

SIGHTS & SOUNDS

A Daily Nexus Advertising Supplement



BLISS TO GO: *Confessions of a Walkman Addict*

By Laurence Iliff

Okay I admit it. I'm addicted. That stuff about moderation just doesn't work in every case. Sometimes I just need a fix several times a day. Otherwise I'd flip out and start singing, which is not a good idea if I want to keep the few friends who will put up with my addiction.

Fortunately being a music addict is relatively safe and healthy, but it requires special equipment, particularly a walkman. I have terminal walkmanitis. My ears have developed the shape of my headphones, and I feel off balance and clumsy unless I have a walkman clipped to my shorts.

Those who put down my favorite high as anti-social and rude must have never experienced the pleasure of walking to an 8 a.m. class on Monday morning to the delicate sounds of The Smiths, or skateboarding down D.P. Saturday night to the full blast thrash of AC/DC. Being oblivious to the sounds around you is dangerous for sure, but it has its advantages if you're careful.

What's ultimately cool about a walkman is that it sounds so good, is

relatively cheap, and has become an accepted part of society for the most part. Bursting out singing, walking to the beat, and not answering people who are trying to get your attention have become commonplace, and no one need feel guilty for these lapses — walkmaners, like woodgrainers, have their own etiquette.

True, walkmanning can get ugly. I have a friend who purposely ignores anyone who tries to get his attention while he's "on-line." He'll sing right in front of your face, stand on tables with his air guitar, and generally provoke violent behavior from his victim. Such people deserve whatever bruises they receive.

Having been an addict for quite some time, I think I'm in a pretty good position to give some information on walkmans and walkmanning. I began several years ago with one of the early prototypes. It was big, bulky, tough as a fortress, sounded fantastic, and is currently in my mother's possession, who loves

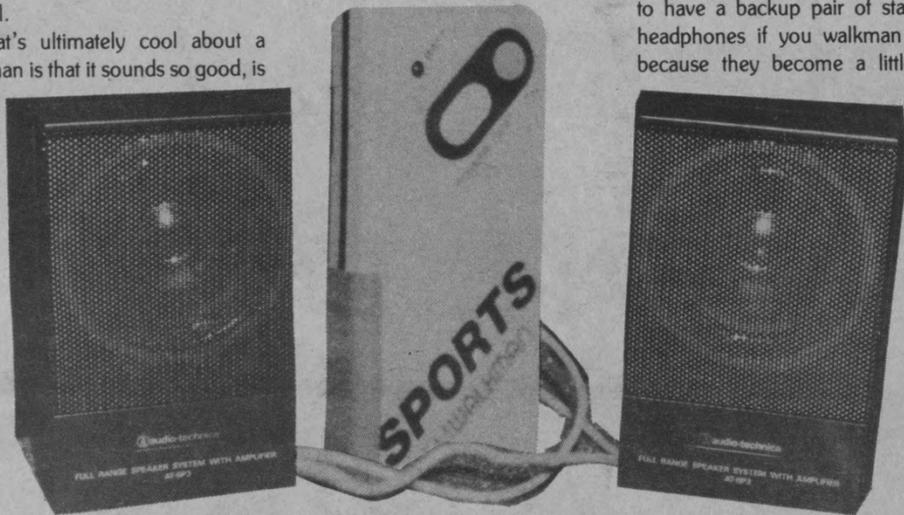
it.

Since then I've been through one other walkman plus the one that is currently attached to my body, and have three sets of headphones — for different occasions of course. As a heavy user I made the mistake last year of buying a cheap walkman. The headphones sounded terrible, and would not stay on my head (or anyone's). I bought some expensive headphones that are quite big, but sound superb, especially at high volumes. Unfortunately, the walkman fell apart quickly, I had to wait weeks to get it fixed on warranty, and it never did sound the same. My sister has this walkman; she is a light user.

I wasn't so dumb next time. After three walkmans I knew the guy at the stereo store pretty well and told him I wanted a tough one. It cost sixty bucks, but has taken serious abuse, and after several hours of play a day for months is still in fine form. I also picked up some of those headphones that fit in your ear. They sound excellent, but it's nice to have a backup pair of standard headphones if you walkman a lot because they become a little un-



Sony's "Sports" walkman is one of the tougher, and more expensive, on the market. It's designed for harsh treatment.



With optional amplified speakers, a walkman can become a mini-ghetto blaster.

comfortable after a while.

