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Album News

I hope your holiday has been safe and happy. Here's to a productive and profitable 2005! I'm also sincerely hoping that our album supply problems are firmly behind us.

The sad news first: Harwood (DF) has announced that the 1100 series (deluxe, non-acetate pages and mats) has been discontinued. I will continue to special order components for this system for as long as I can. However, I am on the lookout for a comparable product and I'll keep you posted.

And now the good news: Although Renaissance Albums costs have gone up, we've been able to keep our prices pretty much the same (slight increase and slight decrease in some products) due to the rise in the Canadian dollar. As well we can also thank our loonie for new lower prices on the **Taprell Loomis** line of folders and albums. Also, we anticipate further price changes from our other suppliers in the New Year. Please call or e-mail us and we'll make sure you get the updated pricing as soon as we do.

Barb Batchelor

Album Sales

New Gear For the New Year!

A new year means change, and at **Beau Photo** that means new products. We have a bunch of new gear for you to check out! At the top of the list is the **Pelican Rain Cover**. This poncho style rain cover is great for the West coast and our unpredictable weather patterns. They come in three sizes, for your small, medium, and large lenses. Prices are: small \$25.99, medium \$28.99, large \$33.99. We are also carrying the **Pelican Shooters vest**. This vest is water resistant, has 14 pockets and is very "styl'n". It's also a great deal at only \$129.50. What else is new? By the time you receive this newsletter we will have a full supply of **Morris mini slaves** and **Expo Discs** (of which we are now carrying the warm balanced version for those who found the neutral balanced **Expo Disc** too cool).

A very Happy New Year to all!

Ken



Product Sales & Purchasing

News From the Film Department

The new year brings with it new low DVD pricing!
Fuji 5 packs for \$9.39 and spindles of 25 for only \$23.43!

We also have many other sales:

Fuji Provia 120pp	(reg. \$39.05)	\$32.50
Fuji Provia 4x5(10)	(reg. \$30.13)	\$23.75
outdated Fuji RTP 64T 4x5(50)	(reg. \$138.45)	\$65.67
outdated Agfa RSX 50 120	(reg. \$5.36)	\$4.15
outdated Agfa Optima 100 120	(reg. \$3.92)	\$3.15
outdated Maco IR820c 135-36	(reg. \$11.48)	\$9.18

Serena

Film and Paper Sales

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Waaaayump from the back !!!

First off I would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year!! And now I would like to dispel all those rumours surrounding the drop in price of the Nikon D2H and let you know what our lovely Canadian arm of the corporation are doing about it.

*Twas the week before Christmas and all through the land,
People who used Nikon were wondering what was at hand...
It seemed that the price of the D2H dropped in the land of George dub ya
But with great pride here in Paul Martinville, we heard don t let it bother ya
We will not match their price, but we will make it as good
How bout a lens and a flash .. NO CHARGE !! we ll even throw in a lens hood !
So that s the way it is .. here in the land of the great white north
We pay what we pay .which will remain the same, hence forth.*

Chris

Pro Sales

Digital News

Fuji FinePix S3 Pro

I have just had the opportunity to briefly test out a final production S3 Pro. Fuji has done a fine job upgrading this camera with new and improved features. However, in light of the fact that I have only used the camera for maybe an hour or so, my comments and comparisons to the S2 Pro should only be taken as preliminary... so here goes:

What is immediately noticeable is that the camera is much more comfortable and somehow "solid" feeling. The controls have a nice tactile feel and overall, the S3 certainly feels (and looks) more professional in the hand when compared to the S2. Gone is the awkward multi-battery system of the S2 as well – now the S3 is only powered by 4 AA cells, and only 4 AA cells - jump for joy! The camera also generally feels more responsive when playing back and zooming in on images. It does, however, still feel a little sluggish while shooting when compared to the latest and greatest models from some other manufacturers, but much of this can be blamed more on the consumer-grade Nikon body it is based on . However, all in all, it should still make a fine studio and portrait camera but don't bother trying to shoot sports with it...

As far as image quality goes, there is good news and there is no news. By "no news" I mean that as far as resolution is concerned, it does not appear to be any better (or significantly different for that matter) than the S2 Pro. While it is still somewhat superior to most of the 6 Mp digital SLRs on the market, it seems to slightly lag behind the newer 8 Mp SLRs as far as ultimate resolving power. Another thing that doesn't seem to have changed (thank goodness) is that trademark Fuji digital SLR "colour" – wonderful vibrant images with pleasing skin-tones and excellent "film-like" transitions into blown highlights.

By "good news", I mean that the S3 boasts a noticeable improvement in JPEG dynamic range under difficult situations when compared to most other digital cameras. By using its various extended-dynamic range modes, high contrast images take on a much smoother look with amazing tonal detail from deepest shadows to brightest highlights. One could almost give up on shooting RAW files – the JPEGs look that good! This bodes well for photographers who don't have the time or inclination to shoot RAW and simply need to get the best possible JPEGs in their workflow. That having been said, I believe that to squeeze every last bit of image quality out of this (or any other) digital SLR, shooting raw is ultimately still the best way to go.

The only fly in the ointment would seem to be pricing – at \$3169 it is priced considerably higher than some of its competition - however it may just offer the best image quality currently available in a Nikon-mount body without spending many thousands more. If you're an S2 Pro user or someone with an older Nikon-mount digital camera being used for studio/portrait work, and you're hankering for an upgrade, the time may be right to relegate your old body to backup status and buy the S3 Pro.

Call us for more information...

Mike Mander

Digital Imaging Dept.