using the viewfinder

KODAK SERVICE LEAFLET No. 3

Thanks to modern films and cameras, it is easy now for everyone to take good pictures. It is, nevertheless, still necessary to take care when framing a subject in the viewfinder—if you don't do this properly, the result may be a loss of part of the subject in the final picture.

Parts of the subject may also be "lost" through masking when prints or duplicate transparencies are made. This is another good reason for keeping important features in your pictures away from the edges of the viewfinder frame.

This leaflet tells you how to use the viewfinder correctly. Follow these suggestions and always be certain of well-framed pictures of the subject you want.

KODAK LIMITED LONDON

YOU AND YOUR VIEWFINDER

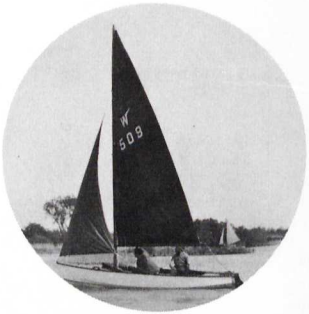
If your camera has inside the viewfinder a bright-line frame that outlines the picture area, hold the camera so that you can see all four sides of the frame. Compose the subject within this frame and take the picture.

If your camera has an ordinary viewfinder, with no bright lines, bring the rear aperture of the viewfinder just close enough to your eye for you to see all four edges of the front viewfinder frame. Compose the subject within this frame and take the picture.

Remember that if you decide to move the camera a little whilst composing the picture, move your head and camera together *as one unit. In this way, you can be sure that your eye is still correctly lined up with the viewfinder.*

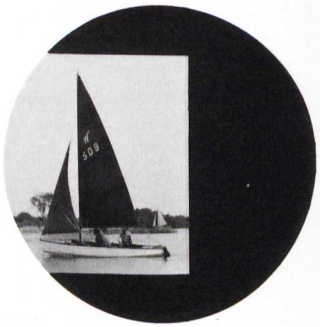
Bright-line viewfinder

Eye too far away— what you see



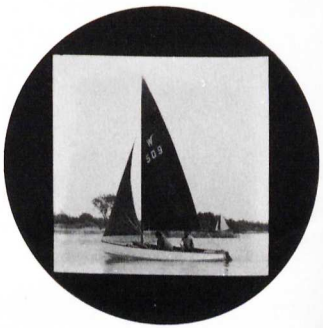
What you take

Eye off-centre— what you see



What you take

Eye correct— what you see



What you take

SHOOTING PICTURES CLOSE-UP

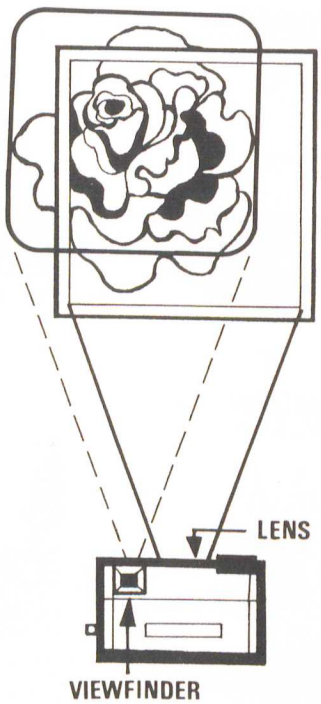
With most cameras, the lens is separate from the viewfinder (the exception is a single-lens reflex camera, and the owner of one of these need read no further). This separation between the lens and viewfinder means that they do not "see" quite the same view. This is called parallax. The difference between the two views for most subjects taken at normal distances is insignificant, but in close-ups (anything taken at less than 4 feet from the camera) the separation must be taken into consideration.