Of course, there are other items of equipment that are mandatory for those of the mobile music persuasion. Get a head and capstan cleaner! Your walkman deserves it, your ears deserve the improved sound of a clean machine, and your tapes deserve not to be eaten.

And of course, there are the tapes. This addiction requires mass quantities of new sounds constantly pouring through your ear canal, and lots of old classics. Everybody likes different sounds for sure, but there are some short and long term trends that should be recommended.

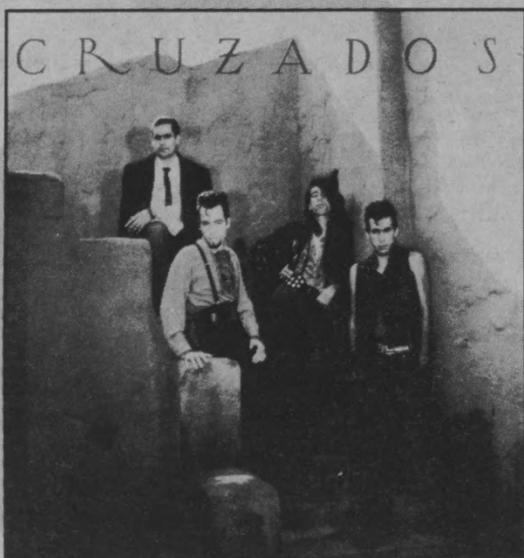
For skiing the call is apparently Echo and the Bunnymen and the aforementioned Smiths. Friends swear by this combination. Lots of

stuff works on study breaks, but I would recommend something scathingly sarcastic, perhaps some Psychedelic Furs while gearing up for a sociology test or some Clash for political science. The call for math might be some Pat Metheny, and for religious studies either Bob Marley or something decidedly atheistic. Experiment.

I'll close with a word of caution on two fronts. First, they don't allow walkmans in intensive care, so keep track of what you're doing while one of your most important senses is in limbo land getting a mind massage. And second, don't forget to press the stop button often enough to hear the birds singing and the waves crashing against the shore, etc. The purpose of walkmanning is to shut out the B.S., not to get utterly lost.

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POINT & SHOOT: *Tips on How to Buy a 35mm Camera*

By Catherine O'Mara

Almost everyone I know owns a camera. Of these people, few really know how to use one. However, that's not the point of this article. This article is aimed at those who do not yet own a camera or are thinking of updating their present instamatic system. With a few minor resources, (i.e. a little money, a little time, the willingness to learn and the basic talent it takes to push a button), anyone could own a very chic system these days.

Knowledge of the basics and some tips on buying today's most popular type of camera (the 35mm) is a good way to develop your interest in photography just as a hobby — or maybe you'll get really good at it and start old Ansel turning in his grave.

Shopping for a camera

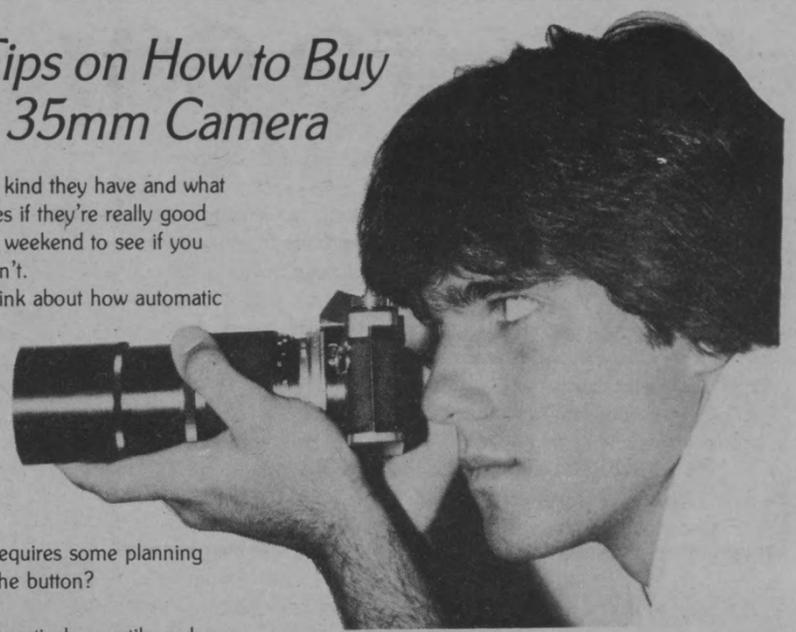
Be sure that you know about what you are looking for beforehand so that the salesperson can understand what you are talking about. It is also good to know a bit about the mechanics of cameras so that you can distinguish between those features you need in a camera and those you can live without. Also, ask

your friends who own cameras what kind they have and what they like best about them. Sometimes if they're really good friends, they'll let you try it out for a weekend to see if you like it — then again, maybe they won't.

