

BESLER 45V-XL ENLARGER

The Ultimate in Versatility and Adaptability for the Professional's Darkroom

by Jack and Sue Drafahl

PHOTOGRAPHIC'S USER REPORT

When it comes to the new hi-tech developments in photography, most of the hoopla has been with the electronic 35mm cameras, and an avalanche of new films. Who would think that another world of hi-tech was developing in the darkroom!

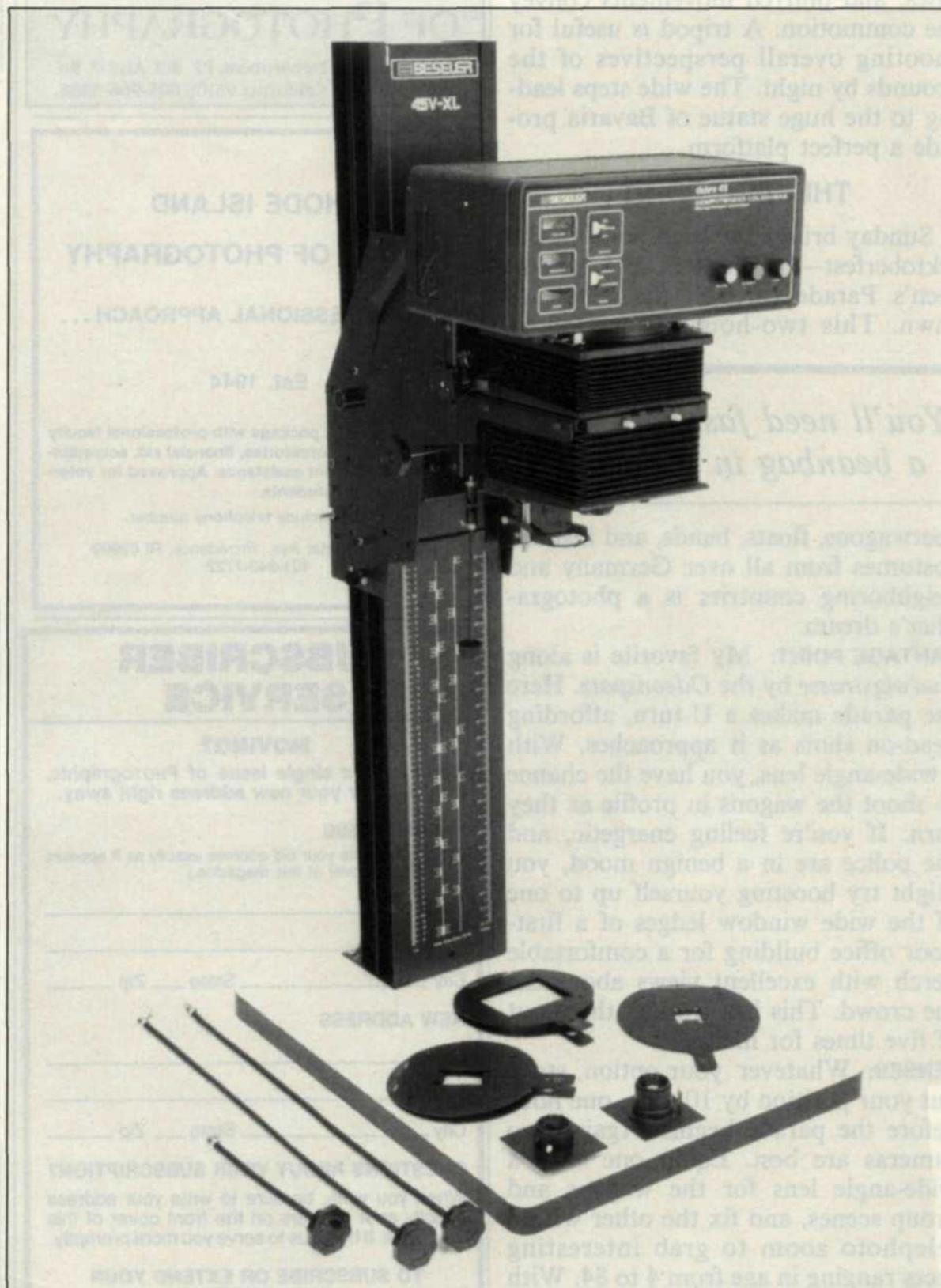
The Charles Beseler Company has been very busy in their research lab designing something new to make life easier for the photographer once the camera image is made. Their latest addition to the darkroom is the 45V-XL Professional Laboratory Enlarger.

Now you might say, "An enlarger is an enlarger. What makes this one so different?" It's true that Beseler's 45V-XL does have the basic features common to most enlargers today, but it's the way these features are put together and how they are used that makes all the difference.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

After a quick and easy assembly, our first impression of the 45V-XL was how solidly it was built. A dual E-channel column is securely mounted to an extremely heavy-duty base, allowing for one of the most rigid enlargers we have ever seen. The main carriage that holds the enlarger head slides on the column using an enclosed roller system that prevents any misalignment as the carriage assembly is moved to different enlarging positions. You can use either the large handle, which can be located on either side of the enlarger to accommodate right- or left-handed users, or the optional motor drive.

The column stands in a perfect vertical position so that as the image size is changed, there is no need to move the easel. Many enlargers with sloped columns require the movement of the easel each time the image is changed slightly. This feature is extremely important if you have a roll-paper easel and require various image sizes from a single negative. The extra-long column (XL) allows the darkroom technician to easily make 16×20 prints directly on the baseboard.



