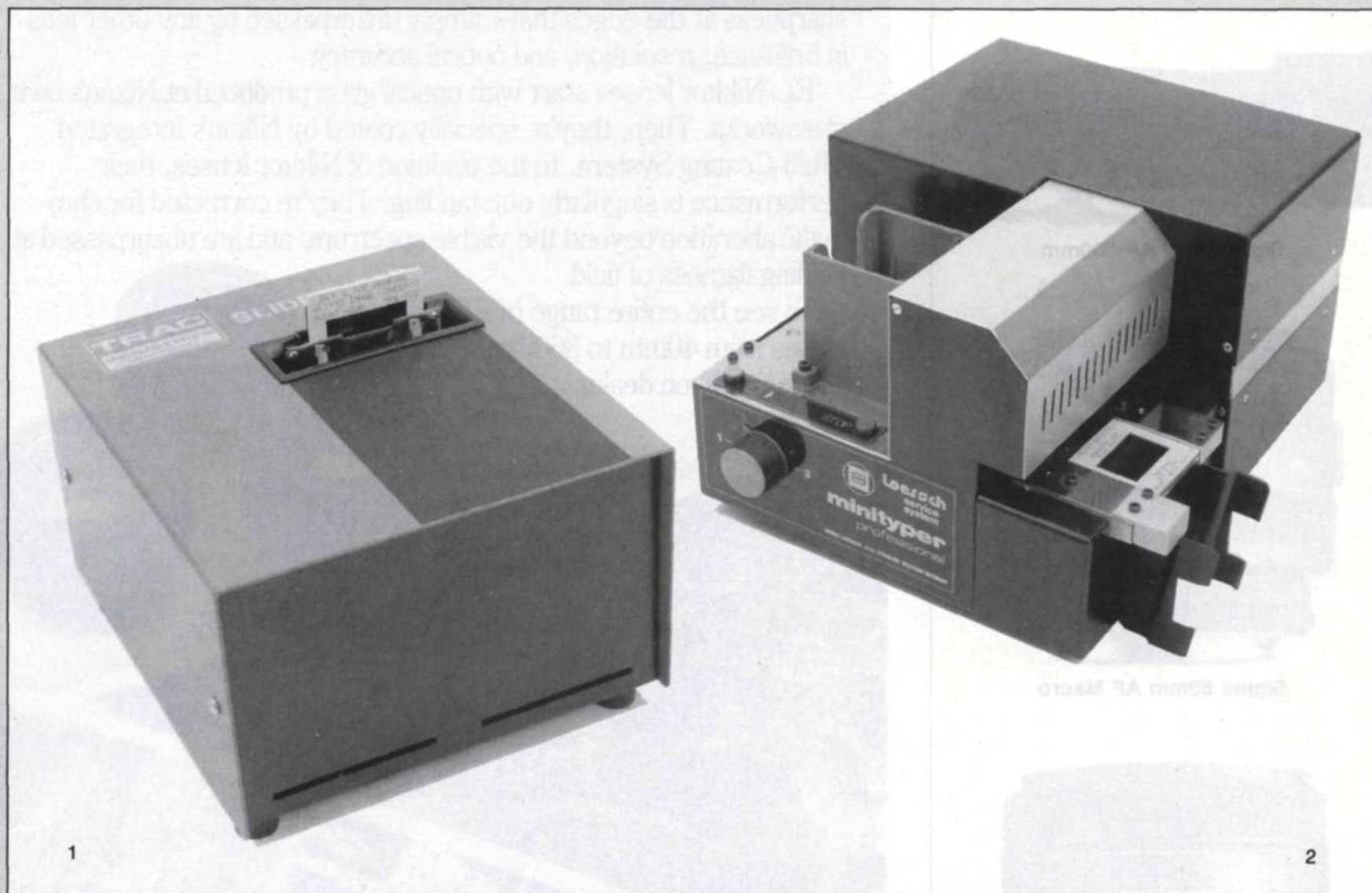


SUPER SLIDE IMPRINTERS

Labeling Stock or Stacks of Surplus Slides

by Jack and Sue Drafahl



PHOTOGRAPHIC'S USER REPORT

Once a slide has been processed, it is usually mounted, sequentially numbered, then boxed. Problems arise when you need to put information directly on the slide mount. You want it to look professional, but you don't have a lot of time to devote to labeling. There seem to be three possible methods to explore: You could write on the mount, but that's a bit prehistoric. You could print onto adhesive labels, an idea we covered in "The Latest Computer Software for Photographers," in the February, 1990 issue. Or, you could imprint information directly on the slide mount with a slide imprinter.

