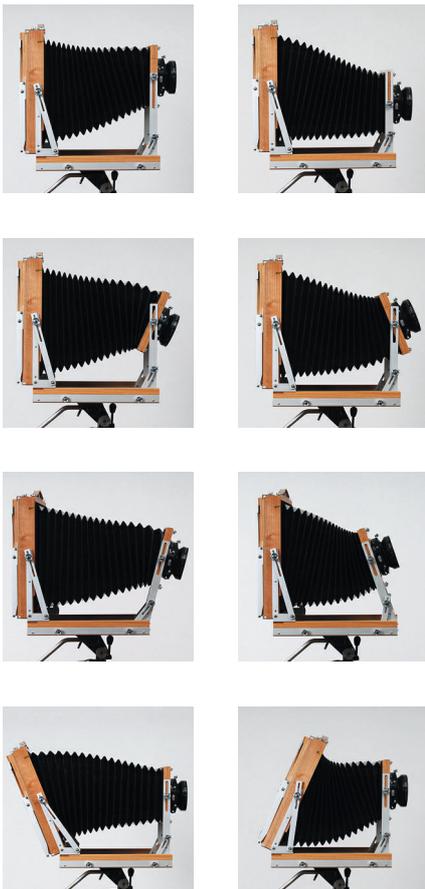


argentum



The first camera having excursor system that I built for myself, was 8x10 inch size. This format is very common among the fans of large format photography, since this size is big enough to avoid enlargement. Mostly contact prints are made of 8x10 inch negatives. However many are discouraged by the big size, weight and price of such format cameras, when it comes to ordering one. When making my first 8x10 inch camera, it was quite a challenge for me to find out, how to make a camera in this format, that is usable in a practical way, that needs small room, and light enough not having to think it twice when the photographer wants to take the camera out of the studio or even carry it as a companion for a longer expedition. This led to the birth of the cameras having excursor system. Since that time, excursor cameras were taken to the Himalayas, and to Northern-Africa as well. I made a list of the most important movements that cameras like this, most of all made for landscape photography, should have. These movements are rise and fall of front, and base tilt of both front and rear. The lack of the other movements made it possible to decrease the size and weight of the camera dramatically. This construction resulted of course in a very stable structure. The commonly used focusing rack was also left, so focusing is done by manual sliding. This should not discourage anyone, since this method makes focusing fast and accurate. To set the focus the user has to slide the rails that hold the rear. The only drawback of this solution is that these rails might get into the frame when using extreme wide angle lenses, so these lenses are not compatible to this camera. It is difficult to say which is the lens that have the shortest focal distance, that still can be used with the camera at infinity, since this depends on the measure of the movement set by the photographer, and also on the format of the photograph, whether it is vertical or horizontal. Considering a not too extreme situation even a 150mm lens can be used while the rails still do not get into the frame. The bellows of the camera is built together with the body, and generally lenses having focal distance in 180-450mm focal range are recommended to use.

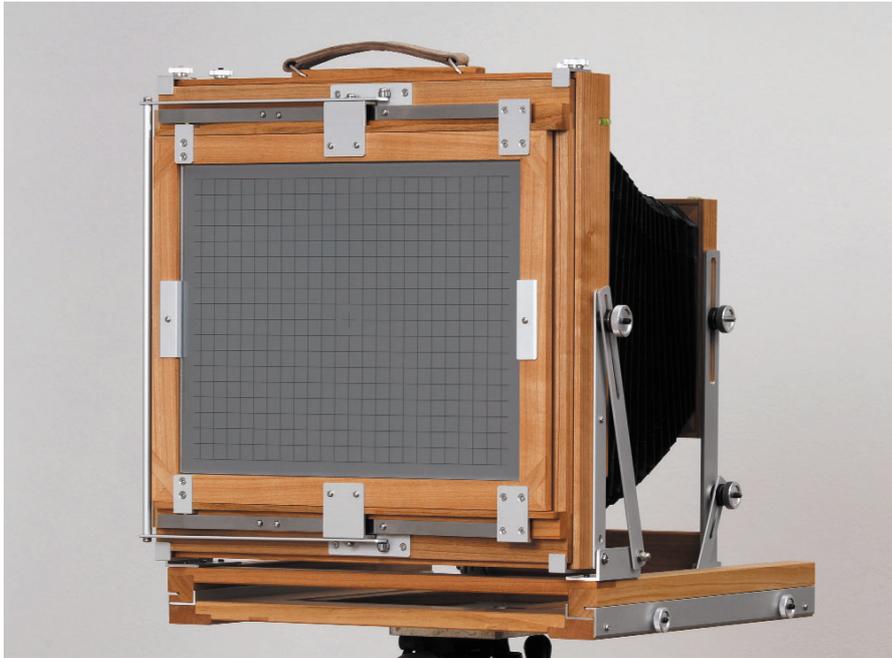
*Movements of front:*

- rise: 30 mm
- fall: 40 mm
- center tilt: limited only by the bellows
- base tilt: limited only by the bellows, but maximum 15° forward.

(By means of movements of front the maximum extension can be increased by app. 20mm. This is done by tilting the front along the base axis, then setting it in vertical position by the central horizontal axis, also slightly rising it at the same time.)

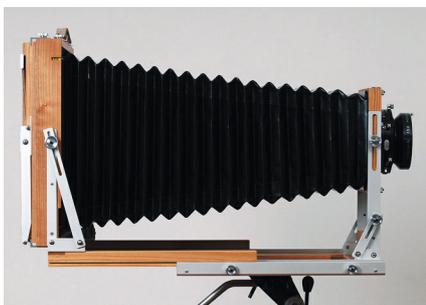
Rear may be tilted along base axis. The measure of base tilt forward is limited only by the bellows, while backwards it is maximum 20°.

argentum



To every argentum camera, including 8x10 inch excursor I., two types of back can be ordered. When using the more simple version (type 1.) the ground glass has to be removed before inserting the film holder. Type 2. is spring back system, where by lifting an arm, the film holder slides under the ground glass. Generally, the back comes with ground glass that is polished by me. These glasses do not have grid lines. If grid lines are requested, I project the lines on a sheet film, then fix the film to the glass by a thin plexi as illustrated on the photo. Ground glass made by other manufacturer might also be used.

The camera is made of cherry wood that is treated by special oil. The metal parts are made of silver anodized aluminum, controlling screws are of natural aluminum, and fixing screws are made of stainless steel.



At standard design the camera have 3 tripod mounts on the base of the camera. One falls in the middle, while the other two are 74mm from each other, making it possible to use double screwed tripod heads



Minimal extension:	180 mm
Maximum extension:	500 mm
General weight of body made of cherry wood without back: (An 8x10 inch back weighs app. 0.8 kg with ground glass.)	2.1 kg
The dimensions of the body when folded: (Without knobs and back.)	310x310x75 mm
The dimensions of the camera when folded: (With knobs and spring back type 2.)	350x330x95 mm
Dimensions of lens board:	140x140x12 mm
The maximum diameter of the rear element of the lens:	100 mm
Tripod mounts:	3 holes, 3/8 inch