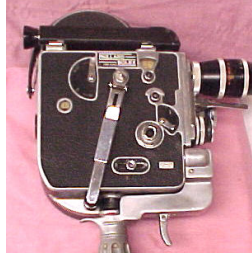


# Identifying Your Bolex... Recent Models

H-16 **non-reflex** cameras might have a removable Eye Level Focus accessory for focusing the lens, (shifted out of the filming position up to the top) from behind the camera, instead of from above. This sometimes makes people think it is a Reflex or Rex camera, which it is not. There might be a removable Flat Base Adapter (left photo) making some think it is a Model 3 and up, which it is not.



Versions included Leader, Deluxe, Supreme, S and T with minor differences. The big difference is that above Serial 100401 you get the Registration Claw for a steady non-weaving image on the screen. Later turret models S-3, S-4 and others included the flat base and later the 1:1 motor drive shaft.

(Shameless plug: Tobin Cinema makes Time Lapse & Animation motors for models 4 and 5 below.)

Bolex H-16 **Reflex**, sometimes called the Rex-0. Views and focuses through the taking lens, while in the filming position. Finder focus is on the side, 6X magnification. No variable shutter. Image through the reflex finder is dim, so many cameras also have the parallax finder attached to the door. The top Reflex finder is not removable by the user. Reflex cameras all have the Registration Claw movement.



Bolex H-16 **Rex-1**. Almost the same as the Reflex above, with an added variable shutter, whose up-down lever is partly hidden behind the turret lever in the photo at right. All Rex models have the Registration Claw movement. The variable shutter is mostly used for home movies and travelogs that are not edited, printed or video transferred, for doing in-camera fades and dissolves. This particular body has a Turret Lock at the top, to inhibit the turret from turning or from sagging out of focus when using a zoom or other heavy lens.



Bolex **Rex-2**. Almost the same as the Rex-1, with an improved 10x magnification and brighter reflex finder. Finder focus is around the eyepiece and locks, instead of being on the side. Still has the round pillar base. The photo at right is of an 8mm (regular-8) H-8 Rex 2. The 16mm version looks almost the same except for a thicker prism mounting plate behind the lens turret. Not many 2's were made.



Bolex H-16 **Rex-3**. Almost the same as the Rex-2, with the addition of a non-removable flat base with multiple tripod threads, instead of the round pillar base. The camera will now stand on a table without toppling. Also has motor mounting holes on the side, but Bolex never made an electric motor for this model. It, like all the H models made up to this time, has the 8:1 shaft but does not have the 1:1 motor shaft, and I-T selection is still by a lever. Not many 3's were made.



The Rex-3 and earlier cameras will not take the official Bolex sound motor, but they are happily driven by the now discontinued TCS TXM-26B crystal motor.

Bolex H-16 **Rex-4**. Almost the same as the Rex-3, with the addition of a 1:1 shaft, and to make room for it the I-T selection is now by a round knob instead of a lever. In the photo, a rewind crank is shown inserted in the 8:1 shaft hole, and the visible one is the single frame 1:1 shaft. (On this particular camera the turret lever is missing.) Bolex made MST and ESM motors for this and later cameras. (Shameless plug: Tobin Cinema Systems makes the TCS model [TTL](#) time lapse and animation motor, and made the now discontinued TXM-20Ba/Be and TXM-26B crystal motors.)



Bolex H-16 **Rex-5**. This is almost the same as the Rex-4, with the addition of a saddle on top for mounting a 400' film magazine and torque motor, for optionally shooting longer core loads than the usual 100' daylight spools. Along with this, there is a device to hold the sprocket shoes open for threading, since the usual automatic threading is not possible when using the magazine. There is a board on the back for writing notes to yourself. Later versions showed the TV cutoff, and had even higher magnification 13x and 14x viewfinders.



Recent non-reflex models. The **M-5** at left has the flat base and magazine saddle, but it is single lens and non-reflex. It was often sold with a reflex zoom lens as the "Assistant Coach" for sports filming. The zoom gave a bright image to the cameraman even while stopped down, unlike the Reflex cameras, better for following action.



The **S-5** at right might possibly be someone's conversion of an S-4, adding the magazine saddle to the

the reflex cameras, better for following action.



The **S-5** at right might possibly be someone's conversion of an S-4, adding the magazine saddle to the S-4's flat base and 1:1 drive shaft capability. This is a 3-lens turret non-reflex camera.

(Shameless plug section, or And Now A Word From Our Sponsor. Bolex "type 4" cameras and later will take the TCS [TTL](#) Time Lapse & Animation Motor.)

Bolex **H-8** 8mm non-reflex camera (right). The large H frame permits filming on rare 100' spools of double-8 (8mm, regular-8, standard-8) film, as well as the more common 25' ones. (After processing, these are slit to 200' and 50' of actual 8mm.) The easiest way to tell these from 16mm ones is to measure the turret's lens mount threads. If 5/8" the camera is 8mm, if 1" the camera is 16mm. Exception: if the camera is an H-8 Reflex or Rex the lens threads are 1" but normal 16mm lenses will not focus, and it should be marked "RefleX" on the prism assembly behind the turret, on the top.



Contrary to the misinformation printed elsewhere, none of the 8mm cameras will shoot on regular 16mm film. They require double-8 perforations, with twice as many holes per foot as 16mm has. 16mm film will jam and not transport through the film gate, although it might pass okay over the two sprockets, which are generally actually 16mm ones.

(Additional possible confusion: a very few H-8 and H-8 Reflex cameras have been converted to shoot double super-8 film instead of double regular 8. Ideally they will be fitted with a nameplate that says so. If not, you will have to measure the diameter of the sprockets, or the opening of the film aperture. Where the film rides on the sprockets is .75" diameter for 8mm and .83" for double super 8.)

Bolex H-16 **SB** and **SBM**. These are equivalent to the Rex-4 and Rex-5 respectively, but they have a single heavy-duty bayonet lens mount intended for trouble-free use of heavy zoom lenses. These are marked with the model number. They will accept the TCS crystal and time lapse motors.

Bolex H-16 **EBM** and **EL**. These are electric drive cameras, instead of having a clockwork spring. Can be crystal sync by adding the discontinued TCS TXM-24 crystal control unit. Have bayonet lens mount and a magazine saddle like the SBM. They are marked with the model number.

Bolex **H-16 J** (right) is not really a movie camera. Based on the 16mm M4, but they left out the spring motor, speed governor, release mechanism, footage and frame counters, viewfinder mount, and leather covering. Used for bank robbery or other surveillance, where it is mounted up in a corner, and driven by an external electric motor. These must have been made after 1967, but we don't know exactly when. They could be used for filming with an external motor such as the Tobin [TTL](#), and maybe a reflex zoom lens.



More information [here](#).

Photos of ancient models [here](#).

