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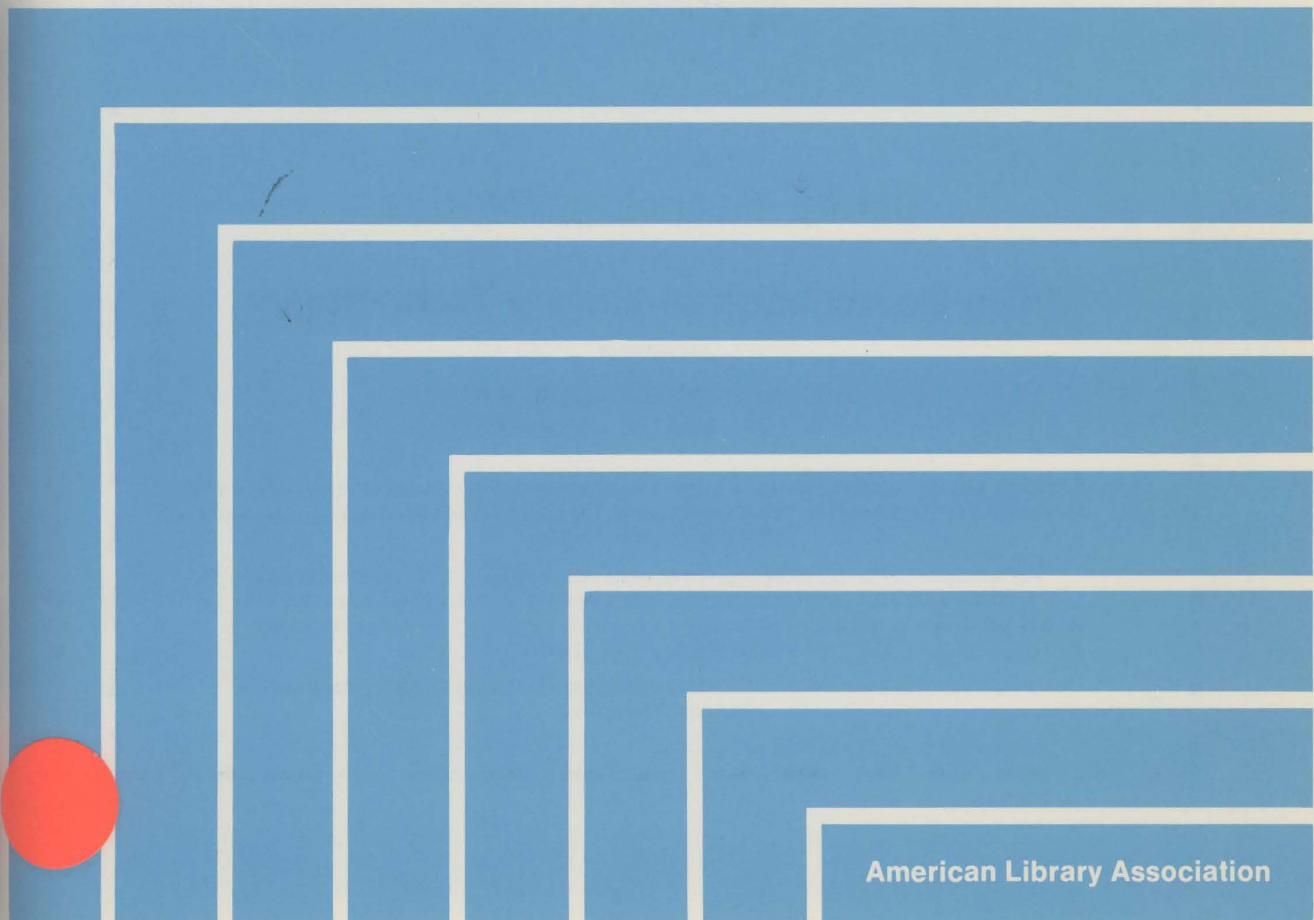
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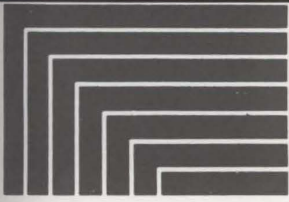
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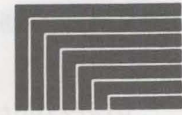
Howard S. White, *Editor*

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The following test report on the UC-1 Universal Film Carrier complements the report on the Minolta RP605Z/606Z Microfilm Reader/Printers that was published in the July/August 1991 issue, volume 27, number 4. This report is limited to the performance of this combination rollfilm and fiche carrier in conjunction with the previously tested reader/printer platform.

