Camera Operation

The disposable camera is chiefly created as an alternative to more expensive film cameras. It is packaged for one time use only. The camera is inexpensive, and fairly simple, due to its limited use. It has just three distinct operating parts, the shutter, the flash, and the film advance knob.

To use the camera, one must first wind the film into place. This is done by turning the film advance knob, which is located above the film roll. When turned, the knob will wind new film behind the shutter, ready to capture an exposed image. This knob is also used as a winding mechanism to the cameras second distinct part, the shutter.

The shutter is the piece on the camera that briefly moves to expose film to light. The shutter operation consists of only springs and knobs. A knob is initially turned to wind a spring, which is attached to a small lever. When a button is pressed this lever is released, which in turn slides across the shutter. The shutter opens quickly, and exposes film to light. The shutter is then immediately pulled back closed by a separate spring. After the picture is captured, the process must be repeated in order to take another picture.

The final part of the disposable camera is the flash system. The flash system consists of a circuit board and mechanical switch. The flash is charged with a separate button on the front of the camera, and released with the same button that causes the shutter to operate. This flash can be used to help illuminate the observes object, causing greater picture clarity in darkness.