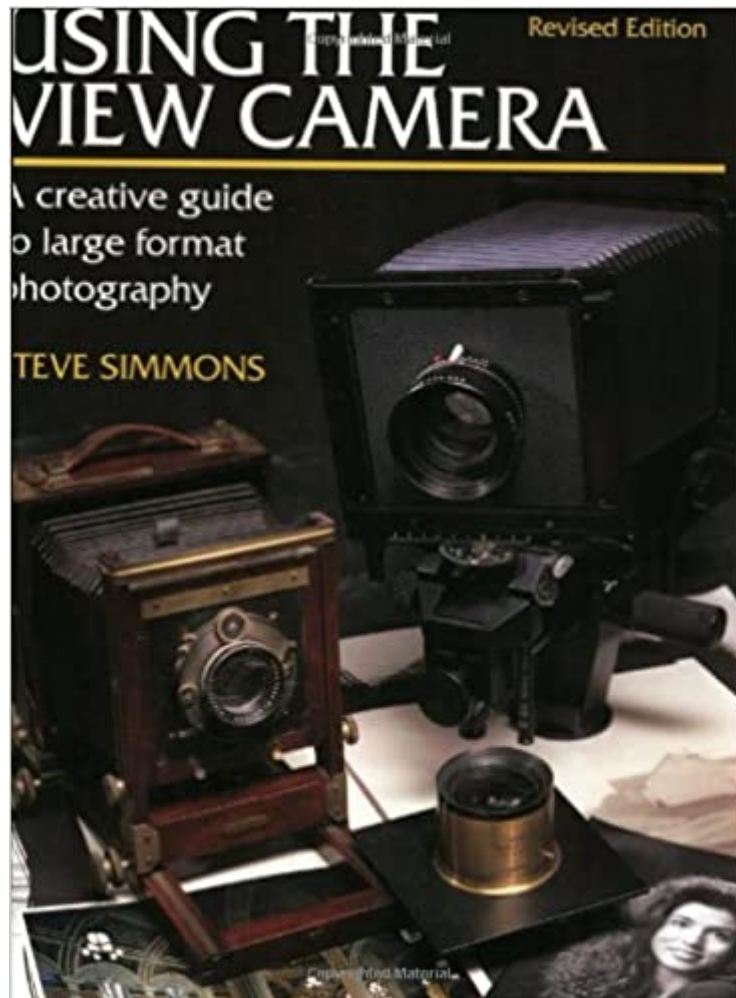




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Using The View Camera: A Creative Guide To Large Format Photography



Synopsis

A guide to the basic procedures of large-format photography which also focuses on the creative potential of the medium. This is illustrated in a gallery of pictures taken by 15 view-camera artists. This revised edition includes up-to-date information on films and technology.

Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Amphoto Books; 1st edition (October 1, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0817463534

ISBN-13: 978-0817463533

Product Dimensions: 11 x 8.3 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 34 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #241,380 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #189 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference > Equipment #286 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference > Reference

Customer Reviews

I used this to get me started using my first view camera. I've also read several others, including Ansel Adam's "The Camera" and Jack Dykinga's "Large Format Nature Photography." While the others are outstanding, they have different a focus than this one, which in my opinion, homes right in on the meat of what you'll need to get started. Simmons, in this book, is much better at simplifying and going through the fundamental movements showing images to accompany each description of the movements. It also covers basics such as different types of cameras (monorail, field, view), lenses, lensboards, shutters, etc. The only problem I see is the types of film discussed is a little dated since the film market has changed since the publication of the book. Otherwise, it covers everything you need to get started and makes a decent reference after that. It's also more straightforward than the other books mentioned. Ansel Adam's book on "The Camera" is more of an overview of 35mm, medium format, large format, and covers reasonable detail on each, but does not get as thorough on LF cameras, so frankly I found his description of rise/fall and tilt/shift rather confusing. Dykinga's book is also fantastic but focuses (as the title implies) on specifics for landscape photographers and thus skirts over the fundamentals a bit too much. I give this book 5

stars for doing what it's intended to do, and does it very well. That said, if you're looking for something that goes well beyond the fundamentals, this one isn't for you.

thorough coverage of the topic

The only reason I gave this a 4 star instead of five is that it doesn't cover digital backs. That said I guess this was written a few years ago before the digital revolution came on so strong. I had some information on large format cameras because I took the NYIP correspondence course and knew a little about them, but wanted to know things like how to load film in them, which the NYIP course didn't cover. He went into how the tilt and rise adjustments can make your photography like no other camera can. I found this book very complete and is a great book to find out if LF is for you. I also bought the book Large Format Nature Photography and that does go into digital a little, however he doesn't think much of it so maybe that is why this author left it out. I don't think you would be disappointed with this book.

Great book. Nice print.

great

Basic information for large format cameras. This book won't make you an expert but if you are a novice it should be read along with Ansel Adams' trilogy.

As beginner to large format, I was looking for a book that would give me the basics of view cameras and their use. I already have a good foundation of photographic and exposure techniques. I found this book to be just right. No time is wasted discussing basic photography (although a nice intro to the Zone system is included, very basic), and very non-technical introduction to view cameras is presented. There is just enough math and science in this book to make you realize how much you may want to learn. After reading this book just once, I feel I can go out and use a view camera to take a picture.

This book is very well organized, clearly written. Everything you need to know to start to LF Photography is there, even the zone system. But I believe it's not only a novice's handbook, it may be very useful even for experienced photographers. I liked the 2nd section where LF images, of

super quality, are explained in a detailed manner. Buy this book, you won't be disappointed.

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