THE ULTIMATE IN ADAPTABILITY

The 45V-XL accepts a variety of light sources, including the Beseler 45 condenser, Omega D condenser, all Beseler color heads, Super Chromega Dichroic color head, Aristo 4×5 cold light, Ilford Multigrade 500 enlarging head, and the Beseler 8×10 conver-

sion kit with cold light.

One really nice feature is the negative-stage opening lever. This very large heavy-duty lever pivots on the top of the carriage, making very precise and positive movements of the enlarger head. Its single-piece construction keeps the head from moving at angles as it is raised from the negative. A special negative-carrier locator de-

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vice is mounted on the front of the negative stage and essentially makes the 45V-XL into a pin-registered enlarger, as there is no change in carrier position no matter how many times you remove the negative carrier. The carriage has two bellows assemblies—one for the enlarger head, allowing for a change in film format; and a second, lower bellows that allows for lens focus and image reduction. The lens-mount assembly accepts a variety of lenses including the Beseler three-lens

The 4×5 chamber is probably the best choice, as it will work with most all the formats. If optimum output is desired, then each specific chamber should be used.

To change chambers, all you need do is turn off the power, open the top of the head, disconnect the computer cord, remove the old chamber, then reverse the process to install the new chamber.

On the front of the Dichro 45 head you will find two switches, three dials,

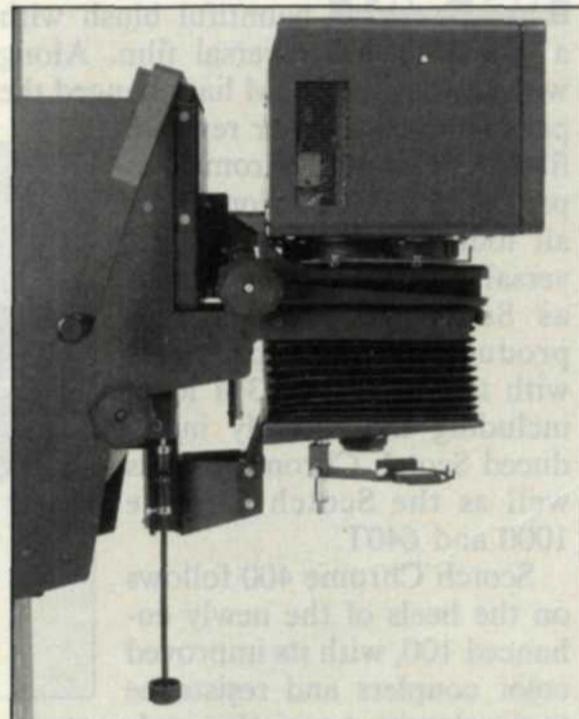
play panels found on the front left of the color head. If you find the indicator too bright, a brightness control is provided to adjust the intensity from 0–100%. The white-light lever is located on the right underside of the head and is indicated on the LED display when it is engaged.

A FULL RANGE OF ACCESSORIES

Accessories for the Beseler 45V-XL enlarger include mixing chambers, en-



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turret, all 45-series lens boards and carriers, plus all other brand-name film carriers and lens boards, including the Omega D-series sandwich-type carriers, and the oval lens-mounting plates.

Coarse focus can be accomplished with two large, knurled knobs on each side of the focus assembly, while fine focus can be accomplished by means of the fine-focus control that hangs down from the focus assembly.

DICHRO 45 COLOR COMPUTER COLOR HEAD

This computer-controlled color head has the unique ability to adjust for lamp life, voltage fluctuations, light chambers, and imperfections in the color filters. This is all possible with the "smart" color head that uses a microprocessor to measure the actual light output of the color head. If any of these changes occur, the microprocessor adjusts the output, so that no change is apparent to the color paper. If your paper and chemistry remain unchanged, you could print for weeks changing lenses, lights, and chambers with no change in the filter pack on a specific negative.

The Dichro 45 takes four different mixing chambers that match the various lens formats used on the 45V-XL.

and several LED display panels. The upper switch turns power on/off and displays the type of chamber inside the head. The second switch is called the *mode* switch and displays the color pack with and without neutral density. In the *density* position the actual filtration of the head is displayed in yellow, magenta, and cyan values. When you switch to the *filtration* position, the color head subtracts out all the neutral density, so that one color is zeroed out. For example: If, in the density position, filtration is 105Y + 50M + 10C, in the filtration position, filtration will be 95Y + 40M.

If you find it necessary to add neutral density to extend exposure times without stopping down the lens more, you can use the mode function to add neutral density without changing the color pack.

First you make note of the filter pack while you are in the filtration position. Next you switch to the density position and add equal amounts of filtration to each color. Switch back to the filtration position to see if the overall filter pack has changed. If it has, switch back and make a slight adjustment, and then back to filtration again.

All filter values and status information are displayed on three LED dis-

1. The Beseler Dichro 45 computerized color head for the 45V-XL automatically adjusts for changes due to lamp aging, voltage fluctuations, different light chambers, and imperfections in the color filters.
2. The lower large knob controls coarse focus, the upper large knob adjusts the head for different film formats, the small dangling knob controls fine focus, and the lever opens the negative stage.

larging heads, 11 negative carriers, 6 special negative carriers, lens turrets, lens boards, lamps, wall mounts, power elevation controls, filters, and a variety of darkroom accessories.

The 45V-XL offers professional photo labs the versatile enlarging system they have been waiting for. Because it was designed to interface with most light sources, negative carriers, lens boards, and accessories, you can make full use of your existing equipment without having to re-invest in new accessories. This giant in enlargers can easily be integrated into most operating professional labs and provide efficiency, increased productivity and versatility. Now what more could a professional lab ask for?

For further information on this product contact Charles Beseler Company, 1600 Lower Road, Linden, NJ 07036; (201) 862-7999. ■