



Panoram

Of the
Oakland Camera Club
Member of the
 Photographic Society of America
and
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 Camera Clubs
 Jim Johnston, President
 Barrie Bieler, Stereo Division Chair
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Another Twin Rig



Overlooking Glacier Point by Oleg Vorobyoff

By Oleg Vorobyoff

I read with great interest Harold Baize's article in the December 2000 Panoram on twin camera systems. For what it may be worth, here is a description of my rig.

I use two Canon F1N cameras. I tried the current Canon EOS system but decided on the older manual system because I liked the viewfinder display. A viewfinder may seem a trivial feature on which to base what amounts to a major purchase, once lenses and accessories are taken into account. However, I believe that half the value of a frequently used tool lies in its operator interface, since most of its user's time will be spent at that interface. Another reason for going with the F1N system was that, used, it cost me a quarter of what a comparable new EOS system would have (many \$1000's).

The lenses I always carry in my stereo kit are two 35-105mm zooms, a 20-35mm zoom, an 85-200mm zoom and a 24mm fixed lens. The zooms are marked with tiny dots of nail polish at the points where they are set on the

same respective focal lengths. When the situation permits (about half the time) I use a single camera on a slide bar. Otherwise, I use two cameras on a 12 inch by 1-1/4 inch square aluminum bar drilled to take 1/4-20 by 1-1/2 inch wing screws. The rig can be set for stereo bases ranging from four inches (see next paragraph) to ten inches. I also have, but do not ordinarily carry, a 24 inch long bar.

As Harold mentioned in his article, the six inch base you get when the cameras are mounted side by side will not produce viewable stereo pairs with objects in them closer than about 12 feet. However, I have found that by staggering the cameras one in front of the other, I can achieve a stereo base of four inches. This arrangement using 35mm lenses has yielded good stereo pairs showing objects as close as 6 feet, and even closer with 24mm lenses. Of course, those close objects usually end up in front of the window, so they must be positioned with some care at the edges of the picture. As for the one inch difference in camera/subject distance, it seems to have no effect on the viewability of the stereo pairs, at least to my eyes.

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The OCC Calendar

My kit is not light. I go off on a photo jaunt with at least 25 pounds of gear, including one tripod. If I know I will be shooting hyper-stereos I take a second tripod (add 7 pounds). The load is not comfortable, but I console myself by reflecting on how much I'm saving in monthly dues to a gym. Besides, the weight training I receive builds precisely those muscles I will need to carry even more photo gear in the future.

Shutter synchronization is by means of a dual cable release. When I started out with it I could not synchronize at all. Then I found that waking up the light meters in the cameras by pressing half way before firing for real made the all the difference. I can now get precise synchronization about three quarters of the time. The rest of the time the shutters fire closely enough that lack of synchronization is not evident on the stereo pair. But I get enough duds that I will see if the cameras can be wired for electronic release like Harold did with his Pentaxes.

I keep trying to talk myself into ordering an RBT X3. It would be nice to capture all those pictures I'm missing because it takes so long to deploy my twin rig. However, I do not know if I could live without the ability to vary the stereo base. On most shots I want something more or less than eye spacing. Idea: I could carry both the RBT and my twin rig. Maybe I will need to join a gym after all.
-Oleg

Do you need RBT mounts?

RBT mounts are sold individually during the club's monthly stereo division meetings. The OCC will be placing an order for more mounts in February. If you want a large number of any particular type, say 40 or more, we will order boxes of that type. They come 50 to a box. If you will need a large quantity, please let Oleg Vorobyoff know before or during the February meeting how many mounts of each type. Sizes are 4P (Nimslo), 5P (Realist), 7P (European), less than 8P (Wide) and 8P (Full frame). Cost is 50 cents each for plain mounts and 60 cents each for mounts with one side anti-newton glass. This is significantly less than what the mounts normally cost. While there is no additional price break for a large quantity, informing Oleg will guarantee that the mounts you need will be in stock. You can reach Oleg by telephone at 415-461-3546 or by e-mail at olegv@ix.netcom.com

Meetings:

Stereo Division

The Stereo Division will meet on Tuesday, February 6th at 7:30 pm at the Salem Lutheran Home. We will have a **DOUBLE COMPETITION** in stereo slides and stereo cards. Please bring three stereo slides and as many as four stereo cards to enter into each of the two competitions. So please bring twice as many as usual!

Our commentator/judge for January will be Glenn Corlew, FN4C, HN4C. Glenn is past president of N4C, and he has twice held the position of N4C Pictorial Slide Chair. He is currently serving as N4C Treasurer. Glenn is a past president of the Contra Costa and Fresno camera clubs. Currently Glenn is active in the Contra Costa and Rossmoor camera clubs. Glenn has taken courses in the California Camera Club School of Photography, Minor White's Judging Class and has attended many and varied seminars and lectures about photography. Glenn has been judging since 1952 with a particular interest in pictorial slides.

Slide/Print Division

The February meeting for the Slide/Print Division of the OCC will be held Thursday, February 8th at the home of Robert Baker at 7:30 pm. Please call him to confirm your attendance. The March meeting will be at the home of Barrie Bieler.



Meetings:

Oakland Camera Club Stereo Division meets on the first Tuesday of every month except December.

Our meetings are held at the Salem Lutheran Home, 2361 East 29th Street, Oakland California, at 7:30 pm. The Salem Lutheran Home has installed a security gate. Don't be alarmed. Just press 001 on the number pad and tell them you are with the Oakland Camera Club. There is ample parking available in a lot below the main building, take the first right turn after you enter the gate.