



the Viewfinder

the Newsletter of the Syosset Camera Club

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Not So Trivial Battery Trivia *Barry Goldstein*



Batteries have become more important to photography with advent of the Digital revolution. Digital cameras are power-hungry electronic devices. Alkaline batteries fall short when it comes to usable lifetime and power. Although they have a large energy capacity, alkaline batteries are not capable of delivering that energy rapidly enough for digital cameras. An alkaline battery's internal resistance means that it cannot sustain a sufficiently large current, so its voltage drops and the camera shuts down. There is no way around Ohm's law. *Note that alkaline batteries that fail in your camera, may still work in a low power device such as a Walkman or calculator.* A digital camera's LCD monitor may consume 1000mW of power and draw 1000mA of current - these are huge figures for an electronic device (enough to power 10,000 pocket calculators simultaneously!). If you want to extend the life of your batteries, keep the monitor turned off and use the optical viewfinder. Also, avoid previewing; unwanted photos can be deleted later on your computer.

Nickel metal hydride (NiMH) batteries are a great improvement, but until now required a significant amount of time to recharge. My old Radio Shack charger for example, requires 13 hours. While other

models may be somewhat faster, the charge rate is limited because of the heat generated within the battery during the charge cycle. Too rapid a charge would result in explosion because there is no pressure relief mechanism in a normal NiMH battery. But - the folks at Ray-O-Vac have engineered a new design that incorporates a

Caution
Disconnecting and reconnecting a charger to AC power while a battery is charging may cause over-charging of the battery.

means of regulating internal pressure so that the battery can be charged in 15 minutes.

All batteries slowly drain even when not in use, and

temperature plays a big part. In the case of NiMH batteries, that's 1 to 2 % per day. At room temperature NiMH batteries can generally retain 70 percent of their charge for 30 days. As you will find out later, Lithium batteries are a different story.

In general, NiMH batteries can take up to 1000 recharges. Generally speaking, these batteries do not suffer from the "memory effect" and thus do not require conditioning, as do NiCads. Nevertheless, to ensure top performance, conditioning is recommended once for every ten charges. This consists of letting the battery completely discharge before recharging. Batteries can be left in the charger for an extended period of time, but do not store them in the charger if it is not necessary.

SCC Meeting Schedule

January

- 8 **Board Meeting**
- 15 **Competition** judged by *Sherman Paur*
- 22 **This One Got a Nine** A look at high scoring prints and slides with member comments
- 29 **Tapestry in light** presented by *Robert Rode*

February

- 12 **Competition** judged by *Mel Ettinger*
- 19 **Light from Paradise** presented by *Jim Paradise*
- 26 **Using a Modern Camera** presented by *Gerald Harrison*

March

- 4 **Board Meeting**
- 11 **Competition** Judged by *Dick Hunt*
- 18 **Shooting Close to Home** presented by *Joe Senzatimore*
- 25 **Program**

APRIL 2004

- 8 **Competition** judged by *Art Inselsberger*
- 15 **Theme Competition**
- 22 **Program**

May 2004

- 6 **Board Meeting**
- 13 **Competition** judged by *Art Donnelly*
- 20 **Program**
- 27 **End of Year Competition** judged by *Gerald Kraus, Robert Ulberg, & Dennis Golin*

June 2004

- 18 **Annual Awards Dinner**

Fortunately, NiMH batteries are environmentally friendly because they don't incorporate toxic such toxic materials as cadmium and being rechargeable, and like other rechargeables, one battery is capable of replacing hundreds of non-rechargeable batteries that would otherwise be discarded. Speaking of the environment, old batteries should be properly disposed of. You can take them to Home Depot among other retailers.



Enter Lithium: The “state of art” battery is the Lithium-Ion-Polymer. Like the NiMH, these batteries have a very flat discharge curve, which means that there is very little voltage difference between a when fully charged and when almost discharged. They also have superior temperature characteristics. They can be stored from -4° F to 140° F and will not loose power when used on cold days. Another advantage is the

extremely low loss during storage, being in the range of 0.1% per month. Perhaps most importantly, they have a very high energy density meaning they can deliver a relatively high current for a relatively long time. The only disadvantage is that they can be recharged only 300 to 400 times. For a person who recharges one a week, the battery will still last over 6 years.

