdits balais (92) contactent de manière sélective ladite plaque de codage (90) en fonction du déplacement de changement de plan dudit objectif zoom (L1, L2).
- 55 25. Appareil photo selon la revendication 2, dans lequel le moyen d'entraînement d'objectif zoom (5, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24) comprend un mécanisme à came entraîné par moteur (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21) pour déplacer le système optique de photographie (1, L1, L2) dans une plage de changement de plan (20d, 21b), en modifiant ainsi la distance focale dudit système optique (1, L1, L2) et pour déplacer ledit système optique (1, L1, L2) vers et à partir d'une position de rangement (20a, 20b, 21a)



dans laquelle les lentilles (L1, L2) dudit système optique de photographie (1) sont dans une position hors de ladite plage de changement de plan (20e, 21b) ;

caractérisé en ce qu'une plaque de codage (90) est pourvue d'une zone (Pos2 à PosA) pour obtenir l'information de distance focale dudit système optique (1) et d'une zone de détection (Pos1) pour détecter un état transitoire (20b) allant de ladite plage de changement de plan (20d, 21b) à la ladite position de rangement (20a, 21a) et en ce que l'entraînement dudit mécanisme à cames (14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21) ne peut pas être arrêté lorsque ladite zone de détection (Pos1) signale une position du système optique dans ledit état transitoire (20b, 21a).

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