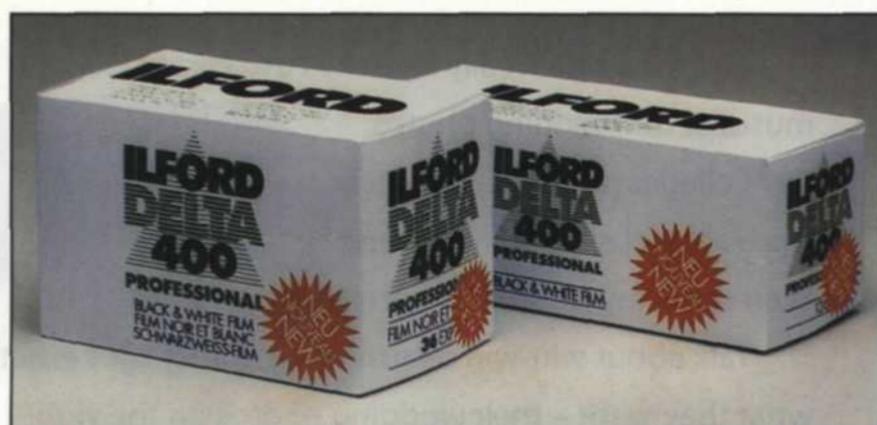
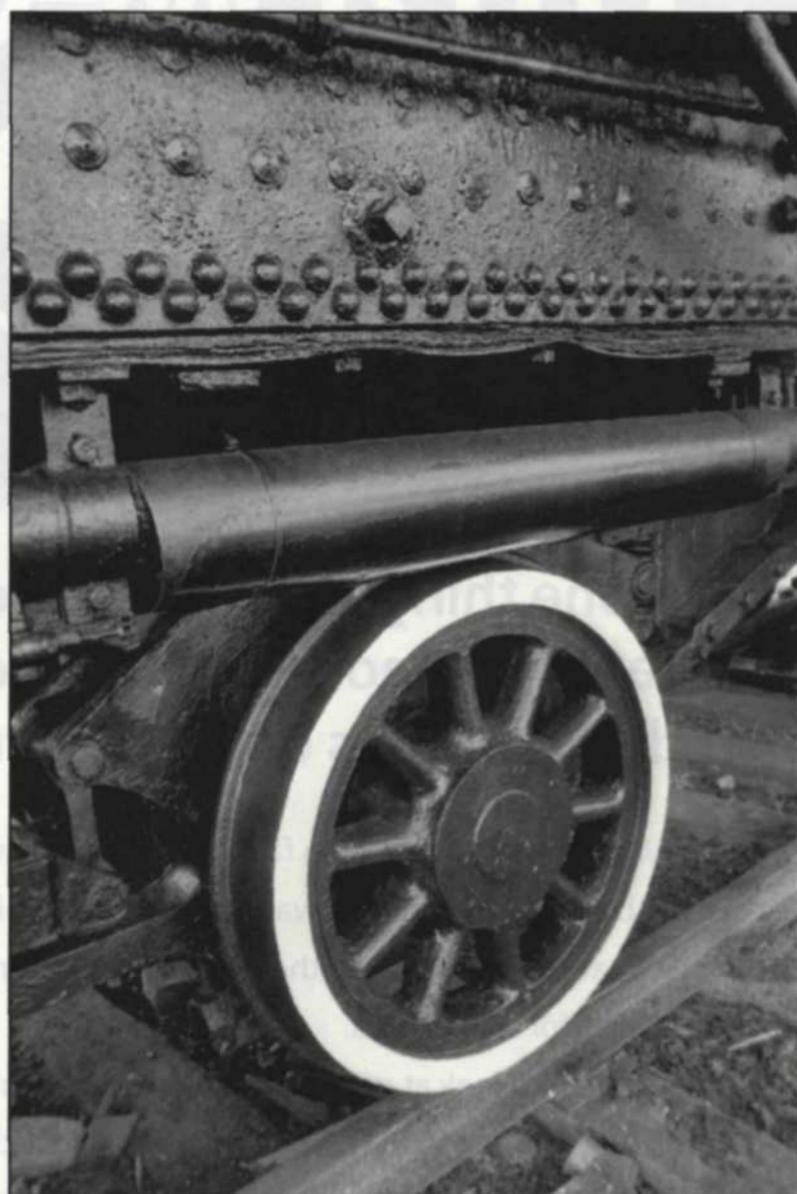




Most of the images were shot with a Nikon F5 and a Tamron 28–200mm zoom. The bulk of the images were shot at EI 640, with a few at EI 800 and 1600.