When deciding on the features, think about how automatic you want it to be. Do you want a camera that does everything for you, or would you like to have more control over aperture openings, shutter speeds and lighting conditions? Do you want to have a camera you can just whip out when the moment strikes — or, do you want one that requires some planning and preparation behind the click of the button?

35mm Cameras

Thirty-five millimeter cameras are practical, versatile and very popular since they seem to fit the needs of almost
(See CAMERAS, p.7A)



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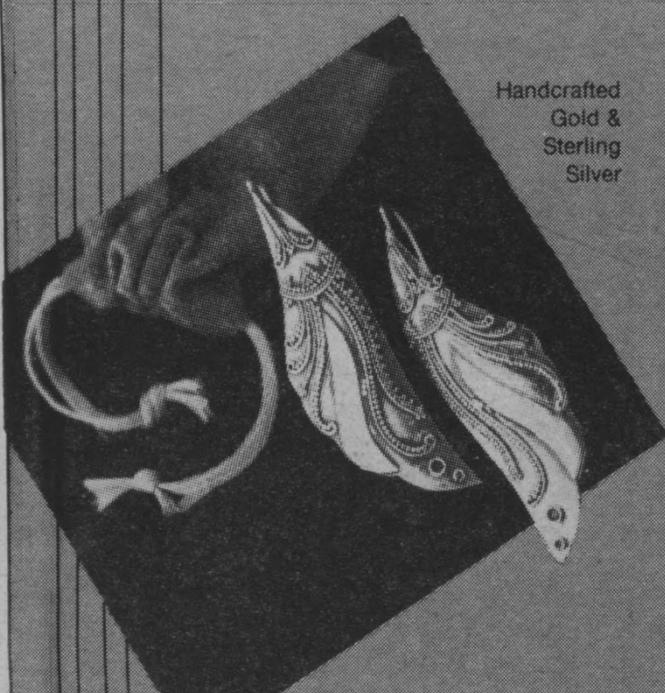
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Time to Check Out a New Stereo?

Do you still use the same stereo your parents bought you for your 16th birthday? Does your tape-deck eat your tapes and are your favorite LP's scratched and warped? Tired of lugging those clunky 8-track tapes around with you? If so, now may be the best time to invest in a new recording and playback device. Although it may be true that a mediocre system is better than no stereo at all, it's like going through life eating Thrifty's ice cream and then finally tasting Haagen-Dazs... you won't believe what you're missing.

With an emphasis on convenience and durability, recent technological advancements are changing the way we listen to music, but

several factors to consider. After having set a price limit, you must decide how much of that will go towards the turntable itself and how much will go towards the cartridge. One thing that most people don't realize is that the cartridge will affect the sound of your system much more than will your turntable, so particular attention should be devoted to your choice of a cartridge.

For a turntable there are three main bases on which to make your choice: wow and flutter, rumble, and tonearm mass. Wow and flutter (no, these aren't the names of the eighth and ninth dwarfs,) is manifested as a wavering, watery quality of a sound. The best way to test

Try to compare cartridge system with extremely accurate. Listen to it for a long time. Is it natural? Do cymbals and other instruments sound too bright? Reduce your choices down to a few good ones, then choose the lowest priced. Cartridges are usually discounted heavily, as much as 50 percent or more. If you see a high list price, you're actually be paying a good price. Don't be afraid to spend a lot on a cartridge. The benefits will be more obvious when you spend the money on the turntable. For example,



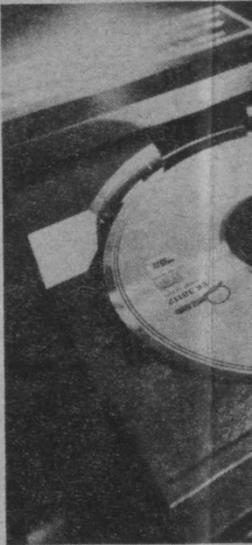
In checking out stereo equipment, it's important to spend a little time with the components and get familiar with its functions.

for excessive wow and flutter is with slow piano music. So borrow one of your dad's Chopin Nocturnes and bring it in with you to the stereo store. If you can't detect any wavering in the passage then you certainly won't be able to hear it in other types of music; especially pop.