After pounding on computer keyboards for the last ten years, we are no longer able to handwrite legible

labels, let alone sign our own names. If you do decide to write all the necessary data on your slide mounts, you may find yourself tempted to round-file some good shots, just so you don't have to take the time and effort to label them!

If you are into computers and printers, then adhesive labels are perhaps a better option. Most people with computers also have a printer, and there are many software programs out there for labeling slides. These take a bit more time, but the results look very professional.

The biggest problems with the adhesive-labeling system are getting the text to line up with the label, not losing labels in your printer, and getting the labels mounted onto the slide mount successfully. If you have done all this correctly, you still may have

1. The Trac CM/6 Slidetyper is a manual model that will imprint up to six lines on the wide edges of the slide mount, and two more on the thin margins.
2. The Loersch Minityper is a dot-matrix imprinter that can imprint eight 20-character lines on a slide mount.

to fish the label out of the slide projector when it comes off during a presentation to a huge audience.

The third choice for slide labeling is a mechanical device called a slide imprinter. It is very much like a computer dot-matrix printer, with a few exceptions. The slide imprinter is connected to a computer, and usually has a small word-processing-type software program that operates it. Imprinters themselves have a tray that accepts slides, a print head, and a carbon ribbon. Auto imprinters al-

so have a slide-advance mechanism. While at the PMA show earlier this year, we decided to look at the slide-imprinter market. The choices were few, but all of the units seemed to do the job very well.

TRAC INDUSTRIES

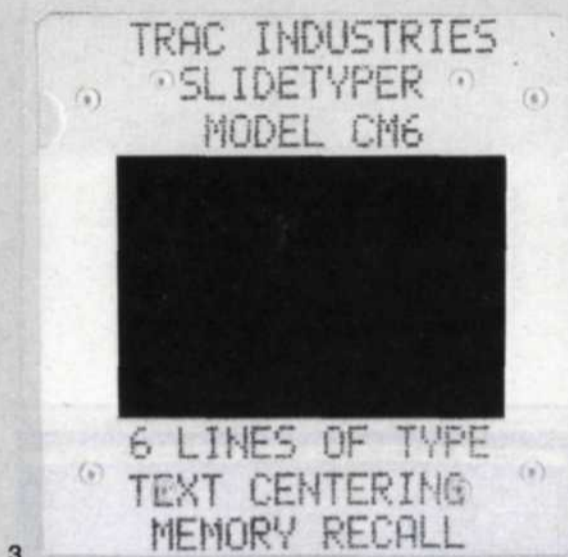
Trac Industries is a company solely devoted to making slide imprinters. They offer models to suit a variety of needs and budgets. For the

monly use on your slide mounts. It uses a dot-matrix print head and can imprint on cardboard or plastic slide mounts up to 1.5mm thick. The price for the CM/4 with the NEC 8300 is \$1245. The Slidetyper will interface with either IBM or Macintosh computers if you choose not to purchase the NEC portable. Subtract \$400 from the price, and now this imprinter is only \$845.

