Introduction

Jupiter 11A has 135mm and most open aperture is f/4. Normally I always praise the quality and looks of a lens; but this time I will start out a little different: This lens is most likely the ugliest one I have ever seen. No design team was employed to create this lens; that's for sure.

But when it comes to building quality; this lens comes through like a charm. It feels like the Russian navy delivered some gun barrows for the lens and some submarines lost some windows for the glass. You can lift iron doors of their hinges with this lens. But nevertheless; the lens only weigh about the same as most other 135mm's from the same period in time.

Jupiter 11A weigh about 350 gr. Mounted on your camera it sticks between 9.5 cm and 12 cm out in front of you. Including the lens hood, you almost comes out to 18 cm. The lens focusses to about 1 meter.

The aperture as no clicks; continuous aperture, you could say. That is really a thing that requires some "getting used to" for sure. But once learned, it works very nicely. The focus ring is a little tight to operate, but nothing to complain about. The focus ting is en metal; but the grip is good.

When you focus, you have almost 360 degrees turn on the focus ring. That is a lot of turn. Focussing between 1 and 2 meters takes the first 180 degrees. That means you have very easy focussing; but shifting from a close focus to a distance focussed images does really require a lot of turning. The end of the lens does not turn when focussing.

It is a M42 lens. That means you need an adaptor ring before you can mount the lens on your DSRL. It is possible to get adaptor rings with focus assistance. That´s a contrast sensor letting the camera give the characteristic beep sound when focus is found. That is a great help, if you haven't got superman skills in the art of focus. And it is a very useful help since your cameras viewer darkens when you step down the aperture.

The speed of the lens is a little slower than most other 135mm's I have from that period. The ring is thin, but is easily operated thanks to the ribs.

The lens has 12 blades and they are shaped to create a perfect circle regardless or the chosen aperture.

Data

In short:

Focal min (mm)	**Focal max (mm)**	**Focus min(cm)**
135	135	100
Aperture max	**Aperture min**	**Barrel Lenght (mm)**
4	22	83
Elements	**Body mount**	**Weight (g)**
4 in 3 groups	M42	350
Filter size (mm)	**Push on diameter(mm)**	**Angular field**
40	62	18

Price

It is an old lens and therefore one could expect the price to be very low. But considering the building quality of the lens, the price could also be a little high. Taking into account the quality of the pictures this lens provides, the price tag should go even higher.

But the prices on eBay and other places is very very low. At the moment there are a number of 11A's for sale on eBay and it should be possible to get one from around £30.

Billederne

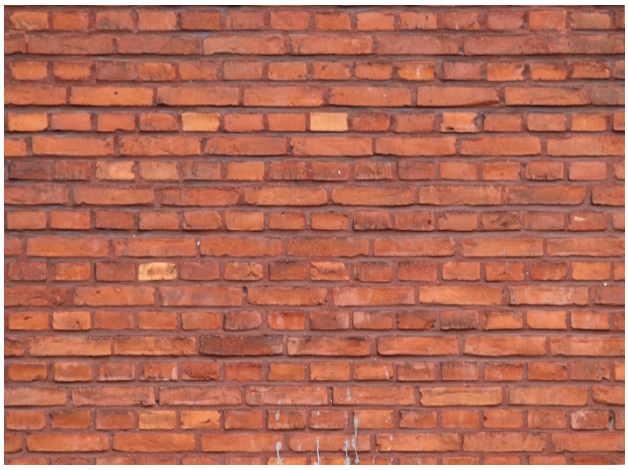
All pictures are taken with my Olympus E-520.

The first 3 pictures will give you an idea of the sharpness and the bokeh you get from using the lens. The distance is about 5 meters and the aperture is f/5.6.

The left picture is only resized and has a red field showing how much of the total picture a 1000 pixels crop (width) is. The picture to the right is the crop.

A perfectly sharp picture and a very nice, soft bokeh to the background – about 50 meters away.

There is no barrow effect either:



Bokeh at f/8:

And more bokeh; this time a line of light bulbs from the oldest amusement park in the world: Bakken in Denmark. Aperture is f/5.6:

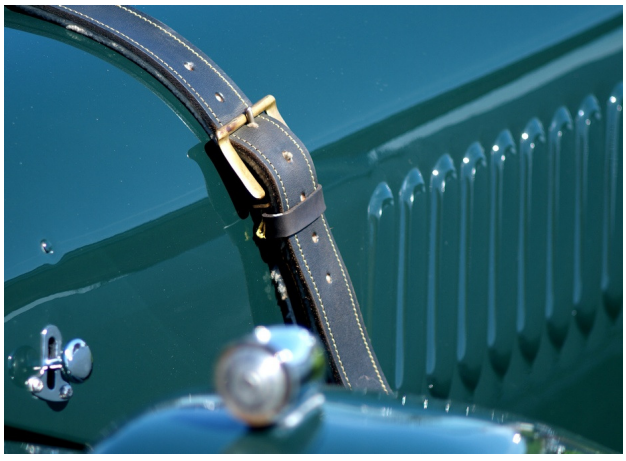
Bokeh f/5.6:

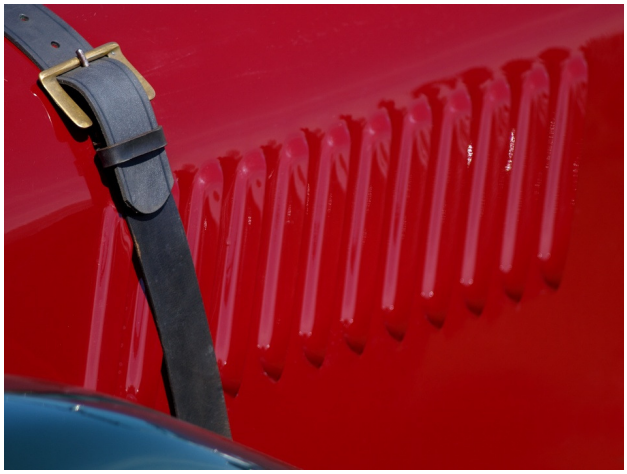
Bokeh f/5.6:

And these four pictures are also from Bakken and they are using f/5.6:

And these 3 pictures are also f/5.6:

On the following pages you will find a number of pictures all shot at f/5.6:





Conclusion
I think that Jupiter 11A is the ugliest lens you can have; but at the same time, one of the greatest lens's to work with. The sharpness is very good, the bokeh is very nice and soft. The lens is fun to use and considering the price, this lens is a real bargain. Next to a real steal.

On a scale from 1 to 5, 1 being the worst and 5 being the best, this lens makes a solid: **3,5**