



A User's Guide to the View Camera: Third Edition

By Jim Stone

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This reissued third edition of *A User's Guide to View Camera* introduces photographers to large-format cameras, covering their use with both film and digital capture. Readers will learn the anatomy of cameras with a separately adjustable back or front, the proper techniques for using view cameras, and how to take care of large-format cameras—all through straightforward and practical instruction and abundant visual examples. This latest edition features:

- Practical approaches to mastering lenses, shutters, accessories, and the ever-important maintenance of your view camera
- Tips for both simple operation and advanced control of the camera, including film holders, bellows, and tripods, and film handling and development
- A section on digital equipment, offering updates on the nearly 200-year-long history of the view camera

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

A User's Guide to the View Camera, Third Edition continues the tradition of offering a practical guide to the professional photographer's ultimate tool: the large-format camera system.

Written in the clear, accessible style that is Jim Stone's hallmark, this text features careful presentation of the unusual features and advantages of large-format and view cameras, practical suggestions for operation and maintenance, and helpful, well-illustrated discussions of processes and components, including film systems, lenses, and accessories.

The new edition features new material on digital accessories for large-format photography, including information about view cameras purpose-built for digital use. New illustrations by contemporary photographers update the standard reference on large-format cameras for the new millennium.

About the Author

Jim Stone is a professor of Photography at the University of New Mexico and the author of several monographs and educational books on photography, including those he co-authored with Barbara London (*Photography, A Short Course in Photography: Film and Darkroom, A Short Course in Photography: Digital*). His photographs have been exhibited and published internationally and are in the permanent collections of major museums.

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WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

A User's Guide to the View Camera will tell you how to make photographs with several kinds of cameras referred to by the generic terms *large-format* and *view camera*. Format means the size and shape of the film used in a camera, and large-format refers to any camera using film larger than 2 1/4-inch-wide 120 roll film. All of the information about film presented in this book concerns large-format film. View camera is a general name for a group of camera designs in which the lens forms an image directly on a *ground-glass* screen so you can view that image before committing it to film. Almost all view cameras are large-format. And most large-format cameras are view cameras, so the large-format view camera is used as a model for most of the examples in this book. Other kinds of large-format cameras, discussed in Chapter 6, are usually view cameras with some of the features left off to streamline the camera for a specific application.

The characteristic of almost all view cameras that most differentiates them from other kinds of cameras is that the front and back of the camera are capable of independent movement. And the characteristic of large-format film that makes it most different from small-format film is that it is made and used in sheets, not rolls. A large part of this book is dedicated to an understanding of these unusual features and how they can help you make better pictures. Some view cameras, however, do not incorporate independent movements, and some view cameras that do are not large-format. The province of this book, then, is to introduce you, the photographer, to the use of any camera with large-format film *and* the operation of any camera with a separately adjustable back or front.

WHO IS THIS BOOK FOR?

To get the most out of this book, you should already know something about photography. A one-semester black-and-white photography course or its equivalent is a good prerequisite. The chapter on film development, for example, assumes that you have had experience developing roll film; it explains what is different about developing the film used in large-format cameras. This book also assumes that you are familiar, or at least comfortable, with the basics of adjusting and operating hand cameras as it introduces you to the differences (and advantages) of view cameras. If you are learning the basics of photography and the view camera at the same time, you will want to have a good introductory photography book to supplement this one.

In Chapter 2, you will learn about the different parts of the camera—where they are and what they do. Chapter 3 introduces the operation of the camera in its simplest mode; at this point, you will be able to begin to use your camera. With the last half of Chapter 3, you can, at your own pace, add the sophistication of advanced control. Later chapters give you a thorough knowledge of the film systems used in large-format cameras (including the unique Polaroid products), a complete understanding of the lenses you will use, an overview of new electronic and digital cameras, a survey of accessories for special purposes, and some advice on maintaining all your large-format camera equipment.

Other than occasional highlights from the history of the camera, all the information presented here is intended to be practical. And although this book may be of interest to the scientist, theoretician, or camera collector, it is meant primarily for you, the photographer.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Clifford Harvey:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each book has different aim or goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. They are really reading whatever they take because their hobby is definitely reading a book. What about the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, man feel need book if they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will want this A User's Guide to the View Camera: Third Edition.

Kevin Lemon:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity with regard to spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or even read a book allowed A User's Guide to the View Camera: Third Edition? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have other opinion?

Dorothy Cropper:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day every day to reading a e-book. The book A User's Guide to the View Camera: Third Edition it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book features high quality.

Enola Hudson:

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