Results of November Theme Competition: “Reflections”

Judged By Orrin Edwards

Black & White Prints “A”
 Print Of The Month- Alan Agdern
 Eight- Clem Kleinmann

Black & White Prints “B”
 Print Of The Month- Bill Schmidt

Color Prints Class “A”

Print Of The Month- Alan Agdern
 Nine- Gerald Harrison, Ramesh Patwa
 Eight- Sy Roth

Color Prints Class “B”
 Print Of The Month- Bill Schmidt
 Eight- Maylan Monahan, Anita Sax,

Edward Starling, Ira Sunshine

Color Slides Class “A”
 Slide Of The Month- Eugene Fox
 Eight-Ramesh Patwa, Melvin Wachspress

December Competition Results

Judged By Leon Hertzon

Black & White Prints “A”
 Print Of The Month- Alan Agdern
 Eight- Orrin Edwards, Barry Goldstein, Moshe Markewitz

Black & White Prints “B”
 Print Of The Month- Bill Schmidt
 Eight- Bill Bowie

Color Prints Class “A”
 Print Of The Month- Alan Agdern

Nine- Moshe Markewitz
 Eight- Gerald Harrison, Sy Roth

Color Prints Class “B”
 Print Of The Month- Jerome Sax
 Eight- Aileen Harrison, Peter Metzger, Maylan Monahan, Anita Sax, Bill Schmidt, Edward Starling, Ira Sunshine

Color Slides Class “A”

Slide Of The Month- Ramish Patwa
 Nine- Orrin Edwards
 Eight- Annette Fox, Eugene Fox, Stan Rothman

Color Slides Class “B”
 Slide Of The Month- Rachel Glicksman
 Eight- Bill Bowie, Barry Goldstein, Maylan Monahan

New Members: the Syosset Camera Club is pleased to welcome Arthur Monahan of Elmhurst and Irving Melnick of Syosset

A camera is too old when: *Courtesy of Orrin Edwards*

1. The tape keeps falling off the holes in the bellows.
2. You can't buy or cut film to fit it any more.
3. WD-40 won't keep the shutter running any longer.
4. You get tired of lugging all those glass plates around.
5. You can't remember if the scratch mark is f45 or 45 ft.
6. Leica says "we can't find the service data on that model." or Zeiss says "Ve made vun of those too?"
7. The repair tech says "Sorry we can't do anything with plastic cameras"

Name The Camera

Last month's mystery camera was a Bolsey C22, designed by Jacques Bolsky, who first started designing cameras in Switzerland in 1923. His first camera was the Cinegraph Bol, followed with the Bolec, later renamed the Bolex. He then designed the Bolca, which became the Bolsey Reflex that was sold to Paillard, a Swiss company to become the Alpa. The Bolsey Models B and C accomplished those goals. The first were made by Pignons SA (Alpa) but the Obex Corporation of N.Y. made the later ones. Competition from Japan and Germany led to the demise of the company in 1956. Historical information is from <http://www.alpareflex.com/History.htm>



This month's mystery camera The "big brother" of this camera (with a longer but similar name) was too expensive for the masses, so a less expensive, scaled down version was marketed by this Dresden Germany camera maker in 1951 to satisfy the growing advanced amateur market. The camera uses interchangeable lenses and a split image-focusing viewfinder. Lenses and other accessories of the larger, more expensive, pro version can be used on this camera. The prism is removable so that a waist level finder can be used. In keeping with the idea of economy, shutter speeds are limited to $1/25$ - $1/150$ & B. The camera is very petite, measuring only 5 inches in the longest dimension. The accompanying picture has been modified to remove the name, which is engraved on the faceplate. Care to take a guess? Send your response to barry@gbronline.com.



