

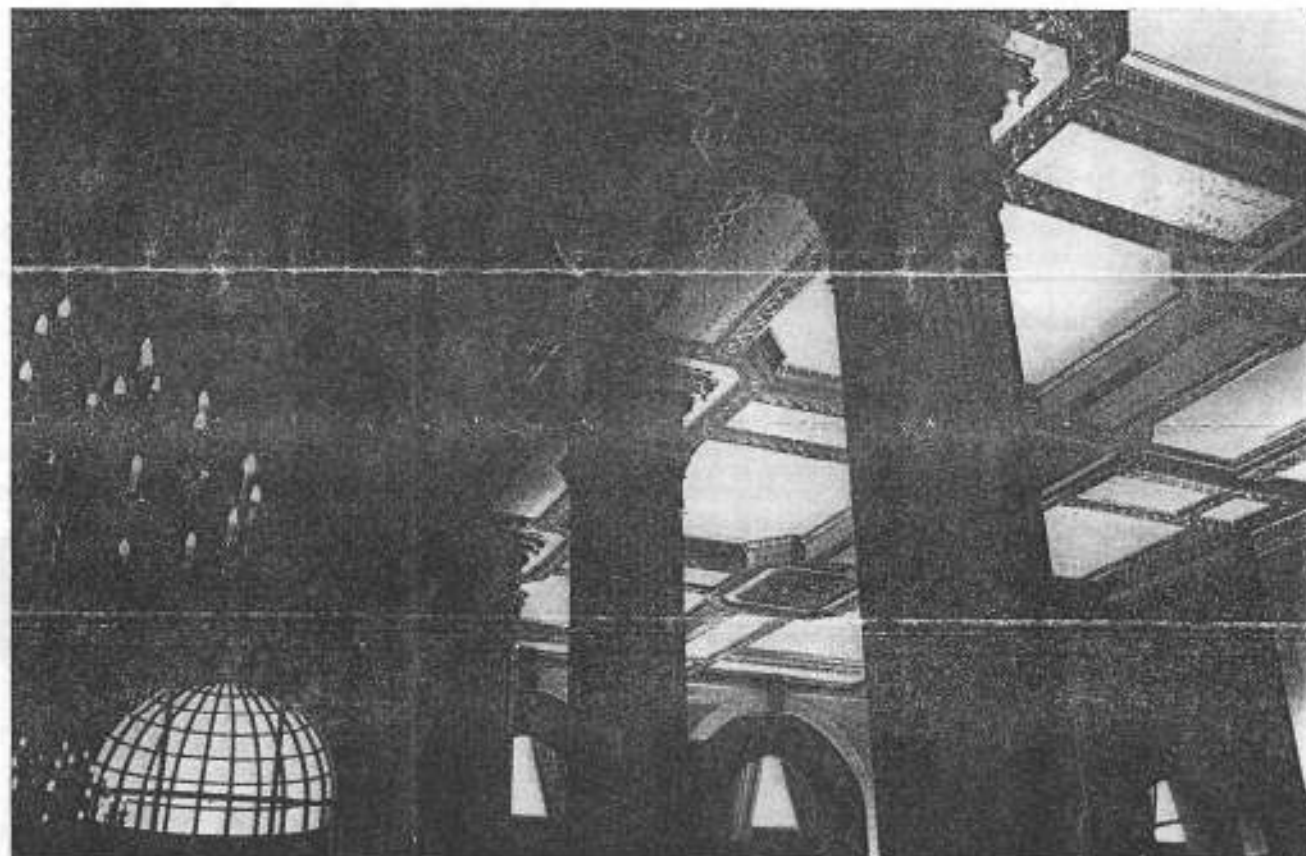
Editor: Al Doyle  
Subscription: \$16 Per Year  
\$23 Per Year International

#74 February 1995  
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, 17.5mm, 16mm, 9.5mm, 8mm, 4mm, 1mm, Microdot, and Electronic Still Photography.



*A test exposure from the Acme MD taken in available room light.*

## Tantalizing tales

The photo above appears in the June, 1992 issue of "Shutterbug" magazine, and in the promotional literature of the Acme MD, without any technical details.

