

# The Argoflex II Film Advance

Evidence from Ron's Camera

Pam Buckley  
Mike Reitsma

"It was a fizzle. I couldn't make it work no how. It was supposed to have an automatic film counter on it. They couldn't make it work."

Ed Nimke  
Argus Product Engineer

Ron's Argoflex II  
154000156





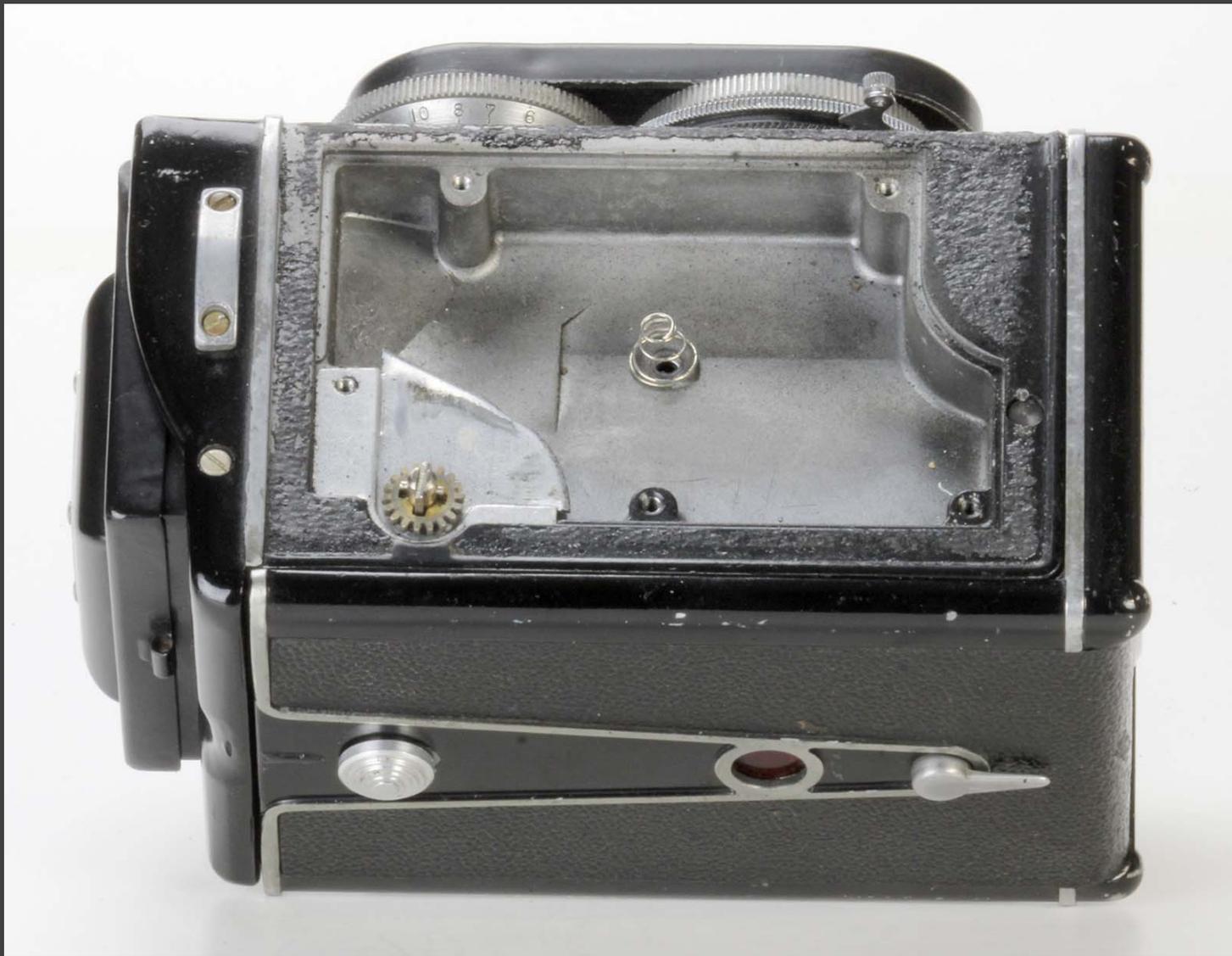
frame advance release

counter reset

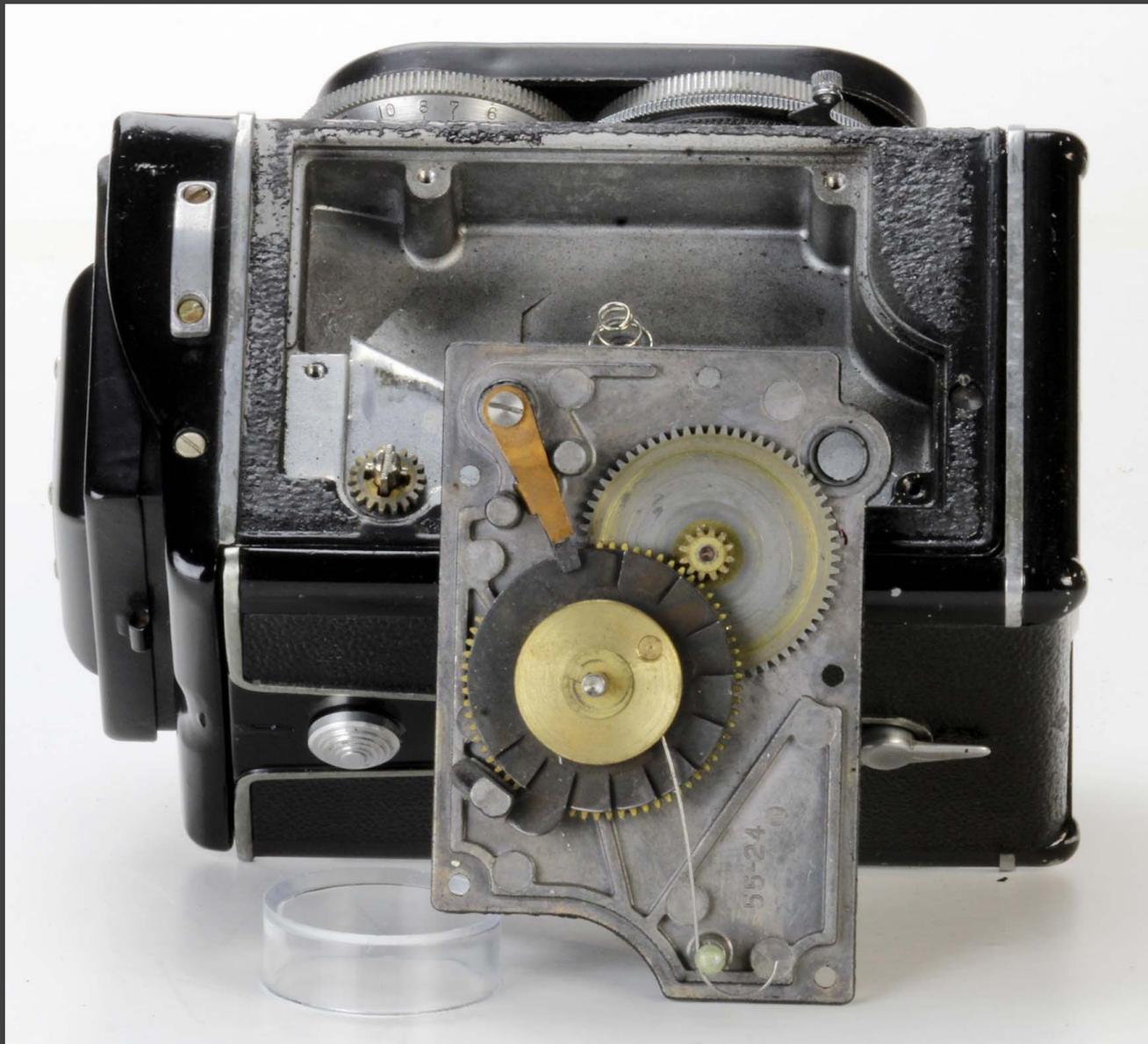
frame number



The leatherette comes off easily!

