How To Load The Bolex

To avoid exposing the edges of the film to light, the camera should be loaded in a dimly lit place, well away from sunshine.

1. Set the shutter release to STOP
2. Set the motor level to MOT
3. Move the framing rate knob until the number corresponding to the desired filming speed faces the red dot. (Recommended 12fps)
4. Wind the camera motor handle counter clockwise.
5. Lift the lid opening ring, turn it in the direction marked by the arrow 0, then lift off the lid.
6. Check that the pressure pad pin is locked and that the pressure pad cannot open.
7. Remove the empty spool from its spindle by pressing ejector and place the spool holding the film on the upper spool shaft (film should run in the direction indicated by the engraved arrow).

8. Using the film clipper, cut off the end of the film diagonally between two perforations, as shown in the illustration. Do not cut off smaller than ½” of film. Remember to remove the piece that has been cut off.

9. Close the loop formers by moving the control lever parallel to the pressure pad.

10. Press the release while simultaneously pushing the end of the film against the sprocket. The film is automatically threaded into the camera.

11. Continue to depress the release until 10 to 12 inches of film have passed though the drive mechanism.

12. Open the loop formers by pressing knob. (If you accidentally leave them closed, they will automatically open when the camera lid is replaced).

13. Insert the end of the film into the slot in the core of the take-up spool. Rotate until about three turns of film have been taken up and place the spool on the lower spool shaft.

14. Turn the take-up spool by hand, clockwise, to take up any slack film.

15. Replace the lid and lock it by turning the ring in the direction indicated by the arrow F. If it does not lock, do not force the ring, the spools or the pressure pad may be incorrectly positioned.

16. Press the release until you see “0” in the footage counter. The camera is now ready for use.

Also, a short, visual guide to loading the Bolex can be found at the link below:

How to load the Bolex H16 Rex 4 16mm camera

http://vimeo.com/5021853