

From a 70's Aaton-LTR leaflet



— Do you know the Greek myth about Procrustes?  
He lived in Attica. He gave his guests fine meals  
and then laid them on his bed;  
if they were too long, he would cut off  
enough of their limbs to make them fit.

— What are you getting at?

— Shoot Super 16, by Zeus!

At a time when standard 16 mm was used mainly for medium-resolution TV, Rune Ericson introduced the concept of Super16 to Jean-Pierre Beauviala, the founder of Aaton who decided to design a Super16 camera with 'theater projection' resolution at its heart.

This goal led to the research and development of a camera whose main technical feature would be a micro-steady film transport, not just vertically and laterally, but also in terms of flange focal distance. The result was the famous coplanar pull-down mechanism. This focus on crispness, in turn, led to the design of an extremely high resolution fibre optic viewfinder for focus control.

Other essential features were quietness achieved through the use of a direct-drive brushless motor while others were using belts and gears, permanent real time recording by AatonCode at the gate level, ergonomics with the famous cat-on-the-shoulder shape, remote view of framing through a fully integrated video assist. .../...

VOICI DU GRAIN  
POUR LES GÉNÉRA-  
TIONS FUTURES.  
--CHEOPS



# Super16 by Aaton



xterà

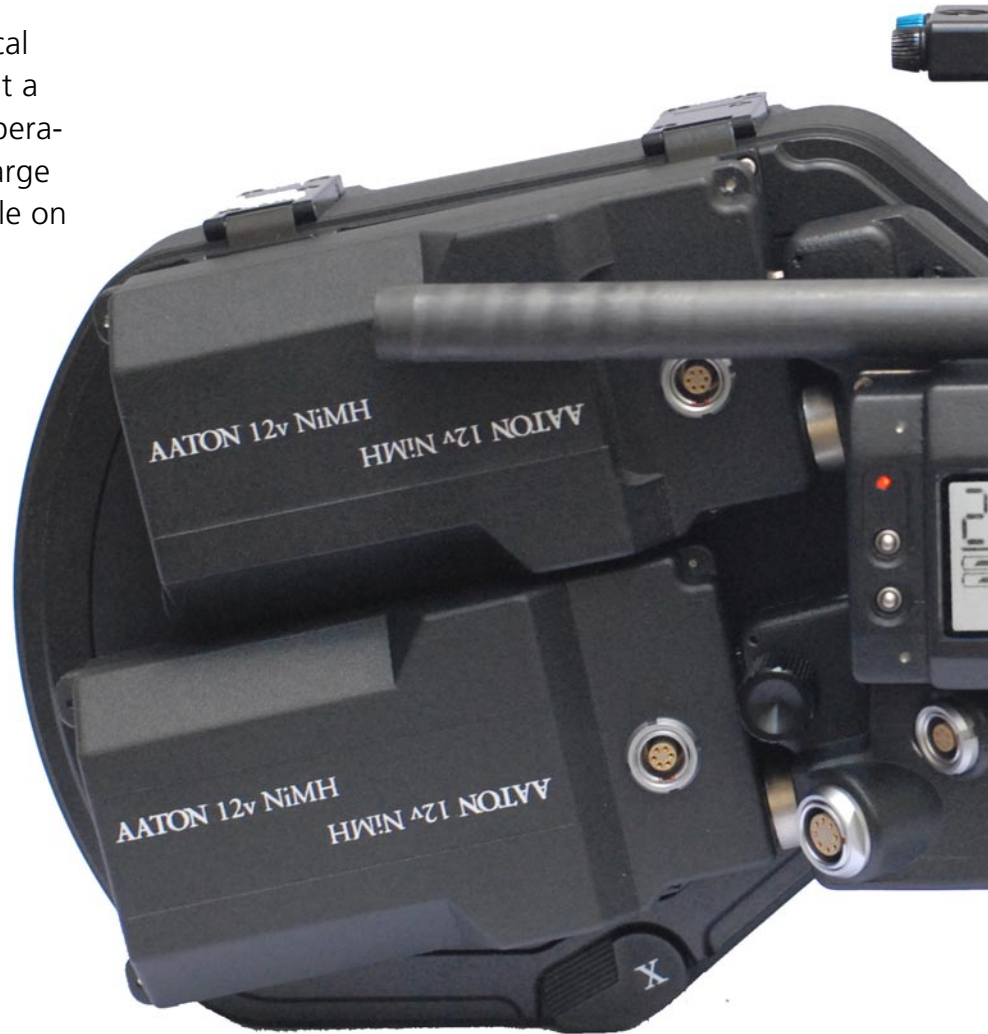
The half-moon mechanical counter remains visible at a distance, from behind operator's head. In addition, large numbers are clearly visible on assistant display.

