

THE SUBMINIATURE TIMES

The Subminiature Times is published monthly by Doylejet, P.O. Box 60311, Houston, TX. 77205 (713) 443-3409

Supporting 110, 17.5mm, 16mm, 9.5mm, 8mm, 4mm, 1mm, Microdot, and Electronic Still Photography.



BOOK REVIEW

From 1839 to 1878, John Benjamin Dancer produced microphotographs that set a standard for anyone who becomes involved with the format.

An optician by trade, Dancer was the discoverer of ozone, the inventor of the corrugated battery plate, and was associated with the use of microphotography during the Franco-Prussian War. Carrier pigeons transported his microfilmed messages to and from the city of Paris.

Through experimentation Dancer found a collodian film that could be highly magnified without losing definition. He turned his camera on famous paintings, scenic photographs, the moon and the planets; an incredible array of subjects. All were reduced to an average size of 1/8" square and sold as novelties to be viewed with a microscope or magnifying glass.

Science Heritage Ltd, recently published 277 illustrations from the Dancer 1873 catalog, and a total of 388 from the combined work of Dancer, his daughters, and their successor, Richard Suter.

Historians will enjoy seeing the biographical information on each photograph.

This is a wonderful collection, handsomely packaged with a matching cloth covered



Actual size ■

case. Look carefully and you'll find Dancer's original formulas for the emulsion, developer, stop bath, and fixer, along with a description of his 'camera' a simple microscope modified to work in reverse.

"The Microscopic Photographs of J.B. Dancer" Bracegirdle and McCormick, 288 pgs., Science Heritage Ltd., P.O. Box 46372, Chicago, IL 60646. 1-800 247-6553.

UPDATES

"IMAGEBASE" is a new monthly newsletter published expressly for practicing professionals in computer imaging. P.O. Box 48312, Niles, IL 60714.

MINOLTA stops spooling 16mm film in 20 exposure cassettes as of January, 1994. For Plus-X 100 and Kodacolor 100 call Microtec (619) 272-8820.



Vivitar Opus 20

PICK OF THE POCKETS

The average person buying an entry level 110 camera expects low cost, reliability, and clear pictures from a pocketable package. It helps if the camera is easy to operate and doesn't make a conspicuous bulge in our clothing or hand bags.

Pocket camera styling in the '80's was dominated by the 'bar' type, a rectangle with the viewfinder, lens, and flash, on the same long edge. No matter that the cameras got longer and less pocketable, they were inexpensive. The image quality was tolerable until 35mm cameras got smaller.

It became easier for enthusiasts of small equipment who wanted better quality with their portability to jump ship from subminiature and go to 35mm. After all, cameras like the 35mm Nikon Light Touch are already shorter than most subminiatures (4.3") and the list of features would make any 110 camera owner salivate: Self timer, all films ISO 100 to 1000, two mode active autofocus 1.2 ft. to infinity, etc.

As recently as June of this year Keystone introduced the XR 308, and Kodak introduced the Star 110. Both were me-too bar types that gave no hint anyone was thinking of breaking ranks before the yearend marketing effort.

We've had two surprises: the Kodak Cameo and the Vivitar Opus. The Cameo was introduced with an interesting flash on a mast that solved the 'red eye' look of low budget flash portraits. (110 cameras got longer and longer because light that flashes straight into the eye comes out the color of the retina. Off-axis flash shows the color of the iris.)

The bulk and gimmicky flash on the Cameo fixes the camera solidly in the entry level of subminiature. The Opus, however, is such a nice blend of the right features you get the feeling you've already owned this camera, or wished you had.

This is that rare commodity, something that works better than the advertisements. The folks at Vivitar put pocketability first, solving the 'red eye' problem with an infra red preflash that closes the iris (but not the subject's eyelids) a millisecond before the picture is taken.

The case is black plastic without protrusions to snag your pockets, with just enough tactility to be easy to handle with wet fingers. The viewing angle is 75° with a 45° segment outlined by a floating frame in the optical glass viewfinder. Excellent for sports photography.

The Opus 20 is the first palm size 110 we've used that can turn on a self-contained flash without the need to touch an additional control. (The Opus 20 is automatic, the Opus 10 is manual.)

The new design gives the Opus more than entry level capabilities because the motor, small size, and light weight (5 oz. loaded) make it ideal for remote control operation in model aircraft or wildlife blinds. In fact everything about the camera is better than you'd expect in the \$40 price range. The instructions cover 71 pages (the first 8 are the English version.) The 21mm/f5.6 lens is wider than the standard 25mm, and is commendably sharp edge-to-edge.

If you use filters or proxars, holding one in front of the camera won't interfere with any camera function, because anything you can touch is safely covered.

In varying light the camera can make an entire roll of perfect exposures as long as you hold the button.

The flash not only has a longer reach than the specifications (don't tell Vivitar), but it goes off at a blistering clip which would make it ideal for studying high speed phenomena: forensics, water droplets, etc. You'll be seeing prints in future issues.

