

Manufacturers newest lure is an interchangeable SLR lens

By Sandy Colton
AP Newsfeatures
staff writer

Not so long ago, camera manufacturers set out to woo the amateur photographer away from the 110-size, point-and-shoot camera. The Kodak Instamatic-type cameras and disc cameras were the target.

First, manufacturers came out with simple, inexpensive 35mm cameras with cheap wide-angle lenses. These lenses keep any image relatively sharp from about 4 feet to infinity. There is no need to focus, and the price is very affordable.

Next came autofocus and auto-exposure. Autofocus just manages to get you into a zone of focus close

camera angles

enough to make the picture relatively sharp. Auto-exposure brings the user within the f-stop latitude of most amateur color print films.

Film manufacturers cooperated in this process by improving their films, making them faster, brighter and with finer grain.

The novice photographer, afraid of all those numbers and things associated with 35mm photography, de-

lighted with the autofocus/auto-exposure cameras, forgot about the 110-size camera. The Instamatic is dead; the disc camera is on its way out.

Now manufacturers want amateurs to move another step closer to the top-of-the-line, interchangeable-lens SLR camera — and to spend more money doing so. They have come out with a new camera, called a bridge camera.

With a bridge camera, you can point and shoot, or, with the push of a button, you can use an operating mode similar to what you'd find in a more sophisticated camera.

SOME BRIDGE cameras have a lot of buttons for a lot of options. For

example, the Ricoh FF-7, introduced at the recent Photo Marketing Association show in Chicago, does everything — plus a little bit more.

The Ricoh FF-7 has a sleek design. It is compact and light, and it can fit into a shirt pocket.

At first touch, the Ricoh FF-7 feels like a simple point-and-shoot camera. And it is. It does all those things you'd expect of such a camera — just about auto-everything.

"A nice camera," I told a tech rep who was showing it to me. "Probably very good for novices, people who just want to point and shoot and get good pictures without worrying about all those numbers and things."

I was in for a big surprise. The tech rep depressed a small button on the side of the camera, and a whole range of sophisticated features became available. It was amazing to find so much in such a small camera.

What options does the camera include?

First, a panorama mode that automatically sets the lens at infinity, even when shooting landscapes through windows (this usually fools most cameras' autofocus mechanisms).

Second, a night photography mode that sets the shutter speed and f-stop for shooting such things as the skyline of a city at night with no flash.

Third, a TV setting mode that sets the shutter speed at 1/30th of a second for shooting pictures from a TV screen without getting the lines.

"Hey," I asked, "why put something like that in there for an amateur?"

THE TECH rep replied: "Think of all the people with computers today who may want to get a photocopy of a graphic they've created."

The camera also has continuous shooting and interval modes.

With the continuous shooting mode, you hold the shutter button down and you have a motor drive that shoots pictures at about one frame per second.

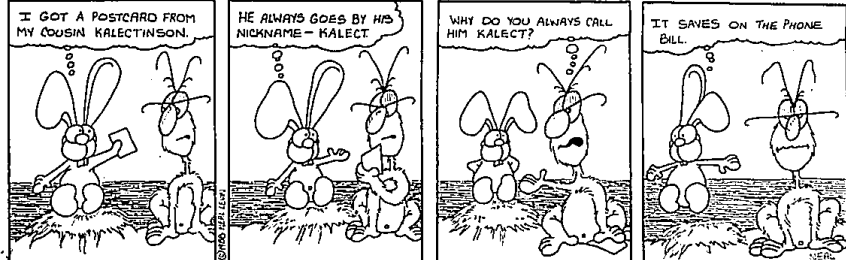
Set the interval mode and the camera automatically takes a picture every 60 seconds until you turn it off. This feature might be useful, if you want to record the budding of a flower, for example, or birds feeding.

by Ray Kosarin

Outlying Areas



Grumblecord



by Neal Levin

Loewsinsohn brings craft of poet to work

By John Killean
special writer

There are times when the logic of publishers seems to be more of a hope than a reality. Times when the lust for blockbuster sales relegates well-written books to the remainder tables or to the realm of out of print.

The illogic of this is never more apparent than when an author writes a book that follows directly from a previous work and the first book is difficult or even impossible to find. It is worse when the books receive critical praise.

This is the case of the work of Ron Loewinsohn. He has published six volumes of poetry. He has edited a work by William Carlos Williams. And The audience for his two fiction works have to search high and low for them.

The sad part of this situation is that Loewinsohn is one of the finest writers I have read in the last several years.

That sad part of it is that so many who would read his fiction must special order the books and still the publishers have made no attempt to make them more widely available.

In 1983, Alfred A. Knopf Inc. published the first novel, "Magnetic Field(s)." After modest sales, the book went into a trade paper edition for a few years. At present, the only way to read the book is to order a hardcover copy.

LOEWSINSOHN brings the craft of a poet to his work. The words weave and soar. The imagination is given over to pure, full flight.

"Magnetic Field(s)" is a book about connections. About standing in the middle of the lives of others. About how seemingly random events and people touch and form lives.

The book is divided into three parts. The first is about Albert, a burglar. We follow him through his training with Jerome, his mentor. The one thing Jerome can't do, however, is control Albert's penchant for imagining the life of the families whose houses he robs.