Next, to test rumble use a record with a very quiet surface. Play a song at a relatively high level, then put the stylus on the quietest portion of the record. If no unnatural buzzing or steady low frequency tones are immediately audible, then the turntable is fine as far as rumble is concerned. Finally, the

The Compact Disc (CD) technology which will replace the record in the future, and for good reason. It's better than a record, does successive plays (it's read over 60 minutes on one side of a 45. Prices for players are around \$300 and can be expected to decrease further in the foreseeable future. At the present time, they are about \$15 at the present time, decreased from \$20. If you buy one.

Shopping for CD players is easy since they all sound the same.



The popularity of compact disc players is complete without a turntable.

the options need not be intimidating. This guide is intended to inform prospective buyers of what is state-of-the-art in sound systems and how to go about evaluating them. It will be helpful to those who want to take the high-tech plunge or for those more resistant to change who will opt for a traditional system.

mass of the tonearm must present an acceptable match to the cartridge you choose. Otherwise, there will be problems playing warped records and/or there will be other low frequency anomalies. With most low mass tonearms, there should be no problem in this regard.

Buying Recording and Playback Devices — Turntables

Records have traditionally been the most popular medium for sound reproduction. However, this is changing as pre-recorded cassettes surpass records in sales in many markets and as the emergence of the Compact Disc promises to make the conventional LP obsolete. In any event, the fact remains that the most readily available form of recorded music is the analog record.

Your choice of a cartridge is very important since, next to the loudspeakers, it contributes the most to the sonic characteristics of your system. There are no hard guidelines to choosing a cartridge other than it should have a low enough tracking force to protect your records from premature wear (about 1.5 grams or less).

If you do decide to buy a turntable, there are

this, try to tell the difference between the cheapest one and the most expensive. In the long run, the most important factors in choosing a player are its convenience, its flexibility it allows you to play what selections are played, etc.

Tape Decks

Unless you can convince yourself that the inconvenience and expense of a tape deck are acceptable sacrifices for the sound, then you are better off with a record player.

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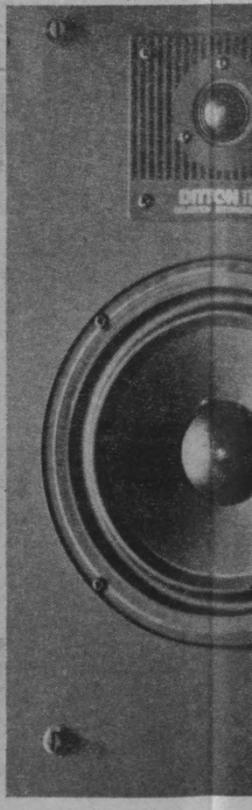
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The kill system can brighten your day during those interludes between school and sleep.

Disc (CD) is a new digital
 will replace the LP in the
 ood reason. A CD sounds
 ord, doesn't wear out with
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 es for players start at under
 expected to decrease even
 eable future; and discs cost
 the present, but this has
 20. If you can afford it, buy

D players should be simple
 and the same. If you doubt



compact discs players had exploded. No modern
 without one.

deck. Cassettes can make recordings which
 are almost as good as those from an open reel
 deck. They are much more convenient and
 readily available, and you can play them in a
 car.

The best way to test
 a tape deck is to make
 a recording off a CD.
 Again, try to find a
 piano selection which
 has slow passages as
 well as alternating loud
 and soft passages.

This music is very
 revealing of many
 faults in tape decks. In
 the slow passages
 listen for wow and
 flutter as mentioned
 above.

Set the recording
 level such that the
 loudest passages
 sound essentially the
 same on the recording
 as on the original.

Then listen to the quiet passages. Is there too
 much hiss? If there is, you might want a deck
 with a better signal to noise ratio.

Many times this can
 be achieved with a
 more sophisticated
 noise reduction
 system. Dolby B
 provides a modest
 amount of noise
 reduction, Dolby C
 a good deal more, and
 DBX even more. In
 most decks either
 Dolby C or DBX is
 used. If you record
 much classical music
 or other types of music
 with a great dynamic
 range (difference
 between loudest and
 softest sounds) then
 you might want DBX.

However, especially in the more inexpensive
 decks, DBX can have its problems.