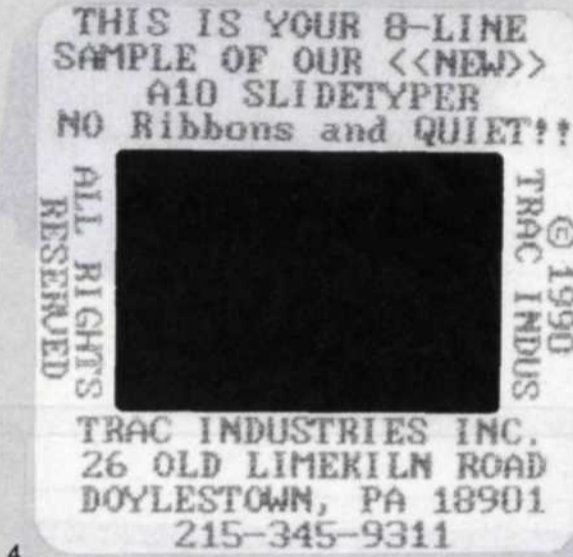
The CM/6 Slidetyper is also a

the second line. You keep repeating the process for the number of lines of type desired.

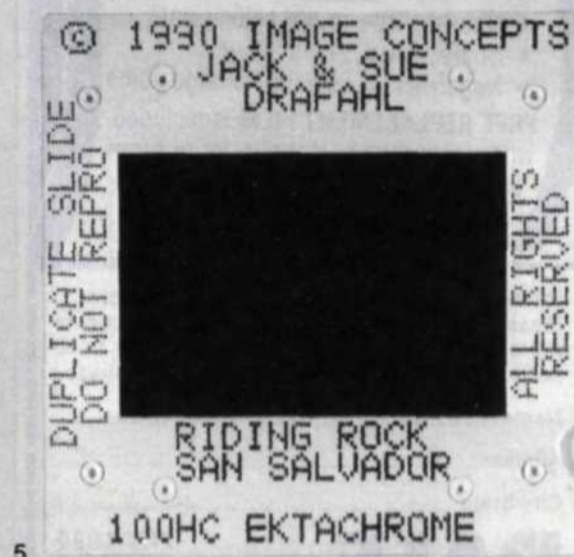
If your volume is too high for this type of operation, Trac offers three automatic slide-typing models that vary in features and cost. The A/4 can imprint four lines of type in one pass using a dot-matrix printer that automatically feeds and stacks the slides at a rate of up to 65 mounts per minute. This unit can store over 220



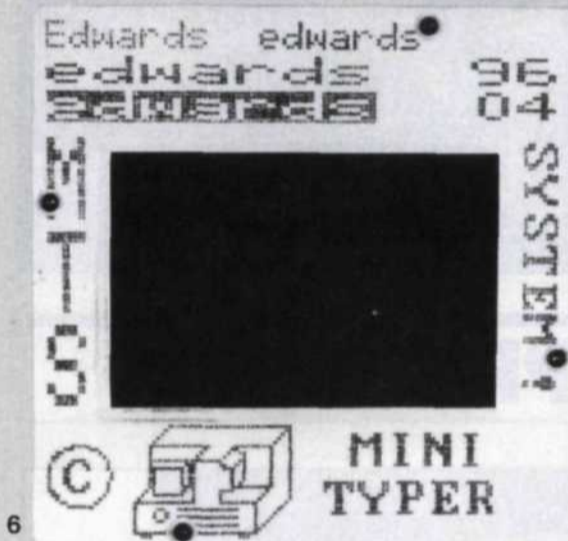
3



4



5



6



7

3. Here's a typical imprint from the Trac Slidetyper CM/6.

4. Trac's A/10 ink-jet imprinter prints small, clear type—handy when you need to fit a lot of information on a slide mount.

5. Here's a typical imprint from the Loersch Minityper.

6. The Minityper includes some graphics capabilities, if you want to personalize your imprints.

7. Another of the Minityper's talents is it can type around pins in the slide mount to avoid damaging the print head.

low-volume photographer, Trac offers two low-budget manual models.

The CM/4 Slidetyper will print up to 4 lines (2 top/2 bottom), with 21 characters per line, and operates off the accompanying NEC 8300 laptop computer. The CM/4 can store up to 220 pre-made titles that you com-

manually operated unit, but it would be our choice in a manual model. It will imprint up to six lines of text—three top, three bottom—and also fits two lines on the top and bottom narrow margins of the mount. It has a 145-title storage, and costs only \$250 more than the CM/4.

