

# 10 Best Color-Print

We pick our favorites from a great lineup

Film technology today is amazing. There are so many excellent films that it's hard to narrow them down to just 10. But that's one of the

things we do here at *PHOTOgraphic*, so we once again consulted our editors and contributors, and present the results of our annual "favorite color-print films"

poll for your perusal. But bear in mind that, while these films are our consensus favorites, you really can't go wrong using color-print films from any of the major

## AGFACOLOR HDC PLUS 100

Several years ago we shot a bunch of photos on all the ISO 100 films of the time, had our editorial assistant mark the back of each print as to which film produced it, then set the prints out on a large conference-room table and picked our favorites. When we separated the "winners" into stacks, the HDC 100 stack was the highest. Since then, Agfa has made the film even better. HDC *plus* 100 improvements include things like an emulsion just  $\frac{2}{3}$  the thickness of the original HDC 100, granularity reduced half a step on the RMS scale, and more-saturated colors, especially in shadow areas. These features and wide exposure latitude make this a great general-purpose film. Agfa Corp., 100 Challenger Rd., Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660; 201/440-2500; [www.agfaphoto.com](http://www.agfaphoto.com).

PHOTO BY JACK AND SUE DRAFAHL



PHOTO BY RON LEACH



## KODAK ROYAL GOLD 100

With the demise of Royal Gold 25 a couple of years ago, Royal Gold 100 has become the sharpest and finest-grained member of

PHOTO BY MARY MCGRATH



Royal Gold family of "connoisseur" consumer films. This film can yield excellent huge enlargements, and provides four times the film speed of Royal Gold 25—making it a lot more versatile (and hand-holdable). Featuring technology developed for Kodak's Advanced Photo System Advantix films, Royal Gold 100 offers extremely fine grain, great sharpness, accurate flesh tones and bright, vivid colors. We like it! Eastman Kodak Co., 343 State St., Rochester, NY 14650; 800/242-2424; on the Internet [www.kodak.com](http://www.kodak.com).

# Films

by the Editors

film manufacturers today. They're all very good. Here are our favorites, presented in order of increasing speed, in alphabetical order by manufacturer.

## AGFACOLOR PORTRAIT XPS 160

Featuring the finest RMS granularity rating among the color-print films (RMS 3.5) despite its versatile ISO 160 speed, Portrait XPS 160 was designed specifically for people pictures: its lower contrast and slightly muted colors produce beautiful skin tones. It's also great for shooting contrasty scenes. XPS 160 is also a very sharp film: its 150 lpm resolving power with a 1000:1 ratio test target exceeds that reported for any other general-purpose color-print film—even the slower ones.

## FUJICOLOR NPS 160 PROFESSIONAL

Who says you can't get something for nothing? Fujifilm's Reala was a long-time member of our favorites list because it contained a fourth, cyan-sensitive, emulsion layer that gave it a spectral response similar to that of the human eye—photos taken in weird lighting such as fluorescents came out looking "right" for the first time. NPS 160 brings Reala technology to an ISO 160 film (Reala is ISO 100), while retaining Reala's RMS 4 granularity and 125/63-lpm resolution. So NPS 160 replaced Reala on our list: it provides 2/3 stop more film speed, while giving up nothing in terms of image structure. NPS 160 is optimized for portrait and wedding photography, works very in available light and with electronic flash and is great for general photography as well. Fuji recently improved the film, enhancing the contrast and skin tones, and improving exposure latitude. Fuji Photo Film U.S.A., Inc., 555 Taxter Rd., Elmsford, NY 10523; 800/800-FUJI; on the Internet [www.fujifilm.com](http://www.fujifilm.com).

# tamrac<sup>®</sup> Superlights<sup>™</sup>

## YOU CAN NEVER BE TOO LIGHT, TOO SLIM, OR TOO FAST.



5405

Tamrac Superlights<sup>™</sup> are very lightweight, completely foam padded, and offer excellent protection.



A favorite with photo

journalists, the Superlights<sup>™</sup> slim designs make them easy to use and comfortable to carry. The Speed Flap Top<sup>™</sup> and Easy Squeeze<sup>™</sup> buckles allow you to get to your equipment fast. Front and flap-top zippered pockets hold accessories while a mesh pocket stores film and filters. The larger models feature our GearCatcher<sup>™</sup> pocket system which combines a convenient open pleated pocket in front of zippered paraphernalia pockets. Whether you're carrying one camera, or two with lots of equipment, there's a Superlight<sup>™</sup> bag for the job.

For a New 64 page color catalog call: **1-800-662-0717** Dept. PE

© 2000 Tamrac, Inc.



5448



5446



5444



5405

Tamrac, Inc., 9240 Jordan Ave.  
Chatsworth, CA 91311

[www.tamrac.com](http://www.tamrac.com)



Circle #417 on Reader Service Card



## YES WE CARRY SETPAPER.

### NEW CHROMAKEY MATERIALS AND INK JET MEDIA IN STOCK !!

Rentals. Grip. Light Control. Setpaper. Foamcor.  
Special Effects. Fake's. Specialty Tapes. SetSupplies.  
Photo Surfaces. Presentation. Expendables.  
Light Equipment and Much More  
Under One Roof.