Photographers often ask "If quality like this is possible from a certain pocket camera, why can't I get it? Wasn't the picture faked?"

One answer is that the average photographer isn't as familiar with the films, camera handling, and processing techniques required to get to this level of quality, and the manufacturers seldom tell us.

But is it possible?

You definitely can't match this print

using a hand held 9.5mm camera loaded with Plus-X, or ISO 200 color film.

The Acme MD has an f/3.5 lens with a fixed-aperture of f/4.8. The shutter speeds are automatic from 1/500 to 2 seconds.

One of the best films available, FUJI Super HR (resolving power 850 lines per mm) has an effective film speed of 25 when processed for 'normal' tonality (gamma 6.5).

Solid bracing would be needed to get such sharp detail in a 2 second exposure, but we found that using a 25 speed film, and a camera setting of f/4.5 @ 2 seconds, a lighting level of only EV 3.5 would be required; which is consistent with normal indoor lighting. This picture is entirely possible.

Our processing suggestion would be: Agfa Rodinal diluted 1:200 for 20 mins. @ 70°F. Agitate once every thirty seconds.

## by Dr. William White

**A**fter many months of rumors and the distribution of several magnificent brochures showing all of the features and accessories, the Aemel MD/MDX are actually on the market in the U.S. Packaged in a very attractive presentation case (Illustration 1), which includes the 9.5mm film format camera, a very elegant detachable electronic flash, a metal chain attachment with close-up head set for 30 inches, a soft case and batteries. A roll of Ektar 25 film in a Minox style cassette is included.

The camera is all black of high strength ABS plastic and has an overall rounded appearance. It is well within pocket size being 84x37x21mm, approximately 3 1/4x1 3/8x1 1/8". It weighs 55 gm with a full film cassette, or approximately 1 1/2 ounces. The most obvious feature on first appearance is the large flat film advance and shutter cocking wheel on the top left (looking into the

front end). (Illustration 2.) There is a cover over the lens, viewfinder and meter, which slides back to make exposures, however, it does not protrude from the front of the camera whether in the closed or open position.

On the top of the housing there is a reducing frame counter, a focusing scale and focusing distance adjustment lever, marked infinity, 4.2, 1.0, 0.6, and 0.3 meters. The MD/MDX is fitted with an all-optical glass Azumon f/3.5 lens, with a fixed aperture of f/4.8, 15mm focal length, of any three groups of four elements, Tessar design. The shutter is preferred and fully



Illustration 4. The Aemel MDX with coupled electronic flash.

coupled to a CdS meter, ranging from EV5 to f3 at ISO speed of 100, which provides speeds from 1/500 to approximately two seconds. There is a red LED warning lamp visible in the viewfinder when the shutter speed falls below 1/20 second.

On the underside of the camera there is a large sliding cover for loading and unloading the film cassettes. There is also a very legible

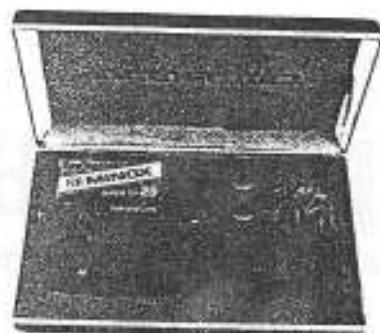


Illustration 1. The complete Aemel MD/MDX in its presentation case.

film speed setting dial, which may be set anywhere within its range, but has bright markings for ISO film speeds of 25, 50, 100 and 400. There is also a warning lamp actuation lever. It appears to us that the Aemel MD/MDX is the logical next step in subminiature 9.5mm format. The obvious question will be how does it compare to the Minox EC? That will depend on the users. The Minox EC (Illustration 3) has been a star performer in the hands of experienced subminiaturists who were able to bring out its best. No doubt many will find the newer offerings equally challenging but equally rewarding. Some of the obvious differences between the two are the EC's slight-

Illustration 3. The much relied-upon Minox EC.

