

Enlargers Approach

Jack and Sue Drafahl

Enlargers have traditionally been the workhorses in the lab. But their once-simple designs have now evolved from the single condenser head to autofocus, autoexposure, autosizing, and auto-almost-every-function you can come up with. Thanks to these advances, imagers like the Drafahls find that their jobs have been redefined, and simplified!

MANY ENLARGERS NOW have modular systems, so we can modify and upgrade as times change. Other models have made the transition from traditional to digital function. Following is our review of some of the key manufacturers and their enlargers—but since we seldom do things in the normal fashion, we will deviate from the norm here as well. Instead of going from A to Z, we will begin with Z, for a change of pace!

ZBE INC.



The ZBE Sentinel, and the Starlite colorhead featuring 1080 watts for even illumination

The Sentinel is a closed loop enlarger with 1cc repeatability, built on a heavy duty aluminum column with a precision steel rail. It was designed from the start to be an autofocus, autosizing high volume machine. The Starlite colorhead features 1080 watts that provides even illumination because of the circular tri-lamp design. The Starlite also has a built-in rotary shutter for accurate exposures down to 1 second.

The Sentinel also features direct VCNA data entry, multiple emulsion channels, full density control, built-in black-and-white variable contrast, a three-lens turret and handles all negative sizes up to 4x5.

VIVATECH INC.

The Vivacom enlarging system is modular and can be purchased as a complete new system, or as a retrofit for several popular enlargers (Omega or Beseler 4x5, Fotar 8x10). The Model 650 features a Trichromatic Colorhead that allows the color balance and light intensity to be totally computer controlled.

This fully automatic "Dream Machine" features autofocus and autosizing for maximum production speed. Custom sizing, crop lock and the precision optical encoder system makes this a highly efficient machine designed for high production. The Model 550 features the same benefits except for the autofocus and autosizing capabilities.

SAUNDERS/LPL

The Super Dichroic 4550XLG allows you to print 20x24" prints on the baseboard with all film formats from 35mm to 4x5". The deep-anodized box beam girder with its extended chassis provides rigid, vibration-free stability. The fully counterbalanced carriage and smooth friction-drive control make adjustment easy.

This enlarger also features slide-in interchangeable filter modules. You can choose from the standard Dichroic unit,



Saunders Super Dichroic 4550XLG allows film formats from 35mm to 4x5". The 670MXL produces prints up to 16x20.

the Millennium

the new dual-channel VCCE (Variable Contrast, Constant Exposure) module for black-and-white variable-contrast papers or the straight black-and-white diffusion module.

The high-output quartz-halogen light source features a 250 watt lamp. The 4500-II has a slightly lower wattage lamp, a smaller baseboard and a shorter chassis and column. Otherwise, it has all the other features of the 4500XLG.

The 670MXL allows you to print up to 16x20" prints on the baseboard with film formats up to 6x7 cm. The D6700 Dichroic is an outstanding choice for black and white or color enlargements for film formats up to 6x7 cm.

You can also reverse the lamphouse on the baseboard to create a dichroic light source for slide duplication. Or, add the optional copy camera adapter and this system also doubles as a copy stand for still and video cameras.

OMEGA/SATTER



Omega/Satter's Super Chromega E is even perfect for 2 1/4 x 7" panoramic film.

You will find several vertical enlargers in the Omega family. The D5-XL 4x5 enlarger system prints all negative formats up to 4x5". The modular design accepts both the Dichroic II and DV Condenser Lamp-houses. The inclined column design gives maximum easel positioning and provides up to 20x24" enlargement on the baseboard.

This enlarger accepts a wide range of professional accessories including an optional three-lens turret. It comes with the choice of Standard Power Supply

or the Chromegatrol II which features a power pack, voltage stabilizer and timer. This is a workhorse enlarger system with over 250,000 units sold worldwide.

The 5x7" Super Chromega E enlarger expands the negative format one step further. It is even perfect for 2 1/4 x 7" panoramic film. It uses the Dichroic II Lamphouse and features double rack-and-pinion control with locks for all movements.

ESECO-SPEEDMASTER



The Digimatic Universal produces digital and conventional images in one system.

The newly created Digimatic Universal Imaging System produces digital and conventional images in one system to provide you the best of both worlds. You can print directly from digital files or conventional film. It supports numerous file formats like TIFF, JPEG, BMP and accepts Mac files with optional software.

The system features automatic sizing, focus, exposure control, color analyzing

and color correction. It accepts film formats from 35mm to 8x10" and prints up to 30x40" on the baseboard. The Digimatic Universal features a 2000-watt halogen light source and provides the capability of queuing multiple images for unattended production.

The AF-45 is designed for maximum productivity and flexibility. The focus remains sharp automatically to eliminate the need to focus due to re-sizing. The computer controlled analyzing system adjusts for the lens and negative carrier combination and automatically computes the color, density and exposure.

The SA-45 offers all the benefits of the closed-loop automatic analyzing system without the added cost of autofocus. The Pro-45 allows you to retrofit your existing enlarger chassis. This will not only save you money, but you can take advantage of the valuable features Esecos has to offer.

The AF-1010 is available in either horizontal or vertical format. Either system features autofocus, autosizing and a closed-loop powerful 2000-watt lamphouse. The AF-67 features autofocus to 16x20" and manual focus beyond, for film formats up to 6x7 cm.

For Further Information

The enlarger coverage presented here includes the information we received by press time. For further information regarding the enlargers discussed, contact:

Charles Beseler Co., 1600 Lower Road Linden, NJ 07036 (800) 237-3537; www.beseler-photo.com

Colenta/Colex, 347 Evelyn St. P.O. Box 1487 Paramus, NJ 07653 (201) 265-5670 ; www.colex.com

Durst ACS, Inc., 10 Country Line Rd. Brachburg, NJ 08876 (800) GO-DURST

Eseco-Speedmaster, One Eseco Road Cushing, OK 74023 (800) 331-5904

Omega / Satter Inc. 1041 S. Carroll St. Hampstead, MD 21074 (410) 374-3250; www.omega.satter.com

Saunders, 21 Jet View Drive Rochester, NY 14624 (716) 328-7800; www.saundersphoto.com

VivaTech Inc. 34 Elton Street Rochester, NY 14607 (716) 461-2811

ZBE Incorporated, 7220 Hollister Ave. Santa Barbara, CA 93117 (805) 685-2348; www.zbe.com

Dichro capability permits both condenser and diffusion illumination. There is also a 45M Condenser light source available. Beseler also makes a 67 XLC enlarger for negatives up to 6x7 cm and the 23CIII-XL enlarger system for up to 6x9 cm.

Jack and Sue Drafahl own and operate a custom lab in Portland, Oregon. They are also professional photographers, specializing in underwater photography.

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