When a megapixel is not a megapixel

I recently saw a listing for the Fujifilm FinePix 700 camera on the B&H website, which gave the specifications as 6.0 Megapixels (MP). Actually, the camera has 3.1 million pairs of photodiodes and produces a file of 6.2 interpolated MPs. This new sensor termed a Super CCD extends dynamic range by having two photodiodes at each photosite location, a large one that captures the majority of the dynamic range (much like a normal digital camera photodiode), and a second much smaller photodiode which is less sensitive and captures mostly highlight detail. The information from the two photodiodes is combined to deliver extended dynamic range. In actual tests (see dpreview.com),

Shudder Carol Goldstein
In the blink of an eye, I saw the image, cocked the camera and it clicked. Couldn't wait for the film to be developed. Saw the pictures, I was sick. What I thought I saw was there no more, but in my head it seems. So often we take photos, that look better in our dreams.

the camera performs admirably but not up to the standard of a 6.2 MP camera.

The revolution is about to start

Now that Canon has broken the \$1,000 barrier in the digital SLR market, we are about to see an avalanche of new products from secondary suppliers of lenses and other products. Expect to see new zoom lenses from companies like Tamron and Sigma engineered for the Digital Rebel. More importantly we will see competitive products from companies like Nikon. Shown here is the soon to be available D70 (Spring 2004). Nikon has not announced a price as of this date, but the goal



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is to be competitive with the Canon's Digital Rebel. A new DX Zoom-Nikkor lens is being developed at the same time as a best match for the D70. Nikon F mount lenses, either AF or manual will also be usable.

AE; how far do you need to go?

How sophisticated does automatic exposure control need to be? Why do you need to read dozens of areas of the scene to determine the exposure? Regardless of how complex the scene is, the exposure will be a given f-stop at a given shutter speed. If you use an incident exposure meter, you will always have the correct exposure for an 18% gray portion of the image with a single reading. This means that pure white will correspond to zone IX and pure black to Zone I of the Zone System, and all the other tones will be appropriately represented (assuming correct development).

Megapixels? Stan Rothman
*My pixel count is quite excessive
It is making me very depressive
If only I knew
That I needed but two
My pictures would be more
expressive.*

In the old days when cameras did not have automatic exposure, and an exposure meter was a luxury. One would visually evaluate the scene and set the exposure from experience, the information enclosed with the film,

or use the reciprocal rule as follows:

1. Set the shutter speed to the nearest value of the ASA (ISO) film speed value.
2. Set the aperture as follows: Bright sun on sand or snow- f22, Bright sun- f16, Cloudy bright- f11, Cloudy- f8, heavy overcast/open shade- f5.6.

E.g.- Cloudy bright day, average scene, 200 speed film= 1/250 sec @ f11.

The selenium cell exposure meter was not invented until 1930. I doubt if Alfred Steiglitz, Cartier-Bresson or Diane Arbus used one. Ansel Adams used a Weston exposure meter extensively, but if you told him you had a camera that could read and evaluate 35 zones simultaneously, he would say you were nuts. His masterpieces of black and white imagery were based on exposure of carefully selected single spot, around which the tonality of the image would be constructed.

Bulletin Board

Through 1/11/04 "The Jewish Journey" BROOKLYN MUSEUM OF ART "Frederic Brenner's Photographic Odyssey," more than 140 photographs, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday (until 11 p.m. first Saturday of the month), 200 Eastern Parkway, \$6, \$3, 718-638-5000.

1/27 – 1/31/04 "FotoFusion," 9th Annual International Festival of Photography & Digital Imaging, Palm Beach Photographic Centre, 55 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach Fla 33444, www.workshop.org

2/12-2/15/04 Association of International Photography Art Dealers Photography Show, NY Hilton.

The New York Public Library- Berenice Abbott: Changing New York, 1935-1938, Lewis Wickes Hine: Construction of the Empire State Building, Work Portraits, 1920 - 1939. Room 308 Prints and Photographs Study Room, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street.

Starting 12/12/04- International Center of Photography, "Only Skin Deep; Changing Visions of the American Self." 1133 Ave of the Americas at 43rd St. (212) 768-4682. Adm. \$8, Students/Senior \$6.

Free photography lessons from Shutterbug Magazine at shutterbug.net. Just select "current edition," then "free lesson" and enjoy.

Spring 2004 continuing education courses at Nassau Community College:

"The Art of Photography," Instructor: Rick Recard - Four sessions on Saturdays starting March 6, \$70.

"Creative Photography," Ten sessions on Wednesdays starting March 3, \$125.

Register with and visit phototakers.com on the web for photography discussion and inspiration.

Don't forget Sunday 8 am at the On Parade Diner