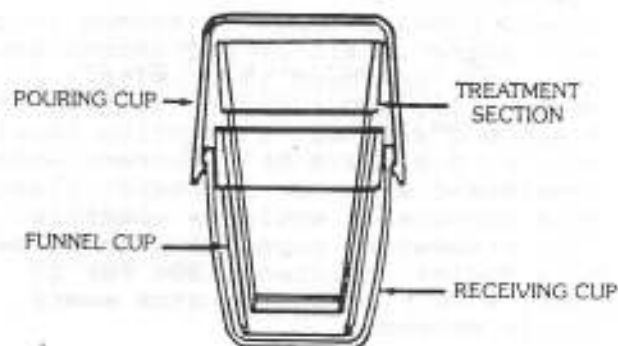


Illustration 2. The MD ready for operation with the sliding cover in the open position.

Reprinted with permission June, 1992 Shutterbug

## ASSEMBLING THE UNIT

1. Twist the POURING CUP counterclockwise, and lift off. Inside are nested cups, the TREATMENT SECTION and the FUNNEL CUP.
2. Separate the two cups and invert the TREATMENT section, placing it on the RECEIVING CUP. The plastic grid in the narrow end should be visible from the top.
3. Now place the FUNNEL CUP on the TREATMENT section with the wide end up. The narrow end fits inside the collar of the TREATMENT section.
4. Using the POURING CUP, pour water through the unit.



## LETTERS

To All:

If you live in Pago Pago, and I have not returned your calls, don't feel slighted. The phone bill reached the wow level. We'd still like to help everyone in Subminiature Land. The stamped envelope method helps us.

Some time ago I promised I'd give more information on the little pocket water filter I call Totally Indispensable. It fits in a coat pocket, produces water that is bubble free, and pristine. I just found my instruction sheet. See information at left. The Bacteriostatic Water Treatment Unit is available from A. Moore, 7355 Springleigh Way, Alexandria, VA 22315-3633, (703) 971-8474. Al D.

## FREE CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Minolta-16 MG Outfit includes camera/wrist chain, AG-1 flash UV and Y48 filters, cases for all and satin lined presentation case. All MINT -look unused. Camera meter erratic or inoperative. IB for filters and flash but not for camera. \$100, or trade. Harry Howell, 1110 Paintbrush, College Station, TX 77845 (409) 693-4755 nites.

ly smaller size when closed at 80x30x18mm, and slightly longer when open in the operating mode at 96mm. The EC shutter is rated at its slowest speed of eight seconds, as compared with the MD/MDX at two seconds.

While to the uninitiated the Minox EC and the Acmel MD/MDX may look simply like small black boxes about the size of a pack of chewing gum, they actually use very different technologies throughout. The Minox has a metal foil focal plane shutter,

while the Acmel uses a two-piece double cover design. The Acmel does not employ the push-pull configuration used so successfully for over half a century by Minox and modified in the Yashica Ataron Electric with its pull-tape film advance mechanism. Both the Minox EC and the Acmel MD/MDX have Albada finders which project bright frame lines onto the image to be photographed. The Acmel has a parallax corrected set of marks for the 30 inch setting.

The flash for the MDX model is fairly large at 61x42x20mm. With its lithium 123A battery it weighs approximately 1 1/2 ounces. It has a rated Guide Number of eight with ISO 100 and 16 with ISO 400 films. The unit also features a neon tube display and a recycle time of three seconds. The unit clips onto the camera and the electrical connection is made through three metal pins. (Illustration 4.) Acmel is also marketing what may be the best film slitter ever made.

## LETTERS

Dear Al:

I was appalled at the prices being asked for Minox items by the Minox Processing Lab. Are they trying to appeal to rich Texas oilmen or Saudi Sheiks with those prices? The problem is that when they ask for such high prices, then the "discount" stores feel justified asking for very high prices too.

Price fixing at high levels is contagious it appears in Minox-land. When I bought my Minox B back in 1959 at Wanamaker's in Philadelphia, I felt that the price paid was fair. But Today? No Way. I personally believe that the greatest threat to the entire subminiature hobby is the belief by dealers, importers, etc. that the sky is the limit on what they can get for these toys.

Best Wishes,

Al Plotnick  
Hamden, CT

Dear Al:

High pricing won't be a 'final nail'. The Russians are proving eager to step into the vacuum, and provide subminiature cameras for hobbyists and professionals. Except for the Narciss, on which some importers got burned because of low volume, my guess is that you'll see a lot more Kiev Vega, KGB Players, and Minox copies (ST #60) in coming months.