Thank you Vivitar!

The users and the designers worked hand in hand on this one. Savvy collectors who put aside specific watershed 110 cameras as an investment, government agencies, and anyone who wants a gift for a special youngster will buy out the supply of these cameras in a hurry.



Russian Minox

GRAPEVINE

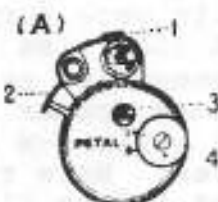
Ongoing rumors of amateur collectors coming home with a Russian Minox prove to be true. KGB issue miniature has clockwork winder allowing 27 exposures in sequence with shutter speeds: 1/10, 1/50,

1/150, and 1/400. Shown above are film chamber cover, camera, outer casing, lens cover, 9.5mm cassette, and film splitter in basic kit hovering at \$1995. No word yet on obtaining separate items, or flash.

COLLECTOR'S ITEM submitted by Bill Spooner, Raleigh, NC

PETAL CAMERA

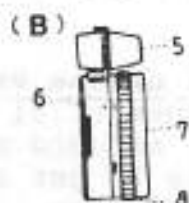
LOADING THE CAMERA:



Hold the camera in your left hand. With your right, turn the indented roller (8), to bring the marking figure "1" to the red spot (6). Now, unscrew the back lid (7).

Inside the camera, you will find the small screw (9). Place the film magazine into the camera lightly turning it so that its groove (10) will fit onto the small screw (9). Replace the back lid (7) tightly by turning it clockwise.

Then give the roller (8) one full turn clockwise so that the figure "1" will again come to the red spot (6). Do not fail to do this, because this opens the opening of the magazine in the camera. Now the camera is ready.



TAKING PICTURES:

Release the safety lever (1), hold the camera steady, find your object through the finder and gently push down the trigger (2).

There are two speeds for the shutter. "1" is for bright outdoor objects and "B" for dark or indoor objects. Make the adjustment by the small indented dial on the face of the camera.

Of course, this should be done before pushing the trigger. For using "B" speed, the shutter will be opened as long as you are pushing the trigger, it is recommended to steady the camera against a pillar, tree or such rigid thing.

After taking each picture, turn the roller (8) one step clockwise so that the red spot (6) will always indicate the next exposure number in order to avoid double exposures.

When it thus comes to "6" the film is all exposed.



UNLOADING THE CAMERA:

The red spot (6) is at figure "6". Turn the roller (8) counter-clockwise by two steps so that figure "4" will come to the red spot (6). This is essential to close the opening of the magazine before taking it out of the camera. This done, the magazine can be taken out of the camera by simply removing the back lid (7). Exposed magazine should be wrapped with tin foil so that the window will not accidentally open.



MYCRO CAMERA CO., Inc.

527 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

PETAL CAMERA

LETTERS

Doyljet
P.O. Box 60311
Houston, Texas 77205

Dear Al,

Although I have not had time to experiment with the developing and printing techniques I have read about in the Times, I have been shooting with my Pentax 110. Here's what I have learned so far (I am sure you and most of your readers are already way ahead of me on this):

1. For at least six months, Kodak Gold 400 plus film in 110 has been sold in this area. I was excited when I first saw this product reappear because I understood Kodak was only making 200 speed color print film in 110 cassettes. I was not as happy about the price, between \$5.50-\$6.00. Nevertheless, I tried several rolls and got good commercially produced prints, with grain barely visible (not objectionable) in 3.5" x 5" size.

2. I began to wonder if there was a cheaper way to get the same results. I shot some Gold 200 plus, pushing it to ASA 400 by cutting away part of the right-hand side of the cassette. I was not able to tell any visible difference in quality when I compared my push processed Gold 200 to the Gold 400 plus in normal sized prints.

3. I carried this rudimentary test further, selecting several brands of 3-M ASA 200 color print 110 films. My initial results were surprising-- I could see no difference in quality between 3-M ASA 200 films pushed to ASA 400 and Kodak's Gold plus 400 in normal sized commercial prints. This represented a considerable savings for me, because Kroger 3-M film sells for about \$3.50 here, and, in quantity, K-Mart sells 3-M ASA 200 110 cassettes for about \$2.00 per roll of 24 exposures. More recently, however, I have been disappointed in several rolls of K-Mart film pushed to ASA 400.

I recognize that I have not tested and controlled all of the variables adequately. For example, I used several different commercial processors, shot subjects under different conditions, and did not make prints larger than normal size. Yet, I have been able to get some surprisingly good inside existing light shots with my Pentax 110 using this procedure.

I would appreciate any suggestions you might have for further "testing." I also look forward to trying to process 110 color print film in B & W developer, and printing color print film processed in B&W chemistry, as well as commercially developed c-41 negatives, on Panalure paper.