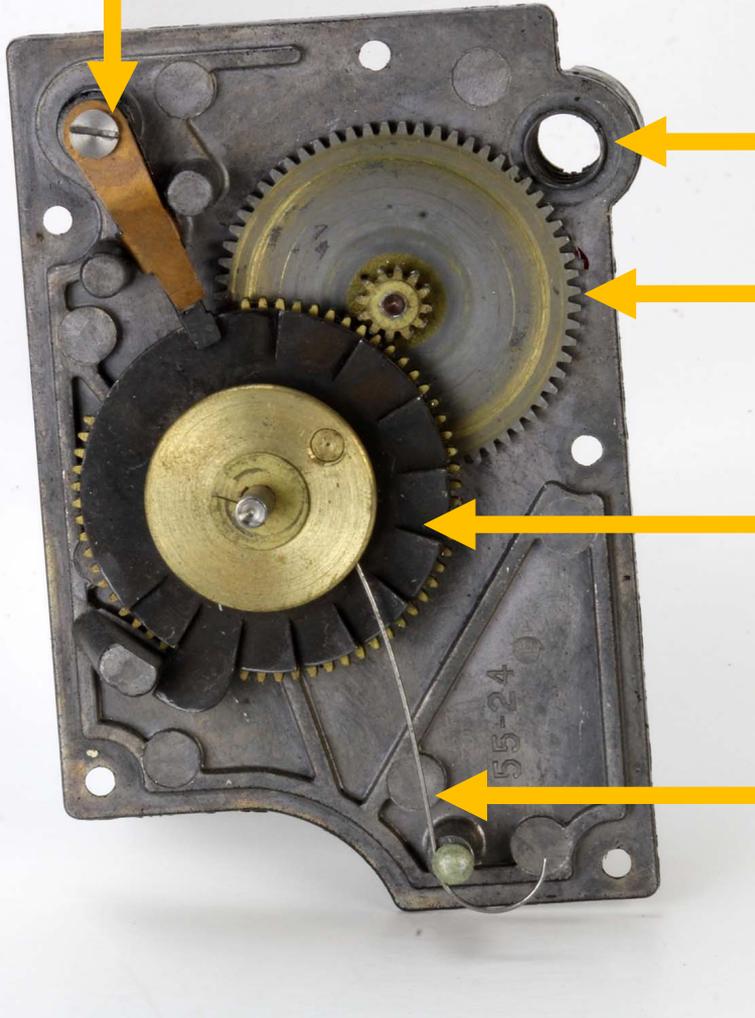


With side panel & counter removed



Back of side panel, showing counter

**stopper arm** (stops film advance at next notch on wheel)  
(disengaged by advance release)



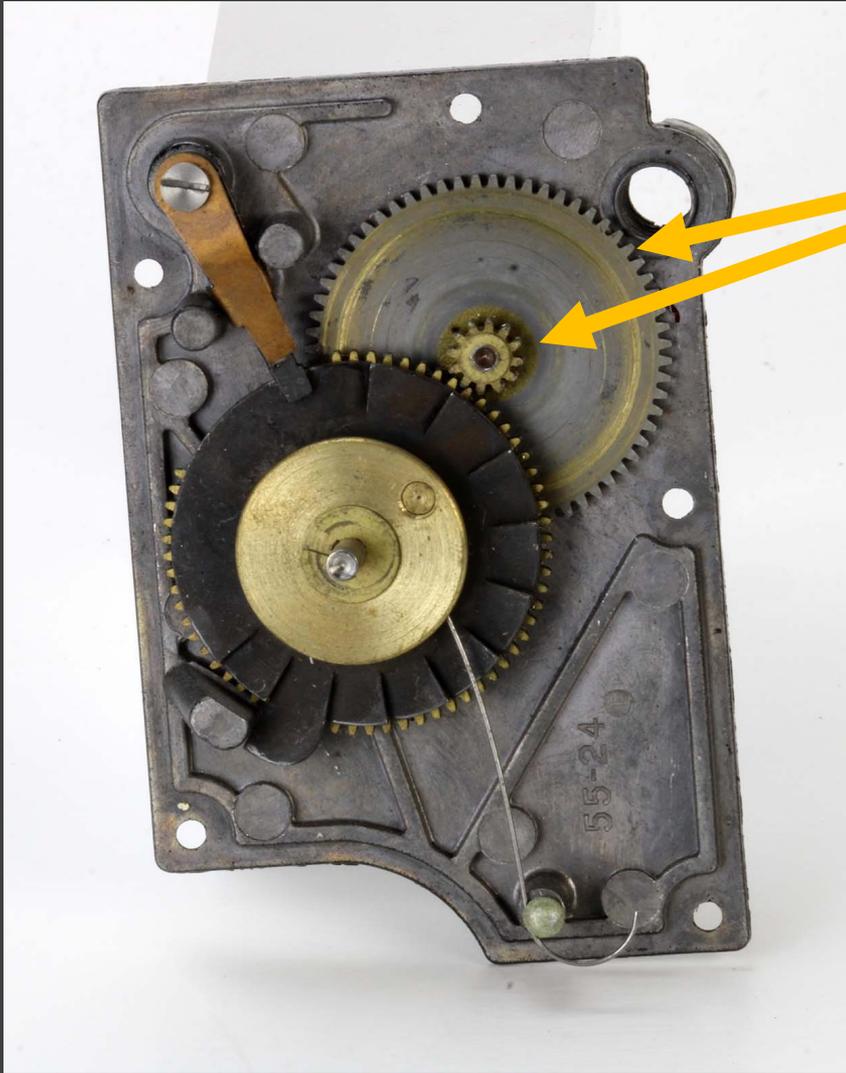
**advance knob hole**

**reducing gears**  
(big and little pressed together)

**notched wheel**  
(12 notches corresponding to frame numbers on the other side)

**coil spring**  
(applies backward torque to the notched wheel)

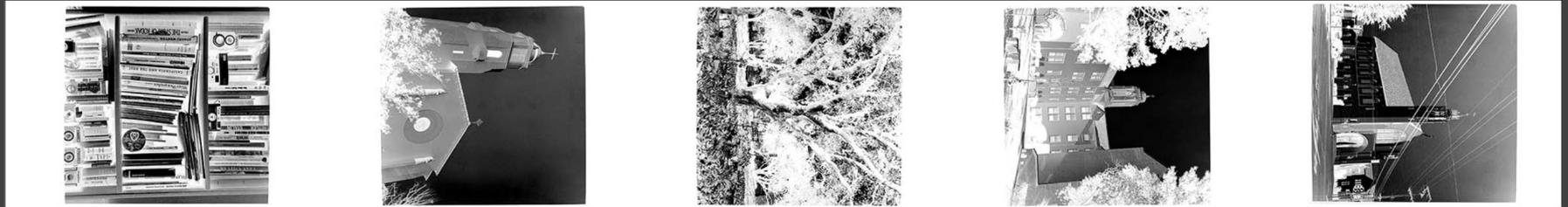
# The fatal problem on this Argoflex II:



The reducing gears had come apart.

Pressing them together made the counter start to work.

With the gears pressed together,  
another problem:



The separated gears should have been relatively easy to correct in the manufacturing flow. The wide frame spacing appears to be a fundamental problem with the counter design.



The 12 notches on the notched wheel are what determine the frame spacing. The nominal spacing must be progressively reduced to compensate for the increasing thickness of film accumulated on the take-up spool.

Based on this one example:



Fixing the notch spacing would have likely required a number of iterations and retooling the part.

Argus apparently decided to cut its losses. We may never know how production was begun on a design with such a fundamental problem.