They've already set up a Minox and subminiature film processing lab here in the U.S. Currently waiting for feedback on print quality, pricing, etc. from Minox mavens.

Al D.

Dear Mr. Doyle,

I use an Olympus Pen EF. The underexposure lock can be a nuisance in low light, otherwise it produces very very sharp pictures at "C/S-100" and beyond. Agapan 25 or HSU 35mm/Rodinal 1:250.

I read the back issues many times.

Kera Ashrawi  
Aswan, Egypt

Dear Kera:

I didn't know HSU was available in 35mm. Gonna take me a couple minutes to calm down!

Al D.



Olympus Pen EF

- Half-frame 35-mm camera; 18x24-mm (3/4x1-in.) frame size
- Bright-frame finder with underexposure warning signal
- Fixed-focus 28-mm f/3.5 lens
- Selenium meter for auto-exposures; programmed from f/3.5 and 1/30 sec to 1/22 and 1/250 sec
- Meter sets for ASA 25-400
- Underexposure lock
- Built-in electronic autoflash; shutter speed 1/30 sec
- Recycling time, approximately 7 sec
- Takes 43.5-mm screw-in filters
- Size: 115x74x44 mm (4.5x2.9x1.7 in.)
- Weight: 280 g (9.8 oz.)

The attraction of the half-frame 35-mm camera is that you get twice as many shots per roll; not only is this economical, but it cuts down on your load—great for traveling. Olympus' Pen EF is the latest example. Not only is it compact, but unlike previous Pen models, it has built-in electronic flash, yet is still small enough to fit pocket or purse. I took it along on my last vacation in Germany, and never regretted doing so. It occupied very little space (115x74x44 mm or 4.5x2.9x1.7 in.), weighed next to nothing (303.5 g or 10.6 oz. with battery), and was just simply fun to snap away with. It gave me 144 good transparencies from two 36-exposure film cartridges.

According to the manufacturer's specs, the fixed-focus 28-mm f/3.5 D. Zuiko f/3.5 lens will give sharp pictures all the way from 1.4 m to infinity. And, indeed, it gave me slides that intermixed very nicely with shots I made on the same trip with a full-frame SLR!

The camera has automatic exposure, programmed from 1/30 sec and f/3.5 to 1/250 sec and f/22. It gave me good exposures in sunlight, on cloudy days, and even in some bright interiors. When there wasn't enough light for the film, the release would lock and a red flag appear in the finder, calling for use of the built-in flash.

The exposure meter works without battery: it uses a solar-powered selenium cell around the lens. A ring surrounding the lens/meter sets for film speeds from ASA 25 to 400. I do wish that its click stops were more slip-proof. If the film speed won't put you behind the outer limits, you can modify exposure—for example, increase it for backlit portraits or reduce it for more intensely colored slides—by turning the ASA ring left or right.

When flash is called for, press a slide on front of the body down, and the flash unit pops out sideways and switches on. It, too, gave me good automatic exposures without calculations, thanks to a photocell incorporated in the lens mount.

A table on the back of the camera tells you maximum distance for flash is 2.8 m or nine ft. for ASA 100 film, and 5.6 m or 18 ft. for ASA 400.

One AA-size penlight battery can deliver about 150 flashes. Recycling time is approximately seven sec. The orange readylight is, very conveniently, right next to the finder eyepiece.

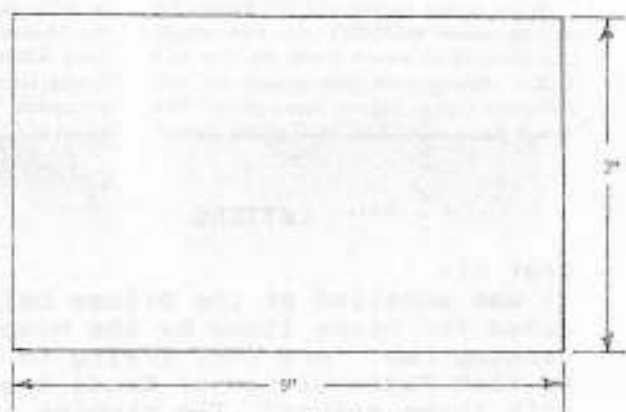
The bright frame-line finder allowed me to compose quite accurately, even at the closest working distance. The separation between finder and lens is so slight, there are no parallax-correction marks, nor are they needed.

