

Editor: Al Doyle  
Subscription: \$15 Per Year  
\$22 Per Year International

#6 June 1989  
Back issues \$2

# THE SUBMINIATURE TIMES

The Subminiature Times is published monthly by Doylejet, P.O. Box 60311, Houston, TX. 77205 (713) 443-3409  
Supporting 110, 16mm, 9.5mm, 8mm, 4mm, 1mm, Microdot, & Electronic Still Photography.



## MEC-16



It isn't hard to fall in love with certain subminiature cameras. While users are more concerned with utility, asking "Is the lens sharp, is it pocketable, are cassettes available?" Collectors are set off by unusual shapes, limited production, or an interesting provenance.

The Mec-16 was introduced in 1950, a product of Feinwerktechnik, in Germany. Its a pocketable but wide subminiature, weighing in at 8-1/2 oz., called a 'ham sandwich' and such by Minox owners. The most unique feature at the time of its introduction was the ability to use any double-perforated 16mm movie film, producing sharp 10 x 14mm negatives.

A pull on the left side of the case exposes the Galilean viewfinder, and disengages the shutter lock.

Reading left to right across the top of the camera are: The aperture dial which reads continuously from f/2.8 to f/16, the lens focusing dial-continuous from 12" to infinity, and the shutter control dial which is continuous from 1/30th to 1/1000th sec. plus B. Shutter and aperture are cross-linked. Either can be rotated to match the light meter needle. Later models had f/2.0 lenses.

The portable copying stand has four adjustable legs which frame the subject. Distance measurements are controlled by the leg sections.

The modified Gauss 6 element Rodenstock lens is excellent at all apertures. The Mec-16's fast lens and 1/1000th sec. shutter speed opened new realms to photographers working in subminiature. The shutter speeds of earlier 17.5mm cameras rarely exceeded 1/100th sec.

#### A SPECIAL KIND OF METER

The photocell in the Mec-16 is positioned behind the diaphragm with a space provided to swing it out of the way for each exposure. As you reduce the aperture, the cell's angle of view is also reduced, becoming a spot meter; although the manufacturer never promoted it as such.

In our test, a blade of grass held in an open palm will deflect the meter as the camera passes over it.

You wouldn't hesitate to do Zone photography or highly technical work, because results from the camera are so repeatable in very narrow light levels from 32000 down to 32 footcandles. The indicated film speeds are from ASA 10 to ASA 100. You can override the meter for faster or slower films at any time.

A single-throw lever located at your right thumb raises the pressure plate and advances the film.

Several features indicate that the Mec-16 was intended for serious picture taking. It has a built-in interchangeable filter, a European flash terminal synched for bulb or strobe, a tripod mount, and cable release threading in the shutter button.

The film advance mechanism puts a stingy 1mm space between each frame; 20 frames per foot of film. This is 3 more exposures per foot than other 16mm cameras. Something to keep in mind if you're headed to the boonies on a budget.

#### IN THE DARKROOM

The camera is drop-in loaded with the same round barrel 'dead drop' sealed cassettes used in the Whittaker Micro-16. (But not the Minicord.) Experience suggests buying a Micro-16 to get the cassettes, they're becoming scarce.

The Mec-16 microscope adapter has a horizontal viewing tube between the camera and the microscope eyepiece giving a SLR view of your subject. It works as well with binoculars and telescopes!

#### A HELPFUL TIP

One of the first things we all do when we take ownership of a new camera, is to look through the viewfinder, advance the filmwinder and squeeze off an imaginary shot. The Mec's frame counter clicks down from frame 24 to frame 0 with an unmarked area on the disc between 0 and the next 24. If you try to cycle the filmwinder while the counter is in the unmarked area, the camera will lock down tight.

More than one owner has bought a very low priced Mec-16 advertised "Shutter NG" only to discover that the shutter worked perfectly when the frame counter was reset to 24.

#### IN THE FIELD

The Mec-16 isn't stealthy. It tells you with Teutonic thoroughness that every mechanism is working just fine. From the opening click of the viewfinder, to the pressure plate lifting, to the kerchunk of the meter and shutter moving, there's no doubt other cameras are quieter.

In low light don't brace the camera, brace yourself.

In all fairness its as quiet (or noisy) as a Minolta-16. This is part of the Mec-16 panache, you see; the 4-wheel drive of subminiatures. You never hear about a Mec-16 breaking down under pressure.

There are limited gold, silver, and black models for collectors. The more common chrome-and-black leather cameras are currently selling at \$90-\$200.

Al D.