MINOLTA UC-1 UNIVERSAL FILM CARRIER

Manufacturer: Minolta Corporation, Document Imaging Systems Division, 101 Williams Drive, Ramsey, NJ 07446 (800) 821-7700

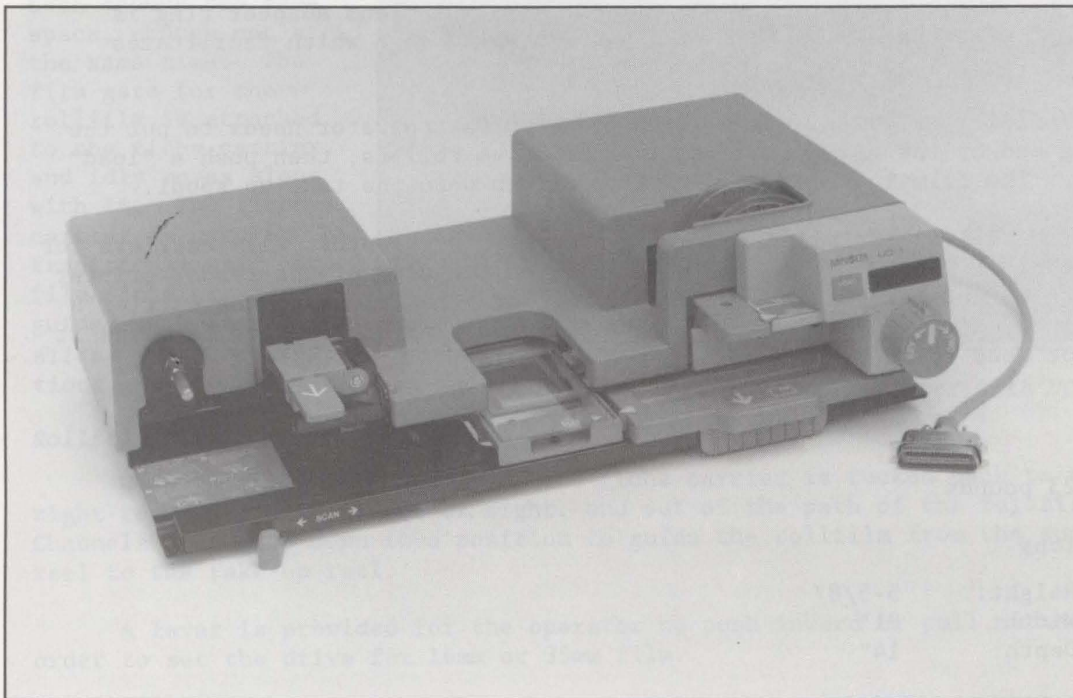


Fig. 1. Minolta UC-1 universal film carrier.

Distribution Minolta dealers.

Price \$2,990.

Tested by R.A. Morgan Co., Palo Alto, California.

DESCRIPTION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This device, which can be used with either the Minolta RP605Z or RP606Z reader/printers, is intended to eliminate the need to change film carriers when the operator uses a variety of microtransparencies, and it does indeed do this. It accommodates 16mm and 35mm rollfilm in open reels, microfiches, and aperture cards.

Whether or not the UC-1 Universal Carrier was originally planned when the 605Z and 606Z were designed is not known, but it is so well integrated into the design of the reader/printer, both aesthetically and functionally, that it certainly does not appear to be an afterthought.

The fiche carrier and the film gate for the rollfilm are connected together, and either one may be placed under the projection lens, as appropriate for the type of film to be viewed. A simple lens adapter ring is furnished with the UC-1. This ring has a beveled edge which facilitates changing from fiche mode to rollfilm mode.

Rollfilm is semi-automatically loaded. The operator needs to put the leading end of the film between a pair of drive rollers, then push a "load" button. The film is then automatically driven onto the take-up spool.

The UC-1 is installed in the same manner as the other film carriers for the RP605Z or RP606Z, by engaging two bars on the deck of the reader/printer with two channels on the bottom of the carrier, then plugging the carrier's cable into a receptacle on the side of the reader/printer. Once in place it will not need to be removed except for servicing.