A milled wheel in back of the camera advances the film, conveniently and quite effortlessly.

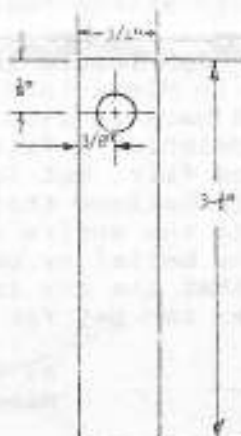
Half-frame slides are not mounted routinely by labs. If you don't specify mounting, your films will come back in strips. Eastman Kodak's processing charge is \$5.85 for 40 mounted slides, \$9.95 for 72 mounted slides. Price of the Olympus Pen EF is \$150, and it is distributed by Olympus Camera Corp., Crossways Park, Woodside, N.Y. 11797.

Norman Rothschild

## THE PKS ORIGINALS FILM CUTTER (Part 6)

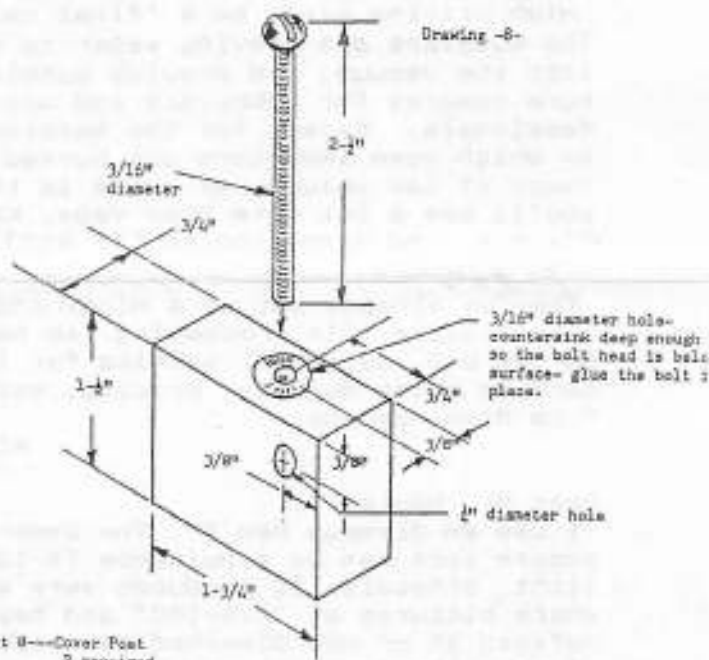


Part 6 — Platform Base  
1 required



Note: All holes 1/2 inch

Part 7 — Film Post  
1 required



Part 8 — Cover Post  
2 required

## FUNNY VALENTINE

FOR SALE fixer Pentax 110 winder, work-horse, won't shut off \$29. Brooklyn Camera Exchange (718) 462-2892.

A READER ASKED if the Kodak Tele-Ektralites worked with the same simple proxars found on cheaper tele-110 cameras.

Kodak's Tele-Ektralite uses two different lenses. Please see page five.

# Kodak puts it all together!

## BUILT-IN ELECTRONIC FLASH.

So you always have enough light.



## AUTOMATIC EXPOSURE.

Gives you freedom for fast shooting.



## NORMAL AND TELEPHOTO LENSES.

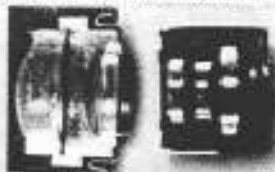
For everything from portraits to scenics.



**Bright-line, action viewfinder** with automatic parallax correction and focusing aids. Also displays a "use-flash" LED signal when flash is needed.



**Rapid-action, fingertip wheel** focuses lenses from 5 feet to infinity.



**Two independent f/5.6 lenses:** 22 mm normal and a two-to-one, 44 mm telephoto. Viewfinder magnification corresponds to the lens in use.

