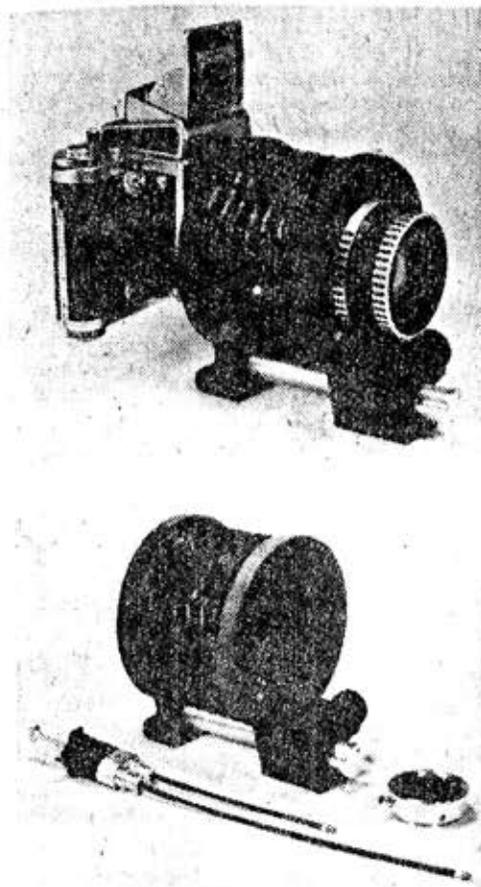


WHAT'S NEW?

■ Bellows for Pentacon Six



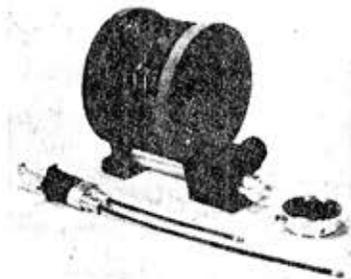
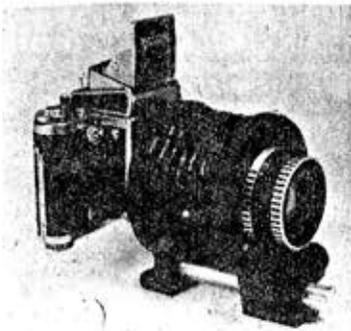
WHAT'S NEW?

■ Bellows for Pentacon Six

The Pentacon Six is a most useful camera for those who want an SLR taking rollfilm and do not wish to pay an astronomical price. With full lens interchangeability, and a wide range of accessories there is no doubt that for the production of really large prints of superlative quality, or of the $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ in colour transparencies which are still so much easier to sell than 35mm, this kind of camera is unequalled.

The non-availability of bellows has been one slight drawback. Pentacon made them, of course, but demand tended to outstrip the supply. Now they are available and considerably extend the scope and versatility of the Pentacon Six for close-up work. They can certainly not be described as flimsy.

The extension allows, with the standard 80mm lens, for reproduction ratios of 0.25 to 1.25. Various tubes can be used to increase the extension. Operation of the automatic diaphragms on the lenses can be maintained by the use of a double cable release. With other lenses the reproductions scales are different, of course. The 65mm Flektogon gives a range from 0.15 to 1.80 and the 120mm Biotar from 0.09 to 1.05 (the latter proves very



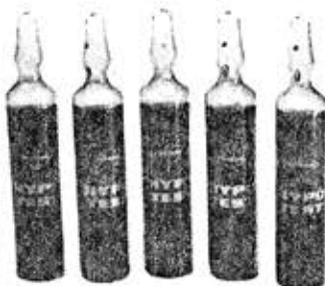
convenient in practice and for awkward tasks, such as photographing butterflies in colour on flowers, has much to recommend it).

In general the bellows attachment does much to increase the versatility of the Pentacon Six and performs its allotted function with dependability. The retail price of the bellows is £26 5s 10d and a Z ring

with double cable release is £11 16s 8d. The distributors are C.Z. Scientific Instruments Ltd. N.M.