Running on a single 12V 3.8Ah NiMH battery, the highly efficient Xterà motor powers twenty-four 400' magazines (eleven 800' magazines), i.e. four hours!

Xterà's color video-tap is the lowest power eater on the market: at 200mA, it can run for over a day on the twin batteries! This is a third of what other video-taps consume!

Lower battery feeds camera body and video-tap; upper battery feeds accessories. They can be paralleled with no power interruption during replacement. Single-battery operation is also an option.

The gentle-for-film Aaton style magazine lacing is becoming the standard of the industry. The Xterà magazine keeps up the tradition, and with its totally open loop-making area it is easier to check and keep clean.



A real chunk cut out for the shoulder: the Xterà respects the 'cat on the shoulder' rule Aaton is famous for. No other camera brings this comfort to the operator.

Coplanar film so quiet it does not need to be filtered by the suspension between the magazine and the lens. *superior image* extracting even the Super16 from Aaton's claim.

Large assistant display showing frame numbers, remaining footage, timecode, two timecode (data also visible on operator side).

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frame. One of  
s to fame.

High precision internal photometer for run-and-gun situations and peace-of-mind permanent exposure control.

Versatile viewfinder: you can change the tap ratios, i.e. the amount of light sent to the tap: 100%, 80%, 50%, 0%, or remove the optical viewfinder for 'low mode' with absolutely no effect on the video tap.

Carbon fiber rod mounted on the central chassis means no lens motor torque backlash.

Rock solid link between lens and film makes for ultra crisp images: no noise hiding, blur-producing rubber mounted film gate.

Built-in 15mm front rod sockets for handgrip and lightweight mattebox (the lateral top rod looks after the lens motors). Lens-to-base distance is the standard 105mm: no need to carry a tripod intermediary .

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Generous junction box dispatching power from the twin batteries to camera, video assist and accessories. Stop/test/start switch on assistant side.

HD-like progressive-scan video assist provides full target resolution during film takes: a first in video taps. Aatoncode VITC insertion to auto-sync rushes with digital recorder files.





.../... Of all these advances -- mostly firsts by Aaton over four decades -- the most important one in today's HD world is the coplanar movement ensuring the crispest images and the quietest cameras ever. The Xterà builds on the Aaton philosophy of always giving users the benefits of technical and design improvements. Rather than a costly generational change, what you have here is a brand new camera, and/or an affordable upgrade programme for Aaton XTR prod owners.



None of this "buy the whole kit" stuff you get in some spheres. For example: AATON Xterà owners will not need to buy new magazines, since any XTR magazine will operate perfectly on the Xterà; the same applies for viewfinders. A real plus for rental houses.



- Rune Ericson (1969), Aaton (1971), the origins of Super16.
- **Antarctica: XTRprod chilling out with the emperors.**
- XTR "Ethiopian girl" by John Bulmer
- **A-Minima on the Leningrad canals.**
- Wim Wenders shooting a "Ten Minutes Older" segment.

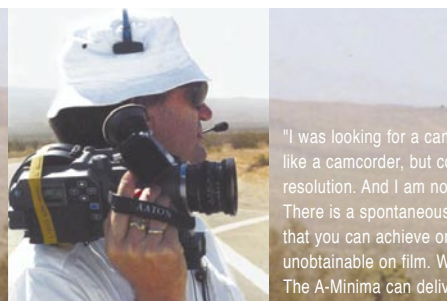


6.6-66mm T:2.7-3.3  
10.6-180mm T:2.7-3.4

A-Minima, the world's smallest Super16 camera.



800 foot magazine, compatible with Xterà.



"I was looking for a cam like a camcorder, but with resolution. And I am not There is a spontaneous that you can achieve or unobtainable on film. W The A-Minima can deliv