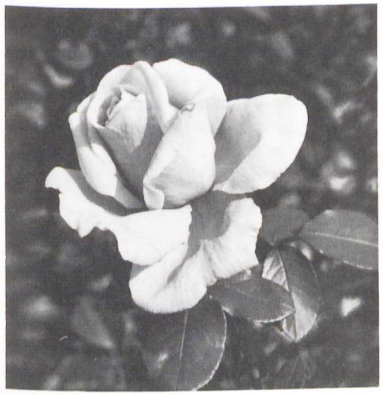
Some cameras have viewfinders which are specially marked to make it easier to allow for parallax. How to do this is explained in the camera instruction booklet.

To allow for parallax with other cameras, first look at the position of the viewfinder relative to the lens. The viewfinder is either directly over the lens, or above the lens and a little to one side. Depending on where it is positioned, read the appropriate section of the following.

Viewfinder to one side of lens

This sketch shows how the view "seen" by the viewfinder can differ from the view "seen" by the lens, when the lens is below the viewfinder and to one side.
The lens "sees" a lower view of the subject and a little more of one side. To correct for this, just frame the subject normally, then swing the camera *slightly* upwards and a *little* to one side (right or left according to whether the viewfinder is to the right or left of the lens respectively).





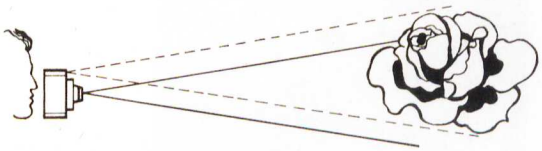
What the viewfinder "sees"

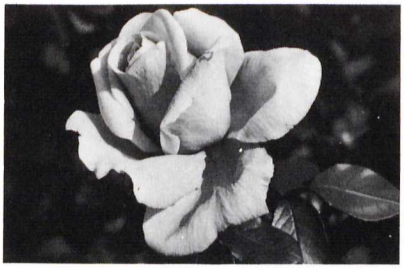
What the lens "sees"

What the viewfinder should "see" for correct framing

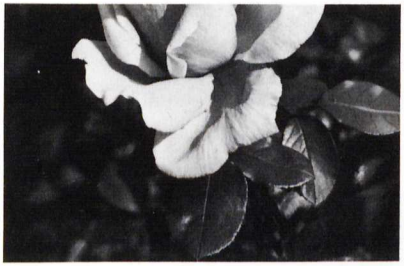
Viewfinder directly over lens (horizontal pictures)

You can see from this sketch how the view seen through the viewfinder can differ from the view "seen" by the lens. The lens is lower than the viewfinder, so it "sees" a lower view of the subject. Because of this, you must swing the camera *up* a little after framing the subject. The amount should never be more than the distance between the viewfinder and camera lens.

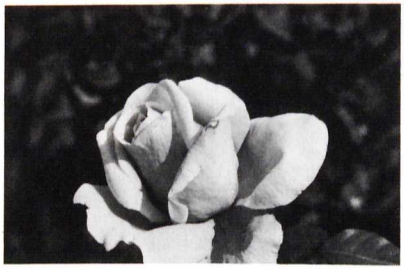




What the viewfinder "sees"



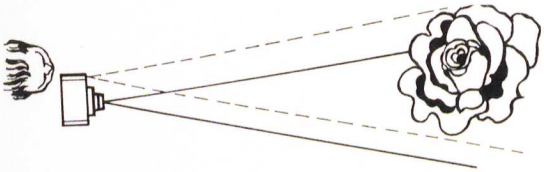
What the lens "sees"



What the viewfinder should "see" for correct framing

Viewfinder directly over lens (vertical pictures)

If the camera is used on its side (for vertical pictures), the viewfinder "sees" more of one side of the subject than the lens. The sketch shows what happens. To correct for this, just frame the subject normally, then swing the camera *a little* in the direction of the viewfinder. So, if the viewfinder is to the left of the lens, swing the camera a little to the left.



What the viewfinder "sees"

What the lens "sees"

What the viewfinder should "see" for correct framing

With cameras taking square pictures (e.g. INSTAMATIC Cameras) there is, of course, no need to turn the camera on its side.

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