



BEAU PHOTO SUPPLIES INC.

1520 W. 6TH AVE.
VANCOUVER, BC
CANADA V6J 1R2
www.beauphoto.com

PHONE: (604) 734 7771
FAX: (604) 734 7730

November
2002

CUSTOMER SURVEY CONTEST WINNER!!

We would like to thank each of you who responded to our customer service survey this past month. Your responses help us evaluate the quality of our current services and provide us with a tool that helps us plan for improvements in the future. Our winner of the Canon Image Stabilizer Binoculars is **Ken Choi of Richmond**. Congratulations Ken!

Angie Apostolides
Carol Polloni

President
General Manager

News from the back!

Used 4x5 inventory blow out !!!



- Graphic View** 4x5 w/203mm f7.7 Kodak Extar lens \$699.00
- Calumet** 4x5 w/ spring back & grnd glass no lens board \$299.00
- Sinar F1** body, ext rail, standard bellows, 2 boards \$1699.00
- Polaroid** 545 back (metal) \$125.00
- Horseman** binocular direct viewer \$349.00
- Nikkor** 210 f5.6 Copal 1 lens \$699.00
- Linhof** 150mm f4.5 \$499.00
- Lightware** view case \$299.00
- Super Cambo** 4x5 w/ Schneider 150 f5.6 Symmar-S,
and **Calumet** 6x7 roll back, case \$1499.00
- Toyo View** 4x5 w/leather bag bellows, focusing cloth and
standard bellows, copal #1 standard board \$899.00
- Schneider** 135mm f5.6 Apo Symmar \$699.00
- Toyo** recessed copal #1 \$75.00
- Pentax** Digital spot meter \$399.00
- Horseman** 4x5 w/ext rail system, standard bellows &
compendium shade \$2400.00
- Polaroid** 545 back (metal) \$125.00
- Horseman** 6x7 roll back \$349.00
- Horseman** 6x9 back \$449.00

Chris

Prosales

Digital News

Data Storage and CD-R Longevity

What is the best way to archive one's images? I have been asking myself that and I imagine many of you are wondering the same thing. With all the time and effort invested in scanning and retouching photos, not to mention all those digital camera images that you may be accumulating, how do you make safe, stable backups and get all those gigabytes off your hard drive?

Well, the obvious solution these days is recordable CD or CD-R disks. Forget about rewriteable CD-RW disks... they are not designed to have the same archival stability as a good CD-R disk. We want the best available stability for our data, right? So, the next question is... are there differences in quality between brands of blank CD-R disks? You bet!

Many inexpensive CD-Rs have a very thin to nonexistent protective coating on the top of the disk. Really cheap CD-Rs have been known to essentially disintegrate even in "archival" storage as the CD-R's data layer starts delaminating from the main plastic substrate of the CD-R. This effect can be accelerated if a cheap CD-R is exposed to additional heat or humidity. Writing on the top of the CD-R with a felt pen has also been known to cause damage to cheap CD-R disks. Over the course of a few months or years felt-pen ink could potentially leach through the top surface to the actual data layer and cause read errors.

High grade CD-R disks such as the original Kodak Gold, Kodak Ultima or the current Fuji CD-R disks have a fairly thick lacquer overcoat on their top surface. This is what Kodak meant with their old "Infoguard Protection System" slogan for their CD-R disks - essentially they were referring to the thick top surface coating they were using. This coating acts to protect the thin, fragile organic dye layer that is actually the data storage substrate of the CD-R. Again, many cheap CD-R disks (no-name bulk disks that cost \$0.50 each or less for example) often have essentially no protective overcoat and the slightest scratch, scuff or felt pen bleed through the top of the disk could cause problems or even render the disk unreadable. Many people don't realize that the organic dye data layer that is written to by the CD burner is actually on the top of the CD and not embedded within the plastic. This is why disks without a thick clear-coat are so easily damaged.

Today, Fuji CD-R disks have a heavy top surface clear-coat and their longevity is on par with the Kodak Ultima disks which, by the way, Kodak discontinued on January 24, 2002. In fact, I believe Kodak has stopped manufacturing CD-R disks altogether. Internal testing at Fuji rates their own CD-R disks to have a 80-100 year life expectancy - similar to the Kodak Ultima but less than the original Kodak Gold disks which, if I remember correctly, were rated for a 100-200 year life. Fuji CD-R disks are what we are stocking at Beau Photo these days.

As long as you have a high quality CD-R, felt-pen bleed should not be a problem. I have some Kodak Gold disks from early 1997 which have been written on with a felt pen and so far I have not had any problems reading them. Perhaps more surprisingly, I also have a few less expensive Verbatim and Sony disks from 1997-1998, which probably have a much thinner over-coat, but they also still seem to be all right (fingers are crossed for these) despite being marked on with a felt pen. I have heard from someone recently though, who has had problems reading some 2-3 year old "el-cheapo" no-name CD-R disks, and the feeling was that felt pen bleed may have been the culprit in that case.

My opinion, for what it's worth, is that for the best long term durability, DVD-R disks may be the way to go at this point. They have the same resistance to deterioration (80-100 year life expectancy) as the best current CD-R disks and since the recordable data layer is actually sandwiched between two layers of plastic they are far less prone to damage from scratches and are essentially impervious to things like felt marker bleed etc.

For a slightly expanded version of this article with a few more tips and pointers, see our website at... www.beauphoto.com/digital/cdr_news

Mike

Digital Imaging Dept.