Best Wishes,

Galen Rike
Ann Arbor, MI



THE GIRL WITH THE LOLLIPOP

40X MAGNIFICATION Camera: Minolta-16 QT.
Film: Fuji HSU Thin Pac rated E.I. 100.
Exposure: f/5.6 @ 1/250. Developer: Agfa
Rodinal 1:200, 16mins. @ 70°F. Agitate
once every 30 seconds. Filter contrast:
paper grade 3.

FROM THE EDITOR:

-THANK YOU ONE AND ALL for a fun 1993.

-CUTTING EDGE FANS of high resolution microfilm can stop waiting if you've been anticipating the new silverless VerdeFilm announced Nov. 1st, by the Xerox Corporation. During a conversation with Dr. Sonnenberg, head of the Canada based VerdeFilm team, we learned that the new emulsion will only be applied to a metal substrate. It was intended to replace the silver halide in offset plates.

-PEN CAMERAS Pen Expo info came too late to alert NYC pen enthusiasts (Fountain Pen Hospital, 10 Warren St., Dec. 3-4.) Several copies of "Fine Woodworking" March/April '88 were shared with us. Is anyone currently working on that project?

-9.5 THE MINOX CLUB" From now on we'll use the B setting to get 1/30th sec. with our EC. Sure helps to know smart people.

-#N38-671 is a 5 X 30 monocular which displays time data onto the field of view. Edmund Scientific. (609) 573-6259.

-SMALL LIGHT METER REPAIR Empire Exposure Meter Svc., 124 Briar Hills Cir., Springfield, NJ 07081 (201) 376-6036.

-MICRODOTS Has everyone seen the last book by the renown William White? "The Microdot history and application". It has samples, plans, and targets. Microtec (619) 272-8820.

-KODACHROME LIVES! Kodachrome Processing, 21940 Cumberland Dr. Northville, MI 48167.



Dubbed the world's first party camera, Konica's Kanpai has a built-in sound-activated sensor that automatically takes a picture upon "hearing" the Japanese word "kanpai" which means "cheers!" in English. It also takes pictures at the sound of laughter, or any other festive-sounding noises for that matter. When set on its special tripod, it can even swing around (up to 100 degrees) in the direction of the sound and shoot automatically. Both these functions are mercifully defeatable.

FREE CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE Subminis, 110s, and more. List updated twice monthly. Send SASE to Bruce Pick, 42 Harvard Lane, Mystic, CT 06355.

SELLING COLLECTION Thousands of items. cameras, lenses, drkrm equipment. John Luebs, 236 Parsons Rd., Camillus, NY 13031-2127. (315) 488-5187

WANTED 8X chimney viewer for Tessina, excellent or better condition. Arthur Grossman (206) 483-8667

WANTED Minolta MG-S black, Minolta-16 II black, Sonocon MB-ZA, Minolta 16mm cassettes, Beseler 10 x 14mm negative carrier (8301), 35mm to 16mm film splitter. Joe McGloin (303) 270-4991

WANTED Narciss lenses and accessories. Leo Wolk, 78 Lakeside NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. (616) 458-9480.

FOR SALE Acme MD w/flash, NIB \$195. Yashica Atoron, NIB \$75. Rollei-16S \$150. Minicord, Ex+ \$395. Also Steky, Towers, Mamiyas, Minoltas. T Nathan (313) 399-8886.

FOR SALE Minox BC Fanflash Case \$49. Minox-35ML Box/Cards \$219. Minolta-110Z SLR \$69. Elaine Speicher (516) 546-3513.

WANTED Cassettes for Ducati cameras. W. Pollak, 603 Edgewood PL., River Forest, IL 60305. Eves: (708) 771-2747.

WANTED Yashica Atoron enlarging lens/adaptor for 9.5mm negatives. David Benson, 32 Colwell Ave., Brighton, MA 02135. (617) 254-1565.

THE QUICKFINDER 12/93

KGB F-21 w/5 Lenses	1500 B
Kombi Subminiature	389 B
Minox B	189 W
Minox B	169 W
Minox C black	459 W
Minox LX chr	459 W
Petal Octagonal	1495 H
Petal w/original box	695 H
Petal EX ++	175 B
PK-4020	1995 H
Tessina chr	495 H
Yashica Atoron	49 B
B Brooklyn Camera	(718)462-2892
H Hayden Photographics	(416)862-8585
K KEH Camera	(404)892-5522
W Woodmere Camera	(516)599-6013

LETTERS

Dear Al,

I don't agree completely with the reader who complains about too many hightech cameras. I find the newsletters very informative. But the Tynar was certified junk.

Robert Bell
Waxahachie, FL



I still like it.

Al D.

A \$4.95 American pocket camera with cartridge loading, the sturdy Tynar took terrible pictures. Manufactured in California, the Tynar was deliberately designed as a "rip-off" (in today's vernacular) and like the Pixie, had mainly novelty value. Cameras like this helped kill the first pocket camera boom.