

# Key To Good Pictures-- Get Closer

Have you ever noticed, while watching people take pictures, how frequently the photographer is standing as much as 10 or 15 feet from his subject? Sometimes even farther.

This is fine, of course, if he is taking a picture of a large object or a group of people. But if what he wants is a close-up of his wife and baby, he's going to lose them in the distance.

**ONE REASON** people do this perhaps is because they are aware of a distance limit if they want the subject to be in focus. Their instruction manual said something about not getting close than .... so they're being careful to stay well beyond that point.

If they are using simple, fixed-focus cameras, the limit they remember so vaguely is probably four feet. A camera with adjustable focus would allow them to get within two to three feet.

Some box cameras have fixed-focus lenses but a special close-up setting permits pictures as close as two feet.

**EXPERIMENT** with your own camera. Check the instruction manual to find the minimum distance, and then measure a piece of string, or a stick or whatever is handy to that length.

Then, measuring your distance,

take a series of pictures. When you have gotten used to estimating, measurement should no longer be necessary.

As an aid to judging, you can always measure your arm and approximate from there. For example, one step back from being able to touch your subject should put you four feet away.

**THE DISTANCE** itself is as important as getting used to what you will see in the viewfinder.

Once you have in mind how much of a person's head and shoulders you can get from three or four feet, you should be able to judge when you are close enough.

Having discovered the fun of snapshots that reveal details, you will probably never go back to those distant views with the indistinguishable faces.

**SEEN FROM** this new proximity, the faces in your pictures will reveal a wide range of emotions, from happy excitement to quiet abstraction.

When you find a shot you particularly like it is a simple matter to crop in even closer for an enlargement of just the part you want. The end result will be a close-up you made without any special attachments for your camera.

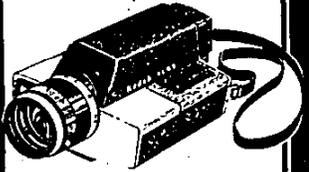
All it takes, really, is a few steps forward every time you look in the viewfinder.



FOR A SHOT such as this, move in as close as your camera will allow. Then crop and enlarge the portion of the picture you want.

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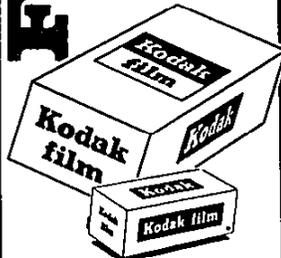
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