#### FREE CLASSIFIED

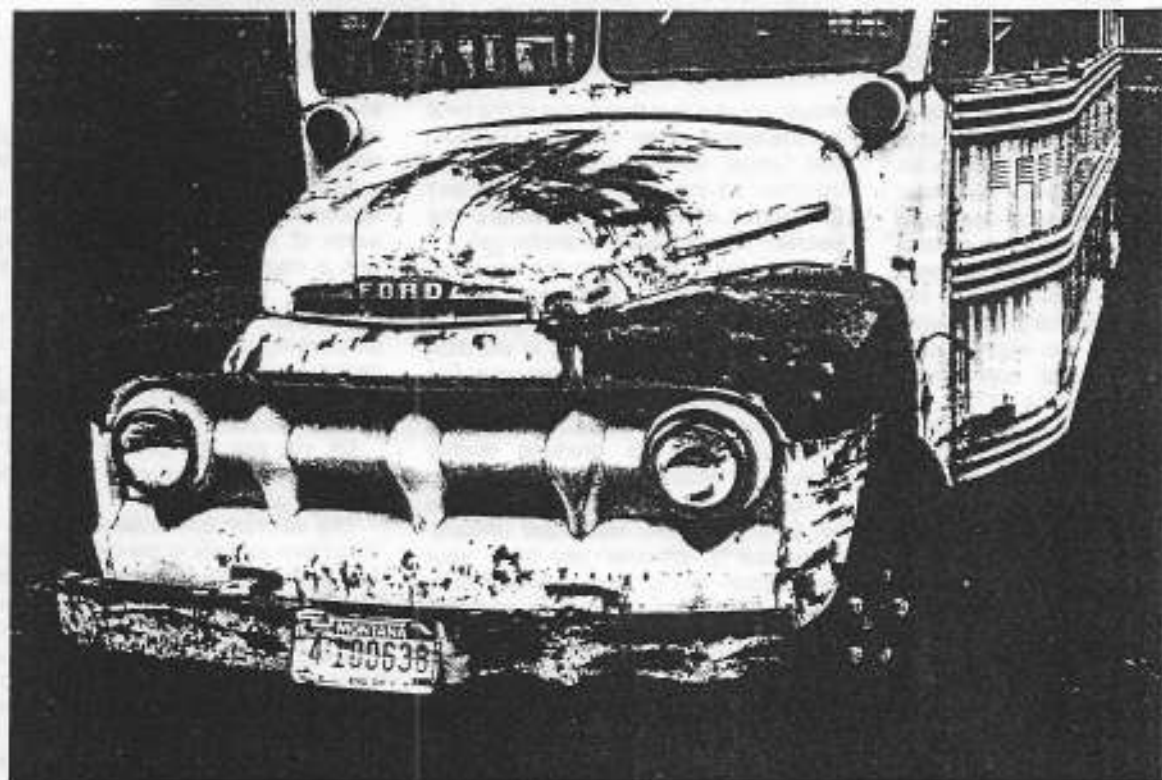
FOR SALE Master bacteriostatic water filter unit LN complete \$18.50. Columbus Camera Group, 55 E. Blake, Columbus, OH 43202 (614) 267-0636

Sub-Mini Portfolio No. 1 covers one of the many specific subject areas that comes under the general heading of American Portfolios. For information on portfolios in your area of interest, write to **the Hannahs**, whose address is on page 33.

Opposite: "Determination," Dan Watson;  
below: "Columbia, Florida-bound," Dave  
Howard. Taken with a Tessina.; bottom:  
"Class of 52," George K. Broatch, Taken  
with a Canon 110.

# **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Elwood and Meredith Hannah  
Co-directors, American Portfolios  
20300 N.W. Mann Ave.  
Portland, OR 97231



Sub-Mini Portfolio No. 1 covers one of the many specific subject areas that comes under the general heading of American Portfolios. For information on portfolios in your area of interest, write to **the Hannahs**, whose address is on page 33.

Opposite: "Determination," Dan Watson;  
below: "Columbia, Florida-bound," Dave  
Howard. Taken with a Tessina; bottom:  
"Class of 52," George K. Breach. Taken  
with a Canon 110.

# **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Elwood and Meredith Hannah  
Co-directors, American Portfolios  
20300 N.W. Mann Ave.  
Portland, OR 97231





locate some of the older sub-mini classics such as the Gami 16, Mec 16, Minicord and Edixa, and to get into this thing with a modest investment).

These older cameras are now orphans when it comes to film availability, but many of the better ones featured user-reloadable cassettes. You can reload them with the 16mm movie film of your choice (check whether single or double perf film is required), or even slit 35mm film (you were looking for a challenge, right?). Minox film is readily available, and you can load Tessina cassettes with standard 35mm film via a little self-loader.