To operate either manual Slidetyper unit, simply start up the software, and fill in each line of text desired on the slide mount. The basic features of the software include text centering, sequential numbering, inverse printing, copyright sign, and memory storage of the more commonly used labels. It displays all the lines you type on the screen for you to see before printing. Insert the slide into the Slidetyper, press the start button once for the first line, lift the slide up until it stops, and press the button for

different slide labels for later use. The A/6 is the next model up, and is similar to the A/4, except that it can imprint six lines in one pass, and has a memory storage of 145 titles. The price for the A/4 is \$3950 with the NEC computer, and the A/6 sells for \$4200.

If you don't like the noise of a dot-matrix printer, and want very black lettering on your slide mount, you may want to consider their new A/10 ink-jet imprinter. This imprinter can print very small, clear type—up to 10 lines on one slide—and that's only the top and the bottom. It can also print 3 lines of type on the narrow portion of the cardboard slide mount for a total of 16 lines, if you count all four sides. If you turn the cardboard slide mount over and run it through again, you could conceivably imprint 32 lines of type—not exactly the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, but a good start for \$4500.

LOERSCH CORPORATION

The Loersch Corporation specializes in slide-mounting systems that cut and mount the film, imprint the slides, and box them. Loersch also offers an automatic slide imprinter that feeds, imprints, and stacks up to 60 slides per minute. The Minityper is a dot-matrix imprinter that operates off an IBM PC computer with a Hercules Graphics card, and can type

**FREE
35mm FILM**

**KODAK'S 5247 (ISO 100)
or 5296 (ISO 400)**

**Get PRINTS...or
SLIDES...or BOTH**
from the same roll of film

- Natural, true-to-life color prints
- Sharp, vivid slides
- Negatives for beautiful enlargements

FREE REPLACEMENT FILM is included with every roll you send in for our low cost processing.

SATISFACTION 100% GUARANTEED

Introductory Offer - For 1st Time Users.
Please rush me a free 36 (or) 24 exposure roll of 5247 (and/or) 5296. I enclose \$1.00 per roll postage/handling. (Limit 2 rolls, please.)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

DALE LABORATORIES PET 1090

2960 Simms Street, Hollywood, Florida 33020-1579
Postage/handling charge is for film only. Does not include processing. Process ECN-2 is available at Dale Laboratories. Limited availability at other laboratories. Liability limited to fresh film and processing. Eastman, Kodak, 5247, and 5296 are trademarks of Eastman Kodak Company. Dale Laboratories is a totally separate company. Prices valid through entire month.

**PHOTO
graphic**

OUR READERS USE:

38.2 million total rolls, sheets and packs of film each year!

22.5 million rolls, sheets and packs of color film each year!

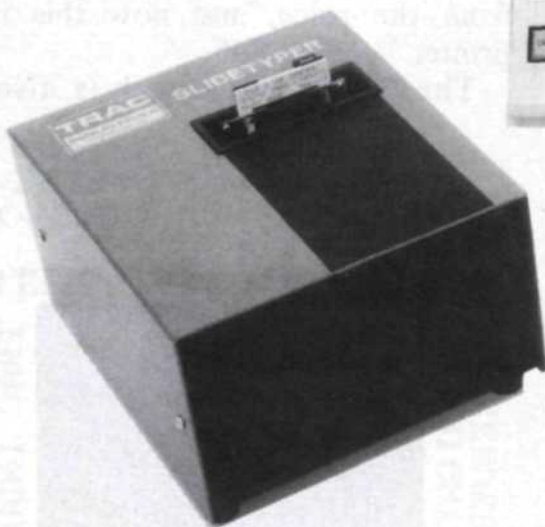
15.7 million rolls, sheets and packs of B&W film each year!

78.6% of our readers shoot color transparencies or slides!

