



# Infrared film sees invisible light rays

There's a time in your photographic growth when you may not always want to "see the light" (pun intended).

Infrared film is sensitive to some visible wavelengths of light seen by the human eye, but it also can "see" the invisible infrared wavelengths. When recorded in a photograph, these invisible wavelengths produce hauntingly beautiful and very dramatic pictures.

Infrared film will render blue skies black, clouds brilliantly white, and green grass and foliage luminescent, as if covered with snow.

**THESE EFFECTS** are attained because infrared wavelengths of light are not always absorbed or reflected in the same way as visible light.

When a deep red filter (such as No. 25) is used to block visible wavelengths so that the infrared light is produced in the negative, the special effects become evident.

Here is what happens: Chlorophyll in green foliage absorbs most of the visible light waves that fall upon it; at the same time, chlorophyll reflects most of the infrared light.

The reflected infrared radiation, coming from subsurface layers of foliage, shows up as white in the finished print. Because blue light from the sky is blocked by the red filter, infrared film will render the sky a dramatic black.

Through-the-lens camera meters will not function properly with infrared film. The solution to exposure is easy.

Simply set your camera to 1/25th sec. at f/11. With a red filter and a blue sky day, perfect exposures will be yours.

**INFRARED** film must be loaded and unloaded in total darkness.

When you open a fresh film box, you'll see that the film cassette is enclosed in a special opaque container. When you're ready to load your camera, turn off all room lights, open the special container, place the cassette in the camera, and close the camera back.

Practice loading with a regular roll of film until you can do it handily in the dark. When you've finished with a roll, repeat the process in reverse. Don't turn on the lights until the cassette is safely back in the special container.

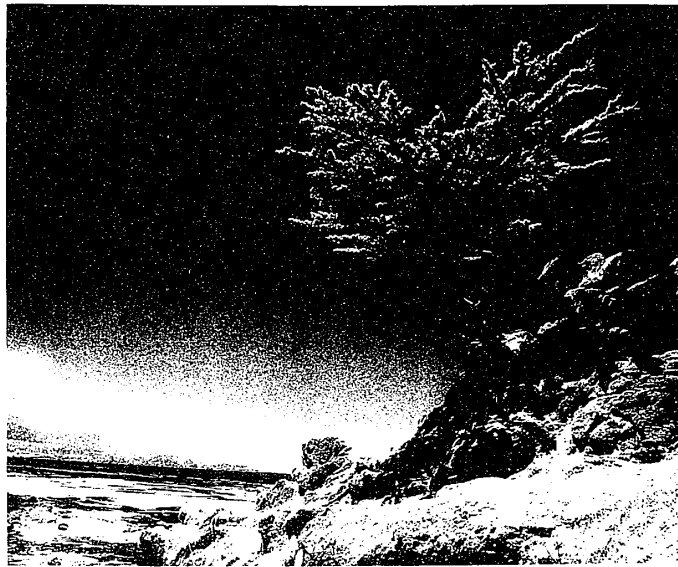
**MOST BLACK-and-white developers** such as D-76 and HC-110 work well with infrared film. D-19 will add a bit more contrast.

Stop, fix and wash in the normal manner.

You'll notice that white prints will have more grain and contrast than normal, these qualities actually add to the impact and special mood achieved by using infrared film.

So "see" the invisible light — infrared light — and add impact to your pictures.

© 1981 by Monte Nagler. The writer will teach a course in photography at the Farmington Community Center beginning March 3. Register by calling the center at 477-8404.



Cypress Point near Monterey, Calif., makes a dramatic black and the foliage turns luminescent. (Photo by Monte Nagler)

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