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Breaking News...from Front to Back !

This just in.... As more photographers move in the direction of digital capture, they are in turn burning more CDs and DVDs to record and store their images. This has created a growing need for a compact and efficient storage of those vessels of information. In answer to that need, we at **BEAU PHOTO** are pleased to announce our newest addition to our **Printfile** line of products. The **Printfile CD Storage Bin 10** holds 10 sleeved CDs or DVDs (go figure). The **Printfile CD Storage Bin 20** holds 20 sleeved CDs or DVDs (amazing)! **Printfile** also has sleeves for your CDs/DVDs in packs of 25. Come in and check out these great organizers and clear off your desk.

Ken

Product Sales/Purchasing

Big News... from the Rental Department

The rental department at Beau now has a digital back available. If you have a big job to do and think that digital is the way to get it done, consider renting a digital back. The Imacon Ixpress 132C is a single shot back with a 22 million pixel rectangular sensor similar in size to a 6x4.5 frame and will provide a 132Mb image file in 16-bit colour. It will fit on a Mamiya RZ Pro II body or a Hasselblad V series. You can shoot on location with the supplied 40GB ImageBank which stores over 800 raw files, or in the studio tethered directly to your computer. It has an ISO range of 50 to 400. Because the resulting files are so huge and the processing demands are steep, you should have a computer powerful enough to deal with them properly. It rents for \$700/day, which is a good deal when you consider film costs, developing and scanning charges. It is also a darn sight cheaper than buying one at almost \$30,000! For more information call Kathy or Mike.

Kathy

Rentals

Bad News... from the Film & Paper Department

ALERT! Ilford has decided to combat their financial woes by jacking up prices; therefore, as new stock comes in our prices will be justifiably escalating. They have also discontinued specialty items such as SFX film and postcard paper. I still have plenty of old stock at old prices (with a few exceptions) so I expect all you B&W buffs to rush tantivy over here before it's too late.

Serena

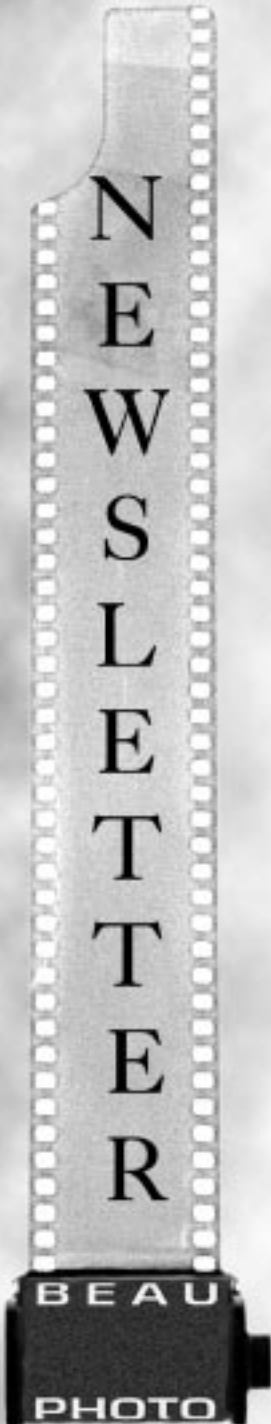
Film & Paper Sales

Battery News... from the Back

With the wedding season fast approaching, I think it would be a good idea to re-acquaint everyone with a little friend of mine. I am of course talking about "The Underdog", a low voltage rechargeable flash battery. This little baby works with almost all shoe mount style flashes available today. Simply attach the battery "under" your camera using the tripod socket and then use the appropriate "Quantum 1+ cable" from the "Dog" to your flash and you're in business. The system consists of two batteries, two "doggie bags" and a charger all for \$260.00. From my experience in a "wedding situation" I would need only one "dog" for most of the day & would only switch to the second "dog" in the early evening. This is based on using my flash in an auto aperture setting of f5.6 -f 8. This is excellent duration for a \$375.00 investment (\$260.00 Underdog, \$115.00 Nikon cable). Now in stock...

Chris

Pro Sales



Important Note:

We are in the process of moving our website and email to new servers. We do not expect any problems, however... computer glitches are a fact of life so, please be patient as this transition occurs. If we do not reply to an email you have sent, please try again or give us a call.

Digital News

Nikon D2X Information

We have finally received news – the selling price will be **\$5999** and it should start shipping at the **end of February**. Supplies will be limited, so Nikon is requesting we fax invoices for confirmed sales. If you are serious and want to be one of the first to get one, give us a call to get put on the waiting list.

SALE ! SALE ! SALE ! Canon Rebel Digital SLR SALE ! SALE ! SALE !

For February, we are putting the ever popular Rebel on sale - **\$979 for the kit with the 18-55mm zoom!**

Review – Camera Bits Photo Mechanic v4.3.1 (\$189)

CameraBits (www.camerabits.com) has just released another update to their Photo Mechanic software. I recently decided to take another look at the Mac version of this software and, in a nutshell, I must admit that I'm most impressed! What exactly is Photo Mechanic? It is basically a program for downloading, viewing and sorting files from digital cameras. It is also absolutely the fastest way of browsing and previewing digital camera RAW files that I have ever seen and I am now using it essentially as a replacement for Photoshop's File Browser. It integrates seamlessly with Photoshop and when one clicks to edit a file, Photo Mechanic will switch out (if so configured) and the image then opens in Photoshop automatically. Browsing into a folder of freshly downloaded RAW+JPEG images from my Canon EOS-20D yielded thumbnails almost instantaneously and switching between images occurred as quickly as I could spin my mouse-wheel.

There are too many features to discuss in detail in the limited space here, but I will go over a few key ones. When you "ingest" a memory card (their name for downloading!) you have options to rename images with some very powerful image naming tools, embed and update IPTC metadata during download and even eject a card when finished. Ingesting works in the background and you can continue to use Photo Mechanic to browse and sort. It also supports ingesting from multiple card readers simultaneously. When you are viewing images, you can tag and rank shots for easy sorting and delete junk images on the spot. Thumbnails and previews are fully colour-managed as well. You can rotate thumbnails, view EXIF data, very quickly zoom-preview raw or jpeg images with an RGB-L histogram and much more.

Photo Mechanic will also allow you resize and/or ftp images from within the program, move or copy images to different locations on your hard drive, create simple web galleries as well as display full-screen slide shows with nice and clean fade-to/from black transitions. For efficiency, you can also relocate Photo Mechanic's thumbnail preview cache to an alternative hard drive and specify a maximum cache-size as well as set an expiry date for cached data. In other words, if you haven't browsed into a folder for 30 days (the default) the temporary preview files will be deleted automatically to free up disk space.

Since many new digital SLRs can shoot RAW and JPEG files at the same time, one my favorite features in Photo Mechanic, is being able to treat a RAW+JPEG image pair as a single entity. Sorting, classifying, editing IPTC metadata, moving and copying image pairs are all done to both files simultaneously and there is only one thumbnail in the browser to avoid unnecessary confusion and clutter. For maximum speed and zoom-ability, you can set Photo Mechanic to use the JPEGs in each image pair for its own thumbnails and previews but have it open raw files in Photoshop when edit is chosen – very slick!

The speed and flexibility of this program must be seen to be truly appreciated. To that end, a time limited demo is available to test from the CameraBits website. In addition, most current 80x Lexar memory cards include a Photo Mechanic demo on the card itself. For more info or to order a copy for yourself, contact Mike...

Mike Mander

Digital Imaging Dept.