Weight

23 pounds

Dimensions

Height: 5-5/8"
Width: 21"
Depth: 14"

Film formats accommodated

16mm and 35mm rollfilm in open spools
4" x 6" and 105mm x 148mm fiches or jackets
Aperture cards

Fiche Transport

When a fiche or aperture card is to be viewed, the handle of the fiche carrier is pulled forward until the top glass opens, then the fiche or card is inserted.

The fiche carrier cannot be pulled out for use if there is a spool of film on the supply spindle. The presence or absence of a film spool is photoelectrically sensed. The purpose of this mechanism is to prevent damage to a roll of film, since rollfilm and the fiche carrier both occupy the same space, though not at the same time. The film gate for the rollfilm is attached to the fiche carrier, and idly moves along with it. The fiche carrier is used in the traditional way. The film fiche carrier is guided by ball-bearing slides in both directions.

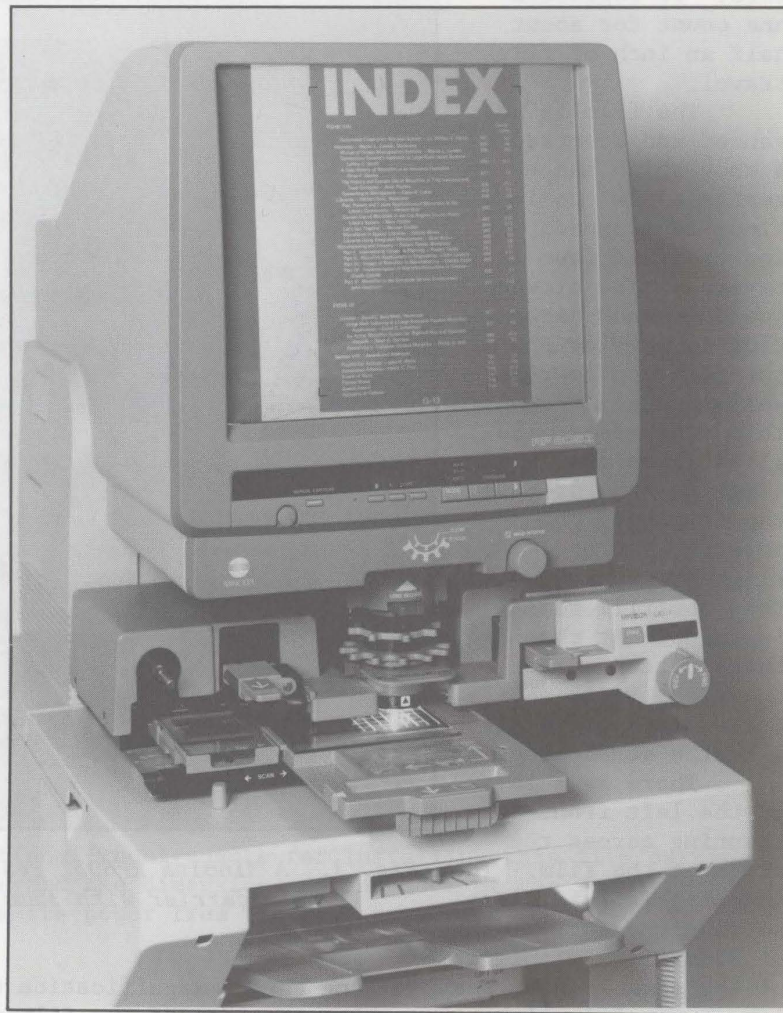


Fig. 2. A Minolta RP605Z reader/printer with UC-1 carrier in fiche mode

Rollfilm Transport

When rollfilm is to be used, the fiche carrier is tucked back to the right-rear, where it is out of sight, and out of the path of the rollfilm. Channels then drop down into position to guide the rollfilm from the supply reel to the take-up reel.

A lever is provided for the operator to push inward or pull outward in order to set the drive for 16mm or 35mm film.

The threading of the film is semi-automatic. The leading end must first be placed between two drive rollers, then a "load" button is pushed, and this automatically drives the film onto the take-up spool. If the optional odometer is used, the film is driven forward or backward as required, for a few frames, in order to position the first frame in the film gate; then the

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