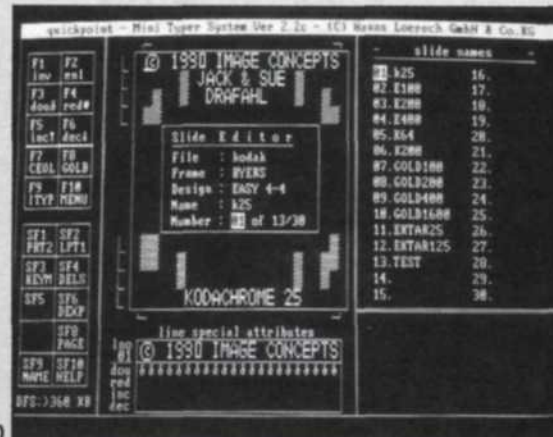
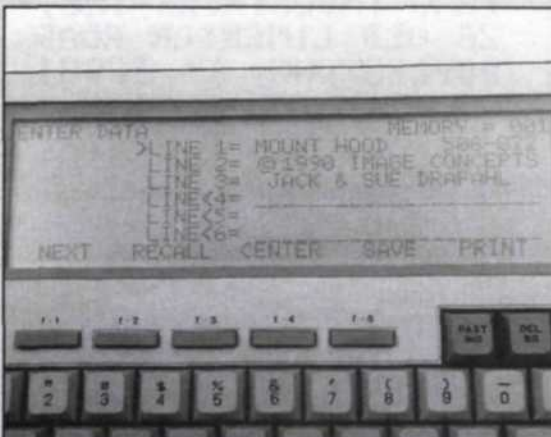
95.6% of our readers use commercial processing services!

