
35mm Rangefinders: they're ideal for...

Posted by Carzee - 2007/04/26 04:38

I believe in certain tools matching certain jobs and I think the rationale of a 35mm RF is that its smallish and paints with a certain quality. When I boil it all down for me, my RF is in my pocket, with me when I go socialising and ready -ready for candid and PJ shots, and mainly interior shots at that.

Some jobs require a big camera set up. Sport journalism especially. Some jobs require specialist systems such as ringflash/macro capabilities. Some cams are for studio work; skin-tone-uber-alles... These tools I have but they are uncomfortable to use around city streets and in clubs; its not their job.

I should mention that I'm rather anal about theft and have spent evenings inside a venue worrying about whether my car was being broken into. This is because in 2006 my car was actually broken into 3 times (and the last occasion they also drove the vehicle down the road a ways). I was mostly lucky although on one occasion non-camera items worth \$2500 were stolen. I will attempt to avoid Leica M8 and Noctilux bling for that reason, although I don't deny those pricey items would fit inside a jacket just the same as a R4 and a russian lens.

....and sometimes you want the camera to be un-obtrusive, quick n dirty but effective.

So where does that lead for the purposes of nailing down a 'rangefinder philosophy?'

It seems I got my R4A to fill a desire for johnny-on-the-spot PJ and candid. I have a 40mm Nok for lowlight interior portraits of bands (a hobby). I don't want to use flash, if its dark I'll just up the grain. I like the 'built-in bonus' of avoiding mirrorslap and being more hand-holdable in dark pubs and clubs. I also have a Nikkor 20mm lens to use in crowds etc (scale focus) but I may yet spend up and buy a CV25 in M mount. And the rest of my pocket space is for film and filters..

Re: 35mm Rangefinders: they're ideal for...

Posted by Carzee - 2007/04/26 04:39

Um, i rambled, but I thought some too. sorry if its longish.

Re: 35mm Rangefinders: they're ideal for...

Posted by tbn - 2007/04/26 17:43

Rangefinders are ideal for all kinds of things. I also like fixed-lens pocket-sized rangefinders for the purposes you describe. Cosina made a lot of them, too. If the lens isn't as fast as a Noctilux, you can always push Tri-X.

Re: 35mm Rangefinders: they're ideal for...

Posted by Brian - 2007/04/26 20:20

SLRs are a very good general tool. They're okay to good at every focal length and in most situations. They are a big knife. They'll cut through anything, although it might be messy.

RFs are more "specialist". They don't do everything as well (or at all) as SLRs, but what they do do, they do better...like wide angle, size, etc... . They are a scalpel. You can't cut everything with it, but what it can cut it cuts beautifully. ;D

Re: 35mm Rangefinders: they're ideal for...

Posted by tbn - 2007/04/26 22:10

Couldn't have said it better myself. Cool!

Re: 35mm Rangefinders: they're ideal for...

Posted by Jon - 2007/05/11 01:52

I carry my Voigtlander everywhere all day. To the bank, the post office, the supermarket and so on.

When I have my Olympus OM with me it's not the same, especially because I tend to take a couple of lenses too and that needs a bag.

The Voigtlander is always there, the Olympus OM only comes out for special projects.

Re: 35mm Rangefinders: they're ideal for...

Posted by tbm - 2007/05/11 09:23

Rangefinders are great for using filters, with the possible exception of grad and polarizing filters. An infrared filter, for example, can't be seen through with the naked eye. Therefore, the solution is to use a type of camera that does not view through the taking lens. Rangefinders do that quite well. The same goes for color-correction and color (red, green, blue, orange, etc) filters.

Re:35mm Rangefinders: they\'re ideal for...

Posted by tobor - 2008/03/14 00:36

Although I believe too that every job has its tool I focus my attention on lenses rather than machines type. I'm in love with my voigtlander lenses so I do everything with the R3A..even macros..

Re:35mm Rangefinders: they\'re ideal for...

Posted by Brian - 2008/03/14 05:28

tobor wrote:

..even macros..How do you pull that off? :)

Re:35mm Rangefinders: they\'re ideal for...

Posted by tobor - 2008/03/14 10:10

well 90mm apo lanthar + magnifying...

Re:35mm Rangefinders: they\'re ideal for...

Posted by Brian - 2008/03/15 04:19

tobor wrote:

well 90mm apo lanthar + magnifying...magnifying filters? I'd love to see some examples. How do you compose/frame?

Re:35mm Rangefinders: they\'re ideal for...

Posted by tobor - 2008/03/15 16:37

I mean lab magnifying with manual print process.

at 1mt the distance there is no parallax problem and it is good enough for 1 or 2 inches stuff...
Off course it is not as crips as a digital capture with a macro lens, but whatever, I really prefer it this way.

you'll see some pics soon...

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Re:35mm Rangefinders: they\'re ideal for...

Posted by sauerwald - 2008/03/24 22:06

One of the few cameras ever designed which is probably used more for Macro photography than any other type is the Nikonos series, which are range focus cameras. For Macro work, you use an extension tube, focus the lens at infinity, and the tube has a frame around it at that surrounds the frame which is in focus. Standard sets of extension tubes result in 1:1, 1:2 and 1:3 when used underwater. Fantastic system. No reason a similar thing couldn't be rigged up for lenses that fit CV rangefinders, assuming it hasn't been done already.

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