Now—you've rescued a Minicord III from oblivion on a dusty hock shop shelf (you really wanted Aunt Tillie's rare goldplated Minox, but she willed it to her toy poodle), figured a way to stuff some double-perf 16mm film into the cassettes, triumphed against all the darkroom odds. Before you lies a pile of

prints that has you beaming with pride and satisfaction. Or, on the other hand, perhaps you have before you a heap of dog-eared, curly, fuzzy, scratched, speckled, stained and totally gray 8x10s that has you wondering how you ever got talked into this mess in the first place. What now? Thought you'd never ask!

In either case, the answer is the same: Join PSA's Sub-Mini Portfolio No. 1. (After all, that's the main reason I wrote this article!)

No matter what your degree of skill or accomplishment, this portfolio is for you. Rather than a competitive, bloodthirsty, salon-type portfolio, this one is strictly casual in nature, with the emphasis on just having fun and enjoying yourself. If you're a maestro of minis, we'll all "ooh" and "aah" properly and ask you how you did it. If you're new to the trials and tribulations of jelly-bean negs, we'll show you the ropes. As each new circuit arrives, you'll be amazed at your steady progress. Our members are always

eager to share their knowledge, techniques and experiments.

Subject matter is completely open. Candid is the forte of the sub-mini camera, but anything is fair game: architecture, portraits, still life, high contrast, nature—you name it.

One other aspect of sub-mini technique to consider: It's great discipline for your larger format endeavors. When you can produce a sharp, clean, richly toned 8x10 from an 8x11mm Minox neg, think what you'll be able to do with a big neg! You'll be able to extract the maximum potential from the large neg, rather than using all that expanse of emulsion as a crutch for sloppy workmanship.

The portfolio fee is as mini as our cameras and negs, so what's holding you back? Set yourself down and write for more info and an application. We hope to meet you soon!

DAVE HOWARD has been a PSA member since 1970.

#### SUBJECT/FIELD SIZE AND DEPTH OF FIELD TABLES FOR THE MINOX

Distance Focused On	Subject/Field Size—Inch.	Depth of Field
∞ Infinity	—	12' 8" to ∞
12'	105 x 77	6' 1½" to ∞
6'	53 x 38	4" to 11' 4"
4'	35 x 25½	3' ½" to 5' 11"
3'	26 x 19	2' 5½" to 3' 9½"
2' 4¾"	20¾ x 15	1' 11¾" to 2' 11¼"
2'	17½ x 12½	1' 8¾" to 2' 4½"
1' 8¾"	14¾ x 10¾	1' 6¾" to 2'
1' 6"	12¾ x 9¾	1' 4½" to 1' 8½"
1' 2¾"	10½ x 7¾	1' 1½" to 1' 3¾"
1'	8¾ x 6	11½" to 1' 1"
10¾"	7½ x 5½	10¼" to 11¾"
10"	6¾ x 4¾	9¼" to 10¾"
8¾"	6 x 4¾	8¾" to 9½"
8"	5½ x 3¾	7¾" to 8½"

Distances are measured from the front of the camera.

Figures in light type apply when distance scale of camera is set exactly half-way between two adjacent engraved distance markings.

For convenient measuring of close distances, the MINOX chain is equipped with beads at 8", 10", 12", 18".

#### FREE CLASSIFIED

DO YOU HAVE PROBLEM FILMS C-22, CN-5, E4, foreign manufacturers, East European brands? Let specialists process it for you. Please contact Mehri, P.O. Box 95, D-8422 Riedenbug, West Germany

FOR SALE "Ultraminiature Photography" by Cooper. \$35. Stephen Shuart, 102 Pine Av., Kane, PA. 16735 1-800-458-6092.

FOR SALE "A Users Guide to Photographic Film" Tech details on over 60 different film types. List \$18.95, Sale \$8.49 ea. A Photographer's Place (212) 431-9358.

BELLOWS MAKER Universal Bellows Co. Inc., 3050 Lawson Blvd., Oceanside, NY 11572 (516) 766-6202.

## THE SUBMINIATURE TIMES QUICKFINDER 6/89

Pentax winder mint	\$29 CT
Minox LX	579 B
Minox EC	199 B
Pentax 110 Super	135 CG
Minolta-16P	17 CG
Yashica Atoron w/flash	50 CG
Dremo extinctn meter	79 B
Rollei-16 w/flash	89 T
Magic Photoret	459 T
110 processing reels	4 BH
Tessina black	325 RS
Eljy w/case	99 RS
Tessina chrome	449 C

BH	B&H Photo	1 800 221-5662
B	Bklyn Camera	(718) 941-4226
BC	Bergen	(201) 664-4113
CG	Columbus Cam	(614) 267-0686
C	Cameta's	(516) 691-1190
CT	Cam' Traders	(718) 336-6667
T	Eddie Tillis	(516) 599-6013
RS	Ron Speicher	(516) 868-6411