Listen to the piano passage for loud notes
 arising from silence. With inferior DBX
 systems there will be a momentary increase in
 tape hiss as the note is struck. This will also
 occur with Dolby C and even the better DBX
 systems, but the problem will not be nearly as
 pronounced.

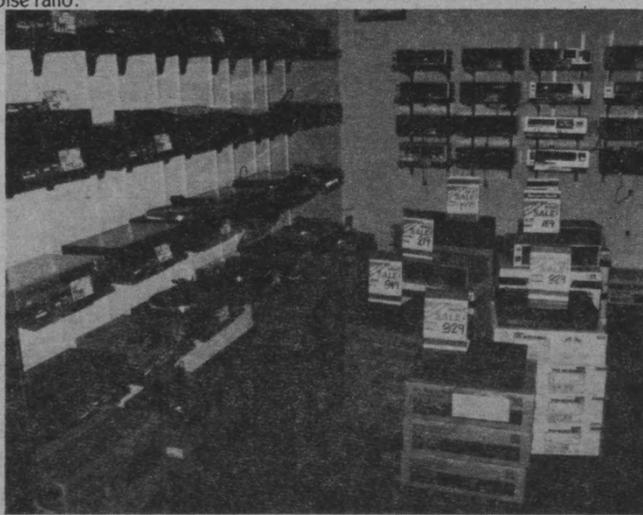
Next, record some popular music with lots of
 bass and treble, and try to switch back and forth
 between the original and the recording (this is
 easy with a three head deck, and with other
 decks, make the recording and try to play it
 back in synch with the original). Does the
 recording sound different in any way? The
 better a tape deck is, the more difficult it will be
 to tell the two apart. Listen especially to the

high end of the frequency spectrum. Are the
 high frequencies reproduced accurately?

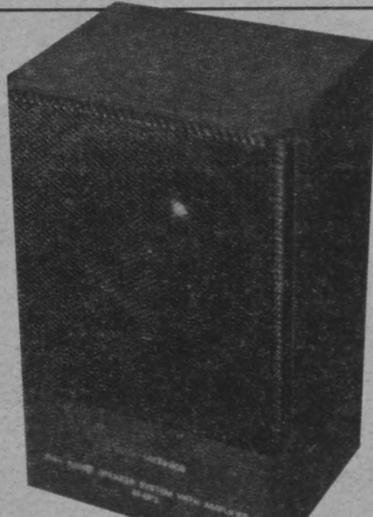
And finally, if you will be using tapes
 recorded on other decks, do they sound good?
 If the recordings on a given deck sound fine
 but ones made on other decks sound bad, it
 may be that particular sample of the deck has
 its heads misaligned.

Hopefully, you have gained some insight
 regarding what's available now in the stereo
 world. Armed with an updated vocabulary (you
 can speak in stereo jargon with the best) you
 will be able to face the purchasing of your new
 system with confidence.

— Bianca Clark and George Haley



Like the saying goes, if you want a good deal "you'd better shop
 around."



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DO IT CLEAN: *The Fine Art of Stereo Maintenance*

By Laurence Iliff

Basically, there are few things in the world that do not have to be maintained or cleaned from time to time.

Whether you have a killer system or a ghetto blaster, if you don't take some basic steps to keep it in good shape, it could end up damaging your records or tapes and sounding lousy. And so we present the following tips for getting the most sound and life out of your system.

Needles

A bad needle is going to cost you money, one way or another. It will not only do irreparable damage to your records, but will probably damage your ears as well because the sound coming out of the speakers will be scratchy.

Michael Andera, manager of I.V. Leopold, said that the life of a needle depends on its quality. A good needle will last about a year with average play, while a cheap one will wear out much sooner. The more you use your turntable, he said, the more often you should replace your needle.

Also, many people do not realize that the turntable needle has to be cleaned from time to time. Andera warns stereo owners to never attempt to clean a needle with one's finger (this will deposit oil on the needle) or by blowing on it (this will deposit moisture on the needle).

The correct way to clean the needle is to buy a cleaner designed to do just that. It consists of a small brush on which a few drops of cleaning fluid are placed, and then the brush is drawn across the needle back to front. This will remove dust and lint, and greatly improve the sound of your turntable.



A couple of the most popular cleaners for maintaining good stereo sound and preventing damage to your records and tapes.

Records

Records should be cleaned before each play. Even if they don't look dirty, they have particles of dust and dirt on them that will get on the needle and harm the record surface and the sound.

