

A rough Ciro-Flex timeline, from various sources  
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November-December 1940: First trade announcements of Ciro-Flex camera

- Ciro, Inc., 100 E. Atwater Street, Detroit Michigan (12/40, 5/41)

Approx. January 1, 1941: Marvel-Flex and Ciro-Flex both introduced

May, 1941: Marvel-Flex prices: f/4.5, \$29.75; f/3.5, \$34.75.

Ciro-Flex price, \$42.50

(Date of wartime interruption unknown. Last series Ciro-Flex A pictured in an ad in November 1942, but this does not necessarily mean that the camera was still in production at that time.)

- Ciro, Inc., 112 Atwater Street, Detroit Michigan (11/42)

Variations in Ciro-Flex A camera:

- Earliest logo has larger lettering in an arc; later have smaller lettering in a rectangular outline
- Earliest cameras have coarser grain leatherette
- Gloss vs wrinkle finish trim paint
- 3 different back latches (all at bottom front):
  - First, single tab/pin latch (tab on back, pin on body)
  - Second, double tab/pin latch (tab on body, pins on back)
  - Third, slide button latch
- Red window cover:
  - Early (first & second series above) have blade style knob similar to postwar Ciro-Flex
  - Later (third series above) have a knurled knob
- Straight vs diamond knurl on wind, focus and film retainer knobs
- Early cameras have no serial numbers, later have stamped number; some may have penciled serial numbers

Marvel-Flex vs Ciro-Flex A:

- Marvel-Flex is basically the same as first series Ciro-Flex, except:
  - No silver trim panel on front
  - No leatherette inserts in wind and focus knobs
  - No release lever on finder hood
  - Marvel-Flex nameplate with no city of origin indicated

Postwar production began with introduction of the Ciro-Flex B and the Ciro-Flex C; exact introduction date unknown, both models advertised as available in limited quantities in September 1946, and still advertised the same way in November 1947. Throughout 1946, Wollensak production capacity was wholly taken up by OEM orders from Ciro and other camera manufacturers, so lens and shutter availability may have been a limiting factor in camera production in 1946 and 1947.

- Ciro, Inc., 112 E. Atwater Street, Detroit Michigan (9/46)

#### Ciro-Flex A vs Giro-Flex B:

- Giro-Flex A has:
  - Larger focus knob
  - Completely different focus system with sheet metal guides on both sides
  - Back hinges at top rear and latches at bottom front
  - Shutter is recessed into protruding chrome panel on front
  - Film spool retainer knobs on left side, similar to Rolleiflex
- Giro-Flex B introduced automatic parallax correction (this feature is so ineffective as to be virtually undetectable except by disassembly of the camera)
- Giro-Flex A lens is uncoated (83mm), B lens is coated (85mm)
- Basic specs are otherwise similar: f/3.5 Velostigmat triplet lens in Alphax shutter

#### Ciro-Flex B vs Giro-Flex C:

- Both cameras have the same body and the same 85/3.5 Velostigmat triplet lens.
- Both cameras have parallax correction in viewfinder (at introduction)
- B has Alphax self-cocking shutter, speeds 1/10 – 1/200
- C has Rapax set-and-release shutter, speeds 1 – 1/400
- Front lens panel is slightly different between B and C due to different location of cable release socket in shutter.

Relocation from Detroit Michigan to Delaware Ohio: Exact date uncertain; between September 1946 and November 1947.

- Giro Cameras, Inc., 425 South Sandusky, Delaware Ohio (11/47)

November 1948: First advertisement for Giro-Flex D and E

#### Ciro-Flex B & C vs Giro-Flex D & E:

- D is identical to B with flash synch added; shutter now named Alphax Synchronomatic; ASA post added above tripod socket on left side of camera.
- E is identical to C with flash synch added; shutter now named Rapax Synchronomatic; ASA post added above tripod socket on left side of camera.

Ciro-Flex F: Exact introduction date unknown; between March 1949 and February 1950.

#### Ciro-Flex E vs Giro-Flex F:

- F has faster, f/3.2 Raptar lens
- F/3.2 lens is 4-element Tessar type, rather than triplet
- Rapax shutter is an upgraded model with variable flash synch, better construction than Rapax in C and E models.
- Early F model cameras have incorrect DOF scale showing f/3.5 instead of f/3.2 maximum aperture.

Fresnel field lens introduced in all models; exact date unknown, between introduction of Giro-Flex F and May 1950. Giro-Flex F cameras exist without Fresnel field lens.

- At about the same time as introduction of Fresnel field lens, model identification letters appear at the top of the DOF scale
- Automatic parallax correction feature was discontinued when Fresnel field lens was introduced; space below the focusing screen did not permit the combination of both features in the camera.

October 1, 1951: Graflex buys Ciro Cameras

- Ciro-Flex remains in production
- Nameplate now reads "Rochester NY" instead of "Delaware Ohio"

January, 1953 (approximately):

- Ciro-Flex D, E & F replaced by Graflex 22-200, 22-400 and 22-400F respectively.
- Specifications unchanged
- Cosmetic changes include different red window cover, grey leatherette, flash shoe on side of camera.
- Early (1953-4) cameras have black nameplate and chrome panel between lenses (similar to Ciro-Flex)
- Later (1954-5) cameras have chrome nameplate and black panel between lenses

January, 1953:

- DeJur Reflex introduced
  - Announced in DR-10, DR-20 and DR-40 models corresponding to Ciro-Flex D, E and F respectively
  - Only DR-10 seems to have made it to production
  - Cosmetic changes include die cast lens panel and nameplate, different finder hood latch, ASA post on lens panel