"In the houses, the foreignness or difference was actually a heavy charge in the air of each room. . . When they were someplace else, not there, they could think about this kitchen table, but their thought of it did not include him being in this place, while his thought of it did include them."

Albert steals little, useless things to remind himself of the lives he has invaded. These items, and the places they were taken from, continually crop up in the rest of the book. Pictures, toys, lamps and even floor plans recur with unsettling regularity. The randomness of life appears anything but random.

One of the houses Albert breaks

books missed or forgotten

to has a recording studio. This house introduces us to the family in the second part of the book.

DAVID AND JUNE Lyman and their son Danny are the family. David is a composer. With a collaborator, he is working on a piece, called "Champs Magnetiques."

In the summer, the Lymans rent a house in New York. It was lived in by a family of a college researcher. They had a son, who was a prodigy and died an early, accidental death. But the child has left a book of poems and journals. David finds it.

Once again, we are standing in the middle of other lives. Once again the random play of life eerily transcends happenstance.

At one point, while reading about the father, David learns that when he was stuck in his research, the father would wander in a library and collect the dedications to books.

One of them reads: "For Stephen, Will and Joe and for Kitty, who brought me cups of coffee all that dark autumn in Reykjavik." This is the dedication for "Magnetic Field(s)." Lives inside of lives.

The last part of the book follows the Lymans as they return home at the end of the summer. David has learned that his close friend has left his wife for another woman. He didn't know that Daniel was even seeing anyone else.

David begins to imagine the life his friend has kept from him. He imagines the lies and subterfuge that Daniel must have resorted to carry off the affair.

SLOWLY, WE move through the life of Daniel and his lover. Here again the rooms we have been in earlier in the book are rooms we enter now. Pictures hang on different walls, or do they? Toys pop up on a window sill. We have seen them before.

Given enough time and space, one could do justice to this wonderfully imaginative book. To say that Ron Loewinsohn is a master of writing is a gross understatement.

At the end of the book, David wonders: "What it must have been like to hear your own breathing and your own heartbeat there in the space where other people had their lives?"

Thanks to "Magnetic Field(s)" and Mr. Loewinsohn, we know exactly what that feels like.

FREE COUNSELING FOR SMALL BUSINESS

477 Michigan Ave., Room 515 Phone Information:
Detroit, Mich. 48226 313-226-7947

SCORE SERVICE CORPS OF RETIRED EXECUTIVES

Sponsored by U.S. Small Business Administration

TORONTO WEEKEND

\$59.50

There's no finer place to enjoy Toronto than The Park Plaza, sitting at the social and cultural heart of the city, and surrounded by the fashionable shopping of Yorkville. A hotel that's a living landmark of warmth and gracious service set in a tone of contemporary elegance.

You may arrive Friday, Saturday or Sunday and stay for \$59.50 (Canadian funds, plus tax) per person, per night, double occupancy. Children under 18 may share their parents' room at no extra cost.

Effective May 1, 1988; subject to change.

PARK PLAZA HOTEL

"Lining tradition with innovation"

Park Plaza Hotel

40 AVENUE ROAD, TORONTO, CANADA, (416) 924-5472 TOLL FREE 1-800-264-4927

CENTAUR RACQUET CLUB

JOIN NOW!

Play free all summer —
No dues until September!

For more information, Please call Trish at

Centaur Racquet Club (313) 681-2000
5700 Drake Rd. West Bloomfield, MI 48018

T.H.E. FORUM

— presents —

AN EVENING WITH BARBARA WALTERS

SUNDAY, MAY 22
6:30 p.m.

The Westin Hotel • A Black Tie Evening
CALL: 647-0250 8:30-6:00 Mon.-Fri.

● O&E Sports—more than just the scores ●

Toronto Blue Jays BASEBALL PACKAGE

ONE NIGHT PACKAGE

\$119.

- 2 Top Price Field Level Seats to a Blue Jays Game
- 1 Night's Deluxe Accommodation
- Pool, Sauna and Health Club
- Late Check Out

Canadian Funds, plus tax, based on double occupancy

2 additional tickets available for same game upon request. All tickets must be prepaid 10 days prior to arrival.

Single rates available upon request. Must be confirmed in advance. Subject to availability.

Member of The Leading Hotels of the World.

950 DIXON ROAD, TORONTO, CANADA (416) 675-9444
CALL TOLL FREE (800) 268-4927

The Bristol Place Hotel

431 Hurdway Ave.
The Park Plaza Hotel

EUROPE • BRITAIN • AMERICA AUSTRALIA • NEW ZEALAND

If you're 18-35 and looking for fun, inexpensive travel... CONTIKI Vacations are for you!

Contiki Vacations are year-round camping, concept and hotel tours that are filled with action and adventure. Ranging from 2-8 weeks, these tours allow you to experience fascinating places through outdoor activities, excursions and city tours with organized, experienced guides.

CONTIKI...It's the only way to go!

Vacations from \$400 Can.

Call Us for More Information

WOODSIDE TRAVEL SERVICES

660 Ouellette Avenue Windsor • Ontario
964-3500