The cheapest method for cleaning, which Andera does not recommend, is to buy a cleaning cloth which costs about a dollar and deposits about as much dust as it removes. A better method is to get a small kit, which consists of a soft brush, some cleaning fluid, and a small hard brush to clean the lint off the soft brush.

Records should be kept in their sleeve (and the sleeve in the jacket) when not in use. Leaving the album on the turntable is not a very good idea, as it could get dusty or warp if

left in the sun.

Tape Decks

Audio tape is made of small particles that "hold" sound, and after several hours of play these particles build up on the head of the tape deck, the part that picks up sound. This build-up interferes with playback and noticeably diminishes the quality of the sound. In order to maintain good sound from your deck it is necessary to clean the

head at least once every two weeks, more or less often according to degree of use.

It is also necessary to clean the capstan and pinch roller, the apparatus that helps move the tape along. An extremely dirty deck will "eat" tapes, have no doubt about this. The proper way to clean your deck is to buy a kit that has a head cleaner and a capstan/pinchroller cleaner. The kit usually consists of two cassettes and a small bottle of fluid. One cassette cleans the head and another the capstan/pinchroller, although there are single tape units that clean both.

In addition, your deck will need to be demagnetized from time to time. This is necessary because the tape head becomes magnetized and can partially erase your tape and contribute to the "eat" effect. Tape demagnetizers cost about \$15, but are well worth the investment.

Remember, all this stuff goes for car decks, and walkmans too.

Recording

A final note is in order here. Before you record an album or something off the radio, it is a good idea to clean and demagnetize the deck, and clean the turntable if you're going to use it. Your recording will be much cleaner.

Now it's time to crank up your system and enjoy the sound. A request? Sure. How about Echo's classic, "Do It Clean," what else?

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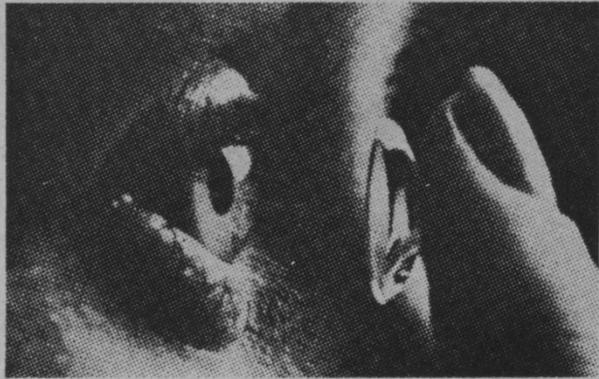
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SCOTT SEDLIK

A few of the SLRs on the market.

CAMERAS

(Continued from p.3A)

everyone. There are many types of 35mm cameras on the market, ranging from easy to use compact cameras, to the more advanced single lens reflex ones with interchangeable lenses and other available accessories.

SLR cameras

When somebody refers to an 'SLR' they mean a camera where if you leave the lens cap on you will see black, as opposed to a twin reflex camera where you would never realize it until your prints come back black. In other words, SLR focusing is done through the lens instead of through a separate window in the corner of the camera.

The body of the camera, lenses, and other accessories are usually sold separately, unless the dealer is offering some kind of package. The standard lens is a 50mm lens; anything less is referred to as a wide angle, whereas anything more is referred to as a telephoto or close-up lens. Other lenses offer more versatility such as the zoom or wide angle lens. When choosing a lens, look for the range of aperture or the f-stop. The lower the f-stop is, the faster the lens lets light in. This advantage has great bearing on the versatility and the price of the lens.

A complete SLR package would include a camera body, a standard 50mm lens, a uv filter to protect the lens, a case, a strap, a lens cap and some film. You can always build on a system so be sure you have a brand you trust, like Canon, Nikon, Minolta, or Pentax.

Compact Cameras

The compact camera is probably the simplest type of 35mm, known to some as the "PHD" model, (Push Here Dummy). Their advantages are that they are lightweight, convenient, and easy to use. Many professionals have a compact in their outfits for those times when a large equipment system is inappropriate. But, don't be fooled by thinking the photos they produce are of snapshot quality, there have been some very clever and artistic photos taken from even the smallest of cameras. It is all in the eye of the beholder

and of the person behind the camera. Compacts are considerably less costly than SLR outfits, so if price is a main concern this might be your best bet since the main thing is that it is a 35 mm camera.