## Flip-out electronic flash.

Flips into action; flash and ready light are automatically turned on. Flash duration is 1/1000 sec for stop-action.



Range is up to 20 feet with ASA 400-speed film.

## New Kodak Tele-Ektralite 40 camera

See it. Try it. Here's the newest Kodak "Can-Do" camera—at your photo dealer's. Ask to see the two other new Kodak Ektralite pocket cameras, too.



Official photo consultant to the 1980 Olympic Winter Games.



© Eastman Kodak Company, 1979

## HELPLINE



TERRY searching for old darkroom scale received spoon chart. HART in Houston found Coronet. Thanks all. To raise color contrast with C-41 Formulary Chemistry, 7 mins @ 80F. Anybody remember Expo Cassette respooling? Al D.

## COLLECTING:

Jack be nimble...

Sixty days ago, give or take, we alerted our readers to a window of opportunity opening wide enough for anyone, amateur or pro, to drive a semi through.

The Barbie-110 Camera Set was selling for \$17.99 retail (ST#72). The 2-gross case with discount was \$280. We guesstimated that in five years each set would be worth \$100, and you could realize \$2400 on a \$280 investment.

A local collector called recently, boo-hooing. With taxes, the price is now \$220.70 for a case of 12. Almost double in sixty days!

We reflected that the rapid increase confirmed everyone's belief that this is THE photographic collectible for the last half of the decade, and the best thing to do is collect a few cases at \$220 rather than wet up the phones again when the price goes ballistic.

Are we buying Barbie-110? You betchum. Subminiature lives!

## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1994

## Babes in Toyland

In the toy field, there are three certainties: death, taxes and Barbie. The 35-year-old doll racked up more than \$1 billion in sales for parent company Mattel in 1993, and "there's still money to be made" in Barbie collectibles "if you guess right," says Joe Blitman of Joe's Barbies in Los Angeles.

A Barbie No. 1, introduced in 1959, now sells for about \$4,000, and Mr. Blitman predicts the price will double in a decade. He also expects the first

"Happy Holidays" Christmas-theme Barbie, which Mattel produced in 1989, to rise in value. The doll, sold for \$28 in 1988, now trades at \$500. New Barbies that will probably appreciate include the Replica No. 1 limited-edition gift set for \$80, which commemorates the doll's 35th birthday, and the Scarlett O'Hara Barbie, complete with green velvet gown.



## PROJECTS

Your letters indicate success with the PKS Film Cutter and homegrown variants. Wish we could present more material of this type, but the field of miniature parts fabrication and repair is so vast a 6-page monthly can't scratch the surface.

We're adding reference books to our reading list. These are original paper-bound books. If we can point you to specific chapters, the submini' stuff won't get squeezed out.

RJ see Metal Switch Levers pp. 55-59. RMW see Molding From Defective Parts pp. 134-140

"How to Cast Small Metal and Rubber Parts" W. A. Cannon, 168 pgs. illustrated. \$11.95. Please include 10% s&h, 20% International Airmail.

## THE SUBMINIATURE TIMES QUICKFINDER 2/95

Hameo HIT w/case, film.....	\$45	M
Enlrgng lenses: Bogen 25/3.5.....	40	C
" " Hansa 25/3.5.....	35	CC
" " Schneider 28/4.....	149	P
Mec-16 gold in box.....	139	B
Minicord black.....	375	S
Minolta-16 QT, black.....	89	B
Minox AX LTD.....	3495	A
" B, w/case, chain.....	149	V
" EC.....	149	C
" LX.....	499	C
" meter.....	69	K
Sept 8mm w/4 cassettes.....	199	B
Tasco 7800 bino/cam.....	199	B
Tessina chrome w/case.....	595	B
Yashica Atoron.....	49	C
Yashica Samurai Z.....	319	H

A	Alt Camera Exchange	1-800 387-9891
B	Brooklyn Camera Exch	718 462-2892
C	Cambridge Camera	1-800 221-2253
CC	Columbus Camera	1-800 325-7664
H	Helix	1-800 621-6471
K	Ken-Mar	1-800 864-0513
M	Midwest Photo	614 261-1264
P	Photographic Systems	505 247-9780
V	Vistek	416 365-1777