Hypotest

There are several ways of testing for hypo and Tetenal have adopted their own individual approach to this problem. Test solution is packed in phials or ampoules, 10 to a box. These glass containers have their heads snapped off using a plastic cap. One feels nervous about this but the method works quite well. The idea is that the blue solution is put in a glass vessel together with a



piece of the material to be tested. If washing has been sufficient, the test solution will not decolorize in 10 to 15 minutes. This is not a very quick test, but it is a sensitive one. The blue colour is of the type associated with starch-iodine compounds, and so it is not surprising that the instructions are adamant about rinsing everything with 2% acetic acid since alkalis would spoil the test (even hard water could reduce the validity unless the instructions are followed as given in the leaflet for making tests to normal or archival standards). The price for a 10 ampoule pack is £1 14s 6d and the distributors are J. R. Distributing Co Ltd. N.M.

■ Carl Zeiss Pancolor f1/8

The 50mm f/2 Pancolor lens, as used on many of the Praktika cameras, has proved to be a really first-class objective. The introduction of a new 50mm f/1.8 version is therefore rather a surprise since the speed increase is not great (about 19%). A careful test was made and it was found that the performance was slightly better than the f/2, which is tantamount to saying that the new f/1.8 Pancolor is one of the world's best lenses, since the previous version was first-class.

The main difference appears to lie in an improvement in the rendering of low-contrast detail, doubtless

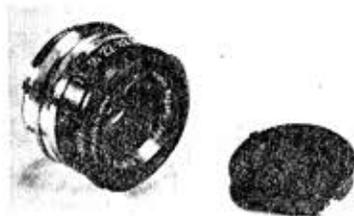


stemming from research in frequency response. The lens has six elements, with amber and violet coating, focusses down to below 1ft 2 inches (last figure 0.35 metres), has click stops at half-stop intervals, a depth-of-field scale, an infra-red focussing mark, and has the one-pin stop-down mechanism suitable for so many cameras. There is also the little "pre-view" or stopping-down lever on the lens.

Manufactured by Carl Zeiss at Jena, and distributed by C.Z. Scientific Instruments Ltd, the new f/1.8 Pancolor costs £52 11s retail, and is a very fine lens. N.M.

■ The 80mm EI Nikkor

It is amazing, considering how much attention is paid to the lens in a camera, how little photographers consider their enlarging lens. Lenses for use in enlargers should be easier to make than those for cameras since maximum aperture is of much less importance. The essentials are



that there should be enough light by which to focus easily and first-class definition, over a flat field, with no noticeable distortion, and with no fall-off in sharpness even at the edges.

The EI Nikkor is a 6 element 4 group lens, coated, capable of covering a 6×6 cm negative, with apertures from f/5.6 to f/45. It is corrected over a wavelength range of 370 to 700 millimicrons. Definition and sharpness proved first-class on test, as one would expect.

The only weakness is that the small aperture can make the image

a little dim for focussing when the negative is dense or when extra-large blow-ups are being made (such as using this lens for 35mm work). For this reason it would have been helpful if a bigger aperture, such as f/4 could have been provided, even if only for focussing (people usually come down one or two stops for exposing, in any case). Despite this proviso, the results were excellent as one expects from Nikon equipment. At a price of £57 13s 2d, this is certainly well worth considering by the photographer who wishes to transfer all the sharpness in his negatives to his prints. The distributors are Pullin Photographic.

N.M.

■ Photax Twin Title Pack

The Photax twin titles are animated to add interest to home cine films and consist of two lengths of film, about 18 in. to serve as title and another 12 in. to put on the end.



The one illustrated, "Our Wedding" has a picture consisting of a pair of bells, gold against a blue background, which swing back and forth in a gay and realistic manner, with the words "Wedding Day", in white against dark blue, below. There is no doubt that such touches can greatly improve a film by helping to create the right atmosphere. The Standard 8 version costs 10s 9d and it is also available in Super 8.

N.M.

Items marked with this symbol  have been examined and we can vouch for the description given. Items not so marked are described on the basis of information supplied by the distributor or manufacturer.