BESELER DUAL MODE SLIDE DUPLICATOR

It Does Much More Than Just Copy Slides

by Jack and Sue Drafahl

Much as we all hate to admit it, once in a while everyone takes a picture that turns out to be a little less spectacular than we envisioned. You know the one—the bird that looked huge in the finder, that now looks like a speck of dust on the film; or the gorgeous sunny scenic that looks like you shot it at night. Don't despair, there is hope! The Beseler Dual Mode Slide Duplicator is a tool that not only fixes problem photographs, it allows you to make good pictures even better.

FEATURES

The Beseler Duplicator consists of a focus column which attaches to the base using two large bolts, providing a very sturdy support on which to mount the bellows and camera assembly. The column and bellows use friction drive for easy movement of the bellows and camera. A large knurled knob moves the entire system up and down; a smaller lever locks it in place, and two other knobs allow you to achieve the desired magnification and focus. T-mounts allow you to attach your favorite camera and lens. We strongly recommend a camera with multiple-exposure capability.

The "Dual" part of the duplicator is located in the unit's base and comprises a quartz-halogen and electronic flash system. A slide bar on the right side of the base allows the user to easily switch from one light source to the other. The color of the light source can be controlled using the dichroic filters, which can each be adjusted from 0 to 200 points. These filter controls allow you to correct for different films and color balances. If the light level becomes dim from overly dense filter packs, a white-light lever allows you to switch from filters to white light and back again for easy viewing.

Flash sync and motor drive jacks on the back of the duper allow you to hook up directly through the camera. The motor-drive button on the front of the base will fire the camera and flash, allowing you total control, without touching the camera during an exposure. This feature is great when you have to make multiple copies of a single slide.

CONTRAST CONTROL

A special contrast-control device can be attached to the Rodenstock 75mm lens that is recommended for use with the Beseler duping system. The contrast-control device consists of a beam splitter and reflective mirror that picks up light from the side of the box and reflects it into the lens. This control is calibrated in 12 steps from 0 to full contrast.

Using standard daylight slide films, such as Kodachrome, would normally give higher contrast and reduced shadow detail. Turning the contrast control to the various levels during a film test should provide a practical level of contrast control. One unique feature is the...
The top thumb screw on the bellows is turned until the image comes into focus. The bottom control is then adjusted until you can see all the edges of the slide mount. When you are sure that all the edges are even, adjust the bottom control until the edges of the slide mount disappear. Finally, refocus the top control. To make an enlarged section of the slide, simply turn the bottom control until the desired magnification is attained, and refocus with the top control.

If you have an autoexposure camera, set the proper ISO for your film. Ektachrome 5071 duplicating film is usually rated at between ISO 20–25. If you have an electronic cable release, you can plug it into the back of the camera, and you are ready to shoot.

Color correction of off-color slides is as easy as turning one of the color controls on the front of the unit. If your image is too yellow, make various test exposures, each time decreasing the amount of yellow already dialed into the pack. Special effects, normally only feasible on very expensive optical duplicators, are possible on the Beseler Dual Mode Slide Duplicator. Using a multi-exposure camera, we made 25 exposures of a line image of the state of Texas. In each exposure we enlarged the image slightly and made a small change in the filter pack. An additional white image exposure was made to enhance the various colors. Just think of all the possibilities!

One of the most impressive features of the Beseler Dual Mode slide duper is the purity of the color filtration system. We found that no additional gel filters were required to produce bold, brilliant colors for full-color title slides and colored backgrounds. The filter dials alone gave us the equivalent of Kodak's color separation filters, which are extremely rich.

To create a zoom effect, first make an exposure of a title slide, reset the camera for a second long exposure, dial in a color using the filter controls, and while the shutter is open, slowly turn the bellows to an extended position. This will cause the image to go out of focus and enlarge. Presto, an inexpensive zoom-effect shot!

Another special effect is created using a silver cone made of silver Mylar film which can be found in stores selling plastics or fishing supplies (such material is used for lures). Cut a 3-4-inch square of the material and form a funnel. Make sure the silver side

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