

Camera

Visitors to Fair 'Take Pictures' in Many Languages

By IRVING DESFOR
Of the Associated Press
COLOGNE, West Germany
—Covering Photokina, world's largest photo fair, is mainly a matter of legwork. There are 12 tremendous halls and four mezzanines to go through. One mathematically inclined colleague, using a pedometer, clocked 23 miles in two days of looking.

Most of the counters are manned by linguists who can answer questions in two or three languages besides German. Pamphlets are usually printed in several languages also.

English is probably the second language most often spoken and printed here, but it was still a habit of this columnist to struggle with my faulty German phraseology only to be answered in very good English.

The term "half frame camera" is gradually coming into more general use as camera fans become more familiar

with small format photography. Not too long ago, the 35mm camera was the small camera. Now it has become too big and bulky for the average camera fan to lug around.

The new small format cameras use standard 35mm film but take two pictures in the space of a single picture made by the normal 35mm camera. Therefore the term "half frame camera." The new cameras slip into a man's pocket or a lady's handbag with ease and make it easy to carry a camera at all times.

At Photokina we saw the first single lens reflex half frame camera. It also took interchangeable lenses or a zoom lens. However, the Olympus Pen F does not have the traditional pentaprism look of the usual single lens reflex camera.

That's because of an ingenious internal design in the mirror which hinges and

moves from the side. The mirror flips sideways and returns instantly instead of going up and down.

The Pen F has a standard f/1.8, 38mm lens. The interchangeable lenses range from 25mm f/4 up to 100mm f/3.5 and include also an f/3.5 zoom lens with 50-90mm range. The camera has a rotary metal focal plane shutter with strobe synchronization up to 1/500 of a second.

Another new half frame camera is the Ricoh Auto Half with electric eye automation or manual operation. Its feature is a spring wound motor which shoots pictures in sequence and advances the film at the same time. It has a 25mm f/2.8 lens.

Some of the 35mm single lens reflex cameras had unusual engineering principles which made a talking point and attracted attention.

A French camera, the Malik Reflex, and the Japanese Topcon RE Super, both came up with a cadmium sulfide cell

behind the reflex mirror to read the light inside the camera for automatic exposure control.

The Malik has a Zoomalix f/2.8 lens, 35/75mm range. The Topcon RE is available with an f/1.4 58mm lens.

Another Japanese camera, the Konica Domirex, did not use a moving mirror in its single lens reflex system. Instead it had an internal dot mirror prism through which the light passed for both viewing the image and for recording on the film. The camera had an f/2.4 lens, 55mm, with

electric eye automation.

Getting away from cameras and wandering in the home movie equipment area, I came across a plastic movie reel with a simple device to catch and hold the film at the start.

A red plastic "mouth" slid up and down from the center of the reel to its outer edge along the path which narrowed toward the center, causing the mouth to close as it got toward the center. At the outer edge, the mouth was open and it's a simple matter to insert the end of the film into it. As the fingers

slid the mouth back towards the center, it closed, holding the film firmly.

In reverse, any pull on the film would bring the red mouth device back toward the edge of the reel where it would open wide and release the film.

I was also impressed with the neat stacking of colorful plastic film containers like a row of library books. A slight touch and any container would swivel open to reveal the film inside. It would be a neat way to keep the family home movie films.

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Photo Fair

Women (above) snap pictures of each other in the picture exhibition area at Photokina, the world's largest photo fair, held in Germany. Men (below) find pamphlets in many languages.



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