

Organize your photographs in archival binders, albums



This photograph of Bond Falls in Michigan's Upper Peninsula proudly hangs in Monte Nagler's home. Monte took great care in the printing and mounting so that everything would meet archival standards.

How many times have you tried searching for a box of slides or set of prints from that special occasion years ago only to be stymied as to where you last put them?

Do you have boxes of loose slides and drawers full of loose prints that are totally disorganized?

You're not alone. A great many photographers regard the filing and storage of negatives, slides and prints as a disheartening task to be avoided.

Imagine how convenient it would be to have an organized filing system, to have your prints and negatives orderly, neat and available at a finger's touch. It's easier than you might think.

Cardboard boxes, throughout the years, will emit discernible amounts of gases and peroxides that will tarnish the silver in films and prints causing fading and loss of picture detail.

certain compounds that can cause damage. Here is some advice on how to avoid the dangers and assure the safety of a photographer's most valuable possessions — his or her pictures.



Focus on Photography

Monte Nagler

This is easily done by storing them in transparent polyethylene holders which in turn can be stored in vinyl binders. Larger negatives can be placed in polyethylene sleeves and housed in small steel cabinets. Polyethylene will resist moisture and will not decay or grow misty with age. Furthermore, contact sheets can be made of the negatives without having to remove them from the holders.

way, they will last for many years without fading and will give you prints of superior quality. When mounting your prints, be sure to use acid-free rag board. Acids in regular mounting boards will eventually cause discoloration to not just the board but to your print, too.

When buying a photo album, make sure the pages are made of an acid-free material.

Finally, never hang photographs (or any artwork) where direct sunlight will strike them.

SLIDES: The biggest enemy to color slides is moisture. In an atmosphere of more than 60 percent humidity, fungus can form on your slides and damage them.

Storage methods for slides should therefore provide for circulating air. Most slide trays and metal slide storage boxes are specifically manufactured to permit air circulation and thus reduce moisture. Preserving your photographic memories is easy. A few simple measures will ensure that they'll be around to enjoy for a long time to come.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave a message for him at (734) 953-2047.

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FUN IN THE SUN
Friday, Feb. 14, is a good day to make "Overtures" to someone. The Detroit Symphony Orchestra is hosting a special event for singles between the ages of 25 and 45. Your evening starts at 6 p.m. with dinner at C-Pop Gallery, just a few blocks north of Orchestra Hall in Detroit. Then you'll board a shuttle bus with other singles to Orchestra Hall to enjoy the DSO's "French Valentine Concert." Coffee and desserts will be waiting afterward at C-Pop Gallery. Tickets are \$45 for Overtures subscribers or \$50 for nonsubscribers. To learn more and make reservations, call (313) 676-5111 or send an e-mail to edyer@dso.org.

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