Keystone 8mm camera

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Roundup of Keystone Movie Cameras

This is a listing of every Keystone movie camera of which I am aware. I am not going to list one-ofs, specialty, or minor variants.

Some notes on the table data below:

Model links to a web page where I have the camera itself.

Circa is the year where it first appears in advertising.

Lens Type: Fixed means it has one lens permanently mounted. Turret means that there is a rotating mount with (usually) three lenses. Note that many turret cameras were sold with only one; additional lenses were extra.Zoom means the lens had a variable focal range and was manually adjusted. Power Zoom is a zoom controlled by an electric motor.

Lens: Focal lengths are given where known, but typically only max apertures were quoted in advertising specs. "C-mount" means that the lens is compatible with the c-mount interchangable format. I'm not well-versed in this: it may be that all (or nearly so) of the fixed-mount cameras are C-mount compatible.

Exposure: Auto means the camera has an auto-exposure mode. Manual means the aperture must be set by the operator.

Focus: Fixed means the lens has "universal" focus and cannot be changed; it's also the least expensive.Variable means that the lens must be focused by the operator. Note that on turret cameras, it is common to have one variable-focus lens (usually the tele) and the others are fixed.

Finder: Frame means there's a folding metal frame finder, which was very common on 1930s-era cameras because it was inexpensive and also reduced the size and weight of the camera. View is some-sort of enclosed box with a lens. Reflex means that the view comes directly through the taking lens via a split-image mirror. This is the most complex and expensive option.

Docs: links to operator's/owner's manual. I have only included links where the models match up properly.

Src: this is where I got the information. These are listed at the bottom of the page.

Model

Format

Circa

Lens Type

Lens

Focus

Finder

Exposure

Pistol Grip

Other

Price

Ad

Docs

Src

A-3

16mm

1939

Fixed

ƒ/2.7

Variable

Frame

Manual

No

Normal /1.5 also available. Three running speeds.

$35.00 to $71.00

link

1

A-7

16mm

1939

Fixed

ƒ/2.7

Variable

Frame

Manual

No

Normal /1.5 also available. Sames as A-3 but seven speeds.

$44.50 to $71.00

link

1

B-1

16mm

1939

Fixed

ƒ/3.5

Variable

Frame

Manual

No

No lens option. Same as A-3 but one speed, fewer other features.

$29.95

link

1

K-8

8mm

1939

Fixed

½" ƒ/3.5

Depends on lens

Frame

Manual

No

½" ƒ/2.7 and ƒ/1.9 and 1-½" tele also available. Accepts both "single 8" and "double 8" formats.

$26.50 to $57.00

link

1

K-10

8mm

1960

Power Zoom

9-27mm ƒ/1.8

Variable

View

Auto

Yes

Same as K-12but viewfinder, not reflex

$196.98

link

2

K-12

8mm

1960

Power Zoom

9-27mm ƒ/1.8

Variable

Reflex

Auto

Yes

$174.98

link

link

3

K-21

8mm

1962

Fixed

13mm ƒ/1.8

Fixed

View

Auto

No

$54.42

3

K-808

8mm

1962

Zoom

9-27mm ƒ/1.8

Fixed

View

Auto

Yes

Same as K-810but manual zoom

$92.50

3

K-810

8mm

1962

Power Zoom

9-27mm ƒ/1.8

Fixed

View

Auto

Yes

$129.98

3

Advertising (click image for larger)

Sources

Keystone Catalog - 1939
K-12 ad, Modern Photography magazine - 1960
Montgomery Ward Photo Catalog - 1962