The size of the negative and the film

Usually, the bigger the negative, the sharper the printed image will be (directly dependant on the photographer's ability to focus the camera of course) — the logic being that there is less 'distance' from the negative to the blown-up image on the enlarger therefore, the print quality doesn't have to be 'stretched'. 35 mm film is considered the best size for most types of photographic work.

Since the most popular cameras are 35mm cameras, the types of film available are many, allowing for more versatility in picture-taking. One has only to make the choice between the types available, like black and white (b&w) print film, color print film or color slides, — or try them all; experiment.

Each type of film is different due to its ASA number. This number characterizes the film's sensitivity to light; the higher ASA a film has, the more light sensitive it is. Among the lowest is a 32 ASA b&w portrait film with very little grain for sharper enlarged prints and close-ups. ASA 64 is a very sharp, clear slide film which is at its best with well lit subjects; 100 and 200 ASA are basic daylight film speeds; 400 is a fairly fast, light-sensitive, all-purpose film; and 1000 is a fairly recent innovation that enables one to photograph in very low-light conditions.

Whatever kind of camera you decide to buy, be sure you have put some time into thinking about what it is exactly that you want and need. Also decide on how much money you want to spend and how elaborate you plan to get in the future. Finally, have some questions in mind and be prepared to spend some time talking to a salesperson about cameras. Let them demonstrate everything in the store if they want to remember, you don't have to buy anything on the spot. Any camera salesperson will still be dying to sell you an outfit another day. Make sure you shop around to get the best price on the system you need. Then there's technique, but that's another story.

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VIDEO REVOLUTION HITS LIVING ROOM:

By William Diepenbrock

Bringing theater home has become a national pastime as movie house owners realize the strong presence of a video tape business and small mom and pop video rental stores open everywhere.

I know that's how I feel. You see, I have a video cassette recorder, my passport to cheap, three-month-old flicks. I can watch anything for about a buck.

As I recall, it all started with one of those big-time corporations. It invented two kinds of machines for home video use, much like the video tapes used at the taping of television shows. One was called Beta, the other VHS. Of course, they cost anywhere from \$200 to \$800 or more to buy the machine itself, but once you do, it emancipates you from all the things you don't like about theaters.

Don't get me wrong, I like movie theaters. I love it when the entire crowd oohs and aahs and cries and laughs about a scary, sad, sentimental or funny scene. I like it when the crowd boos when the flick sucks. That's communication.

I don't like it when the eight-year-old brat behind me sticks his gum on my chair, throws popcorn at my date, and tells his mother in a severely nauseating and unmistakable whine that he just can't stand the movie anymore. I usually offer to belt the kid for her, but that almost always goes nowhere.

Also, as much as I like to boo at a lousy movie and buy a super-super tub of popcorn and a super-super

More Toys to Play with



The technological revolution reaches new highs in video. Video cassette recorders are more popular than ever, and compact video cameras join monster TV's as standard equipment in many American homes.

vat of coke, the cost is little scary. Talk about profit margins. A night at the movies with a date can claim about \$15 of my hard-earned cash. At night at home with a date, Orville's popcorn and a six-pack of whatever comes in at about \$5. Call me cheap; I am. I am a college student.

Santa Barbara offers a lot in the area of video tape rentals and the machine itself can be rented for about \$10 a night. Not too bad for a dorm hall that wants to go all night with horror movies on Halloween. And you can also rent all those old movies that don't play anywhere anymore and are rarely on television.

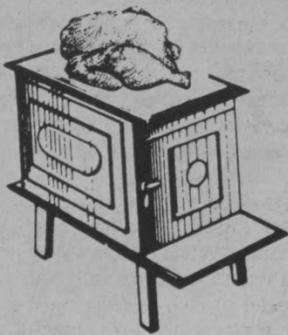
Borrow a friend's machine and you can put together a tape library. I've got all the Pink Panthers, Clint Eastwoods, and Alfred Hitchcocks I could find. I know a guy who uses his computer to update his list. I get the idea he never leaves home.

Then, of course, there are the endless applications for taping off the television. With cable, you get a selection of virtually every kind of show you want. For sports buffs its like finding a treasure chest. Imagine all those Super Bowls, World Series, and countless basketball games; you can even have your own super slow-mo. Envision all the great specials, months worth's of *Cheers* and *Hill Street Blues*; it's so fantastic.

There are so many advantages to VCRs it's basically incredible. Much like the television, soon every home will have two or three of these clever devices. And I can't wait.

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