

Tom's Argus Meter\* Mini Display Handout  
 Argus Tenth Anniversary Gathering  
 Eden, North Carolina  
 May 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> 2011



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1. Argus Photar Meter. Introduced in 1939 under license from Weston but unclear who actually manufactured it, IRC or Weston. Selenium based, calculator dial on back.
2. Vest Pocket Extinction Meters. Introduced later in 1939. Sold for 25 cents with a leather holder. Relatively accurate but general opinion is they were issued as a promotional item.
3. The Horvex 2 is included in this display as a reference. Argus outsourced the manufacture of their L3 line to Metrawatt of Nuremberg Germany. With small cosmetic changes the L3 is nearly identical to the Horvex 2.
4. The Horvex Booster Cell is included as a reference to the Argus Booster Cell (12) as a comparison. Also made by Metrawatt.
5. After many years of an absence in the market of an Argus meter, in 1955 Argus introduced the Model 600 L3 meter. Manufactured for Argus by the Metrawatt Company of Germany. This variation<sup>1</sup> is almost a reverse copy of the Horvex 2. A black plastic body opposed to the ivory, crème<sup>2</sup> colored body of the Horvex. The meter needle is black on a white background the opposite of the Horvex's white needle on a black background. The Argus logo is in a large typeface (font) on the calculator dial.
6. The Argus variation of the Booster Cell, black plastic housing compared to the Horvex ivory, crème color.
7. Argus Model L3 2<sup>nd</sup> variation. Identical to the original except a smaller Argus typeface. The needle remains black with a white background.
8. Argus Model L3 3<sup>rd</sup> variation. Identical to the 2<sup>nd</sup> except the needle is now white against a black background and exactly the same as the later model Horvex 2 in footnote 2.
9. Argus Model L3 4<sup>th</sup> variation. In 1958 Argus completely redesigned the L3 to a simpler match needle style. For some reason Argus kept the L3 designation yet the model number was changed to Model 609. This was the last of the Argus hand held exposure meters.
10. The CC (ColorCamera) was introduced in 1940. The CC meter is included here as it was removable from the camera, presumably for off camera readings. The CC meter could not be used independently as its calculator dial was built into the back of the ColorCamera.
11. The L44 Model 603 was introduced in 1956. Another product of the Argus / Metrawatt association. For use with the C Forty Four camera it could also be hand held for special situations and included an incident light reading accessory within the case.
12. The L44 Booster cell increased sensitivity of the L44 meter tenfold.



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13. The CM2 Model 610, introduced in 1958. The meter was designed for the C4R, C44R and C-33 cameras. It attached to the camera body via a small plate and coupled to the shutter speed dial.
14. The LC3 Model 611 was introduced in 1958. It was designed to be used with Argus' Match-matic system. This unit apparently ended the relationship with Metrawatt as all subsequent Argus meters were made in Japan.
15. The LM3, movie meter also introduced in 1958 was for use with the M3 Match-matic Movie Camera exclusively.
16. The LC-3 meter model 613 was introduced in 1962. This meter was a smaller redesigned model of the LC3. It still used the Match-matic system exposure system. Small red *f* stops were stenciled on the meter for use with accessory lenses that were not marked with the EVS numbers.
17. The LS-3 model 614 was introduced in 1962. This meter used the more common *f* stop and shutter speed combination rather than the EVS system. The meter was designed for use on the C-3 standard but could be used on any camera with an accessory shoe. If there was no accessory shoe on the camera (as in earlier C-3's) a clip on shoe was available.
18. SLR Meter Selenium, model 615. Introduced in 1962 these meters were designed for use on the Argus model 250 SLR<sup>3</sup>.
19. SLR Meter CDS Cell, model 616. Introduced in 1964 an updated meter using the latest CDS cell technology.

My sincere thanks to Bob Kelly, Mike Reitsma and Ron Norwood for their assistance helping me put this display together. Kudos also to Bob Kelly's paper, "A Review of Argus Hand Held and Camera Mounted Photoelectric Exposure Meters, 1939 – 1964 and Henry Gambino's book, "Argomania".

Tom Heckhaus  
In Eden, ACG 2011

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<sup>1</sup> There have been other variations of Argus L3 meters reported. The 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> etc. variations in this display and handout refer to the most common variations and are numbered based on serial numbers low to high.

<sup>2</sup> Later Horvex 2 meters were in a black plastic body with a white needle on a black background. These black plastic bodied Horvex's also had the Horvex 2 name in the same place as the Argus brand, on the exposure calculator dial.

<sup>3</sup>Both the Argus 250SLR and meters 615 & 616 were made by Mamiya.

**\*Note, due to size limitations, this Mini-Display only shows hand held and accessory meters. Permanent meters built into a specific camera design such as the Argus A2 and Autronic line are acknowledged but not part of this display.**