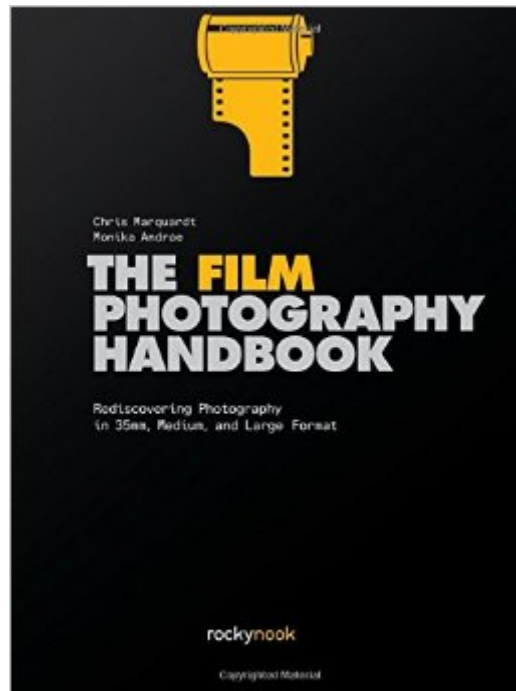


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# The Film Photography Handbook: Rediscovering Photography In 35mm, Medium, And Large Format



## Synopsis

In recent years, film photography has witnessed a significant renaissance—and not just among those who have previously shot with film. Interest in film photography has also grown enormously among those who only have experience shooting digitally. In *The Film Photography Handbook*, authors Chris Marquardt and Monika Andrae speak to both kinds of film photographer as they offer an easy-to-understand, complete resource to shooting film. They also address today's working climate, including such topics as the hybrid film/digital workflow, the digitization of negatives, and working with smartphones for light metering and to assist in film processing. This book is intended for anyone who is curious about film, whether you need a refresher course or are discovering this wonderful format for the first time. You'll learn how easy it is to shoot and process black-and-white film at home, and how little special equipment you need to get into film photography. You'll learn all about: the important differences between film and digital photography numerous film cameras, as well as how to buy a second-hand camera film formats, from 35 mm to medium format and large format exposure settings, tonal values, and tonal representations in different types of film, from color negatives and slides to the enormous spectrum of black-and-white films processing film, covering everything you need to know: equipment, chemicals, and workflow scanning negatives to bring your film into a digital workflow both presenting and archiving your prints and negatives Working in such an analog medium requires a unique approach to photography, and it fosters a completely different form of creativity. Working in film can also prove to be a great inspiration for your own digital photography, as well. The *Film Photography Handbook* covers it all, from the technical to the creative, and will have you shooting film in no time, whether it's with an old rangefinder, an inexpensive Holga, or a medium-format Rolleiflex or Hasselblad.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 282 pages

Publisher: Rocky Nook; 1 edition (May 6, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1681980649

ISBN-13: 978-1681980645

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.7 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #118,026 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference > Handbooks & Manuals #117 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference > Equipment #146 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference > Reference

## Customer Reviews

For me, this book is a route back to my roots. I developed an interest in photography over 40 years ago, became fixated with my new hobby, and have never stopped enjoying it. OK--No more puns. I kind of suspect that there will be different groups of people who read this book. One will be those who got their start using film in a metal body mechanical manual camera and developing it in a darkroom. The film type and speed had to be chosen and used for a specific purposes and was very limited. It took a while to actually see ones pictures after the shutter was pressed. Another will be a younger generation who do not know about rotary dial land line telephones small black and white televisions, cursive writing and for who the buzz words are megapixels, "film" speeds that reach the stratosphere, and the instant viewing of the image just taken. The camera's they use are miniature electronic super computers

Now about this book. It has a lot of positives, and very few negatives. Yes I know I said no more puns but I just could not resist a last one. It is well bound in a sturdy hard cover. The paper pages are of excellent quality, the chapters are clearly numbered as are the pages, the printing is large, dark, and easy to read. The contents are presented in a logical order. The preface tells you what the purpose of the book is. This is followed by an easy to read discussion of the different types of camera formats (35 mm, medium format, large format, film types, speed, etc. Any one wanting to see and understand all of these different variations will be able to do so on this book. lenses and exposure is discussed next. Much of the explanations apply to both the film and digital world. An analysis of film follows. For those shooting film, this is helpful and quite technical. It is fascinating to see how many different kinds of film are and were available and how to use them. Next comes the how and where to process the film---either at a home darkroom or commercial facility. For the do it your selfers , there is a complete guide to exactly what to do---the equipment, chemicals, processing techniques, are clearly and easily explained. I will say here that sometimes I have the urge to load up one of my old heavy mechanical cameras with tri-x, shoot it and then find a darkroom, but then I remember working in the dark with smelly chemicals etc, and quickly put the thought out of my mind. I guess I have become used to the instant gratification of digital cameras and computers. The rest of the book deals with such topics as digital printing,

comparing the analog world to the digital world, and a few other miscellaneous topics. They make an interesting read. So here is my conclusion. As I said, this is a well written, well presented book on a technical subject. It was for me an enjoyable trip down memory lane. For any one interested in how it was done in the past or who wants to try some old and fun ways of to make images, this book would be a worthwhile investment.

For those of you unfamiliar with the origins of this book, Chris Marquardt is the host of the longest running photography podcast in the world, called Tips from the Top Floor. His podcast deals primarily with photography as a whole, without necessarily distinguishing between film and digital. However there are plenty of specific tips in the podcast for both film and digital photography. This book contains everything you need to know to get started shooting and developing your own black & white film if you have never touched a film camera before. There are gorgeous pictures and plenty of examples. Things are explained clearly. However, I bought this book despite having several years of experience with film photography and home developing. What it did for me was rekindle my love for film photography and get me back into a highly enjoyable hobby. Although perhaps I personally didn't learn a ton of groundbreaking new technical details about how the very best ways to scan film, build my own 4x5 camera, or solve world hunger through film photography, I found the book highly enjoyable to read and will reference for experiments with new films and developers for years to come. Highly recommended, even if you don't listen to the podcast.

Chris and Monika take you on a journey of the history, background and practical application of film photography. The authors indicate there is no simple comparison between film and the digital sensor. They go on to explain how the light sensitivity in film compares with the light sensitivity units of the digital pixels work in the camera to produce an image. I believe they did a fine job of bridging the gap between film and digital cameras by comparing and contrasting the differences even though from the title of the book you would assume they would only write about film cameras. The authors, even though their main focus is on film photography, have a wealth of instruction that is beneficial for the photographer using a digital camera. My introduction to taking photos was using film cameras shooting negative and slide film with a transition to digital photography in recent years. However, I found a wealth of very interesting information that has helped me with my photography. The chapter 4 on exposure was very transferrable between analog (film) and digital information. I benefited from the review of lighting, light meters and adjusting for contrast. The description of processing your own film is extensive and detailed. They include several ingredient recipes for mixing the chemicals for

processing black and white and color film. There is a detailed description of the various commercial processing chemicals available and the benefits of each. The authors include an extensive number of photographs to illustrate the step-by-step instructions of developing your own film. They even recommend a couple of apps for cell phones and tablets to determine the film developing time for various films and chemicals you are using. The timer will assist you with each step in the developing process. They also include a fine section on scanning your negatives and slides with a step-by-step procedure as well as a fine section on printing your images on an ink jet printer and other historical vintage print making. This is an excellent book for the person wanting to increase their skills or begin the process of working with the photographic film process.

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