CUSTOM LABS

**Get a piece of the action!
Your ad belongs here!**



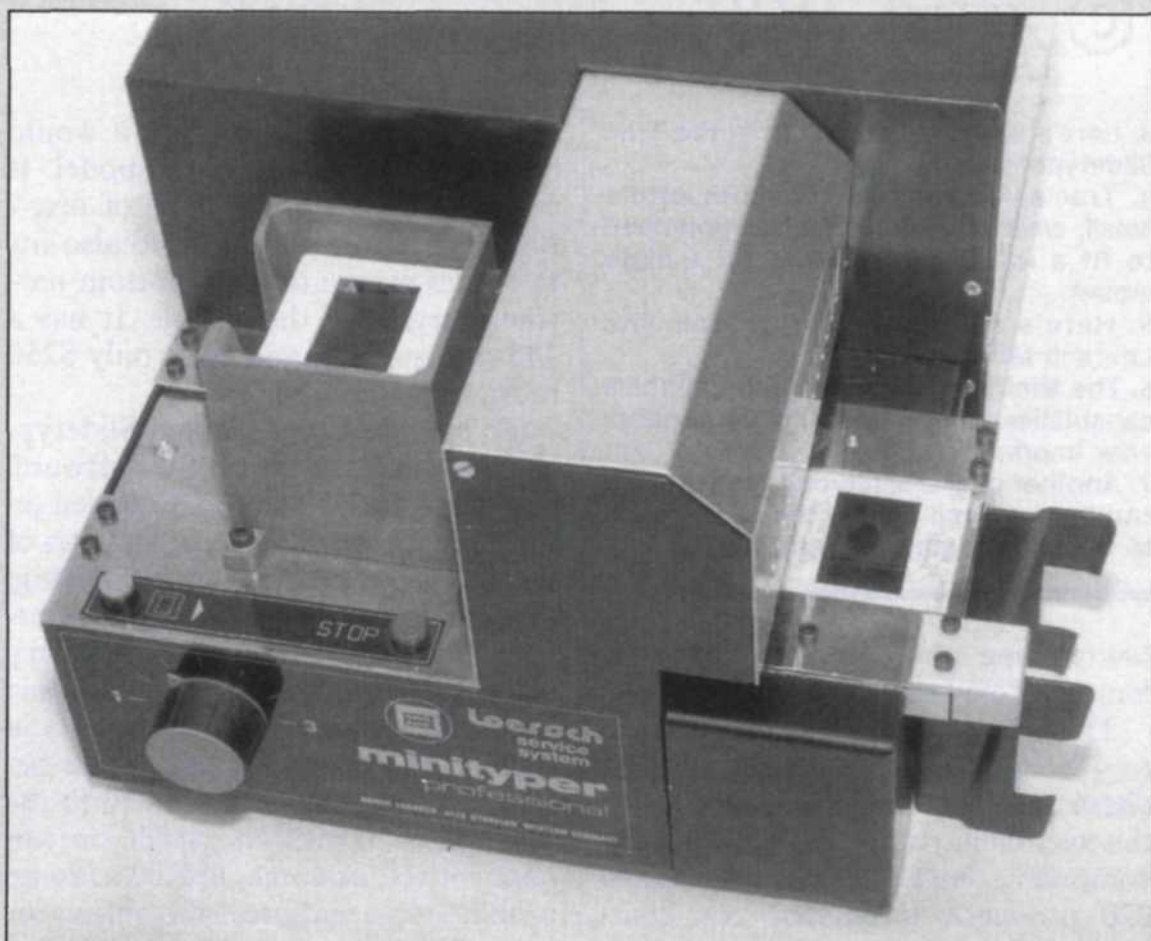
8



9

10

SUPER SLIDE IMPRINTERS



eight lines of text with 20 characters each. Loersch is currently coming out with new software that will permit the use of an EGA or CGA card instead of the Hercules.

A slide thickness control on the front of the unit allows you to set the imprinter for cardboard, plastic, or even glass mounts. The software that accompanies the unit allows the photographer to design logos, print on the sides of the mount, and print vertically instead of horizontally. Six different fonts are available, or you can design your own typeface using the graphics function. By using a two-color typewriter ribbon, you can also design a two-color imprint.

The software program displays an oversized graphic of a slide mount on the screen so you can compose your message. A special part of the software forces the print head to skip over any depression in the slide mount, such as the pins that hold plastic mounts together. The Minityper can imprint sequentially up or down, or make sets of duplicate numbers; especially handy for imprinting several copies of a particular slide. The Loersch Minityper comes complete with software for text and graphics, and costs \$4000.

8. The Trac Slidetyper CM units come with an NEC PC-8300 computer for input, but can also be used with IBM or Apple Macintosh computers.

9. A typical screen display for the Slidetyper/NEC computer.

10. Here's a typical screen display with the Loersch Minityper/IBM computer combination.

11. Loersch's automatic Minityper Professional unit feeds, imprints, and stacks up to 60 slides a minute.

AFTER THE TEST-DRIVE

As photographers for more than 20 years, we have found ourselves using just about every method possible to label slides. We need to provide information on the slides we send to magazines with our articles, as well as for all our stock photography. Each improved method has made life a little easier for us. After using slide imprinters for just a week, we were spoiled rotten. But there is a drawback—you simply can't go back to hand-labeling. Imprinters are so easy to use, that it would be like going back to a horse and buggy. So here is a word of warning: Don't even think about trying out a slide imprinter unless you plan on buying one. ☐

POP



POP



FIZZ



FIZZ



You should have used a Quantum Battery.

No one wants to run out of flash and miss that once-in-a-lifetime shot. That's why so many smart pros rely on the extra power and super fast recycling speed of Quantum Batteries. The compact belt- or shoulder-pack increases recycling speed as much as 50 percent, and the number of shots by up to five times! Without the memory problems or sudden death of nicad rechargeables. And without the concern of how much battery charge is left, thanks to power status indicator lights.



The Quantum Battery belongs in every serious photographer's camera bag. Four models (precision made in the U.S.A.) available for all popular flash units. At dealers or write for brochure.



Quantum Battery I



QUANTUM INSTRUMENTS INC., Dept. PP, 1075 Stewart Avenue, Garden City, NY 11530, (516) 222-0611. In Canada: Peachtree Marketing, 3410 Midland Ave., Scarborough, Ont. M1V4V5. Available worldwide.

ATTENTION CAMERA CLUBS! A VERY SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE

is available to members of your club on group subscription orders—with monthly magazine delivery to each club member's home address!

CONTACT: PHOTOgraphic Camera Club, c/o Subscription Sales
6725 Sunset Blvd. #403
Los Angeles, CA 90028,
for this very special offer.

Holland



Photo

We specialize in the finest
ILFORD CIBACHROME®
prints from slides.

For more information, write or call:

Holland Photo
1221 S. Lamar
Austin, Tx. 78704
512-442-4274