**800-422-7381**

**212-255-3500**

SET SHOP 36 WEST 20 ST. NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011  
[www.setshop.com](http://www.setshop.com) E-mail [info@setshop.com](mailto:info@setshop.com)

PHOTO BY RON LEACH

## KONICA COLOR CENTURIA 200

Konica's name is not as well-known in the U.S. as some other film makers, but the company makes some fine films (including the fastest color-print emulsion, SR-G 3200). The Color Centuria line features new technology (Centuria Crystal, Coupler and DIR Coupler) and improved performance. Centuria Crystal yields grain 30% smaller than its predecessors (Konica's VX films). Centuria Coupler doubles the reactivity of the film for more sensitivity and greater stability. Centuria DIR Coupler precisely controls diffusion for sharper images with more-vivid colors. It all works. We especially like the ISO 200 emulsion in the line—a popular film speed with consumers. Konica Photo Imaging, 725 Darlington Ave., Mahwah, NJ 07430; 800/MY-KONICA; on the Internet [www.konica.com](http://www.konica.com).



PHOTO BY JACK AND SUE DRAFAHL



PHOTO BY RON LEACH

## FUJICOLOR SUPERIA X-TRA 400

Here's a 400-speed film with the grain and resolving power of a 100-speed film: RMS 4, and 125/50 lpm. Superia X-TRA 400 incorporates Fuji's Fourth Color Layer technology, with a cyan-sensitive emulsion layer for extremely accurate color rendition under a wide variety of light sources (including tricky fluorescents).

It's amazingly sharp and fine-grained for an ISO 400 film, produces beautiful colors and skin tones, and performs equally well in ambient light and with electronic flash. It's a great combination of high speed and excellent image quality.



PHOTO BY RON LEACH



PHOTO BY JACK AND SUE DRAFAHL

## KODAK PROFESSIONAL PORTRA 400VC

Our favorite member of Kodak's new family of professional portrait films, this terrific available-light portrait emulsion has it all: speed, fine grain, beautiful skin tones, wide exposure latitude and a little extra color punch for those drab existing-light situations. And it handles those hard-to-reproduce colors very well—a purple dress and a purple flower might look the same to the eye, but they'll often photograph differently. With Portra 400VC (and its normal-color brother, Portra 400NC, and their slower counterparts, Portra 160NC and VC, and the new Portra 800), the colors will appear in the photo much as they did to the eye.

## KODAK PROFESSIONAL SUPRA 400

Kodak's new Supra line replaces the Ektapress films long popular with photojournalists and other working pro photographers. The new films feature finer grain, greater sharpness, and better color—making them truly excellent films. We especially like Professional Supra 400, for its amazingly fine grain (its Print Grain Index rating of 36 is noticeably better than the 41 rating of Portra 400NC and Royal Gold 400, Kodak's next-finest-grained ISO 400 color-print films) and its versatility: it's great for people, nature, action, products, and just about anything when you need great color and image quality plus added film speed (its normal speed is 400, but it can be pushed to EI 800 with good results).

## FUJICOLOR SUPERIA X-TRA 800

Fuji's 800-speed consumer film has been one of our favorites since its introduction as Fujicolor Super G 800 back in 1993. In its current incarnation as Superia X-TRA 800, it's even better than the eye-boggling original—an ISO 800 film that produces image quality darned near as good as that of the best ISO 400 films. We love this film for hand-held shooting with supertelephoto lenses as well as for existing-light action shooting. It also works very well with electronic flash, and can be pushed to EI 1600 when you need more speed. (Note: Fuji's NHG II 800 Professional, with its Reala-based fourth emulsion layer for realistic colors under a variety of lighting sources, is optimized for wedding and portrait photography, and a better choice for those specific duties, but for all-around shooting, we love X-TRA 800.)

## KODAK MAX ZOOM 800

The "Zoom" in the name means this film was designed for use with point-and-shoot zoom cameras, whose very slow maximum apertures at the longer focal lengths mean blur-inducing slow shutter speeds unless you use a fast film. A fast ISO 800 film minimizes this problem by causing the camera to use faster shutter speeds. But Max Zoom 800 is an excellent ISO 800 film for serious photographers, too—it's actually a little finer-grained than Kodak's new pro 800-speed films (Portra and Supra), very sharp, and produces beautiful colors. ■

# CHECK OUT OUR LINES!

Just mark the catalogs you'd like and send this ad in!\*

- BENBO and DAVIS & SANFORD**  
Tripods & Tripod Heads
- DOMKE & OUTPACK**  
Shooter's Bags, Backpacks,  
Vests & Accessories
- MAGNABRITE**  
Light-Gathering Magnifiers
- PATERSON**  
Tanks, Trays & Accessories
- POLARIS/SHEPHERD**  
Flash & Exposure Meters
- ROTATRIM**  
Precision Rotary Paper Cutters
- SAUNDERS & SAUNDERS/LPL**  
Enlargers, Easels & Accessories
- SILVER PIXEL PRESS/  
KODAK BOOKS**  
Photo Books & Camera Manuals
- STROBOFRAME**  
Flash Brackets & Accessories
- TIFFEN**  
Photographic Filters &  
Optical Accessories
- VUE-ALL**  
Archival Storage Pages
- WEIN**  
Cordless Remote Flash Controls
- ZING DESIGNS**  
Neoprene Camera Cases and Accessories

### **TIFFEN®**

Helping Create the  
World's Greatest Images

The Tiffen Company  
21 Jet View Drive, Rochester, NY 14624  
FAX: (800) 394-3686

www.tiffen.com • www.saundersphoto.com

\*Help us control costs and reduce waste - please request only those catalogs that really interest you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_