Ilford Delta 400

Much like a painter mixes paint on a palette, a black-and-white photographer dabbles with the way silver hardens on a photographic film base. This creative control has always been one of the basic enticements for trying black-and-white photography. An added degree of creativity also exists because black-and-white film is often processed by the photographer. Time, temperature and chemical variations can provide the black-and-white photographer even more creative tricks.

Ilford has always been a leading film manufacturer with their extensive black-and-white film portfolio. Their most recent film offering is an improved version of their Delta 400 Professional black-and-white film. This new emulsion features finer grain, increased film speed and exceptional sharpness. The real key to this new emulsion is its versatility in exposure and its compatibility with a variety of film developers. Developing times have also been changed, so that both the 35mm and 120 emulsions now

have the same development times. This is a big help, as you can now mix both film formats in one processing run.

The expansion of the processing time and temperature curves allows you to use Ilford ID-11, Microphen, Perceptol, Ilfotec DD-X, Ilfotec HC, and Ilfosol S chemicals. If you like the Ilford emulsion but lean towards Kodak chemistry, you can try Kodak D-76, Kodak T-Max, Kodak Xtol, Kodak Microdol-X, or Kodak HC-110 chemistries. Agfa Rodinal can also be used effectively to process this new emulsion. Depending on your combination of chemistry, temperature and mixing dilution, Delta 400 can be processed anywhere from 4 to 20 minutes.

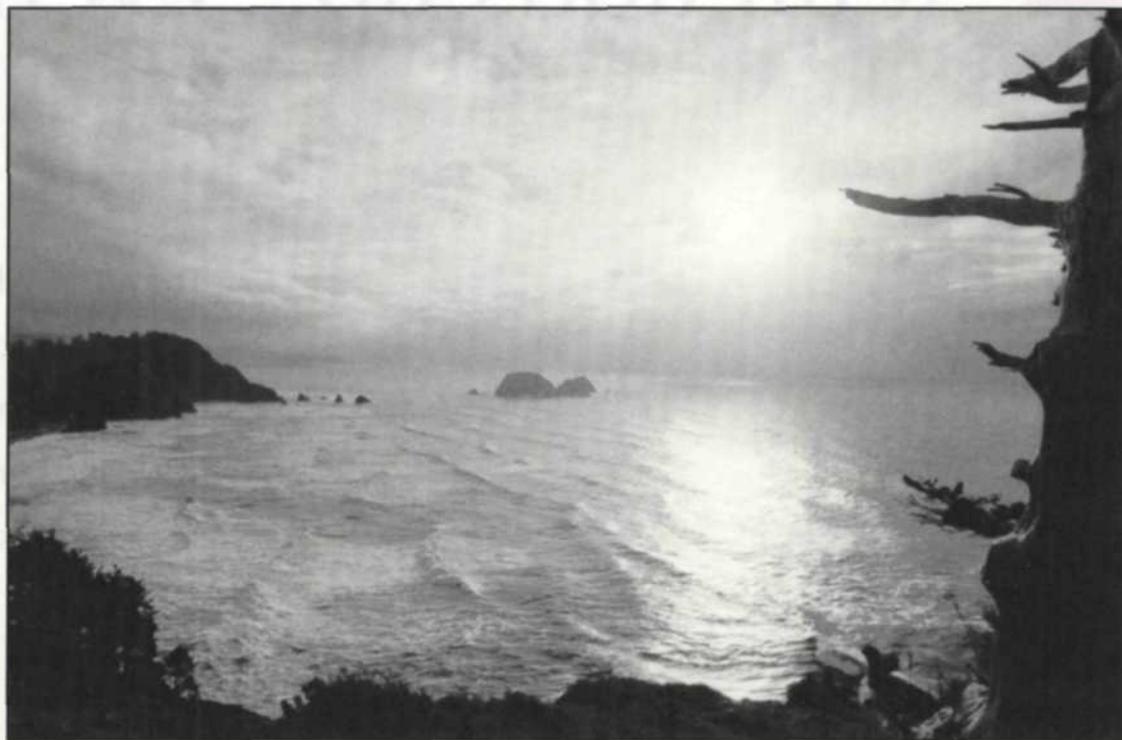
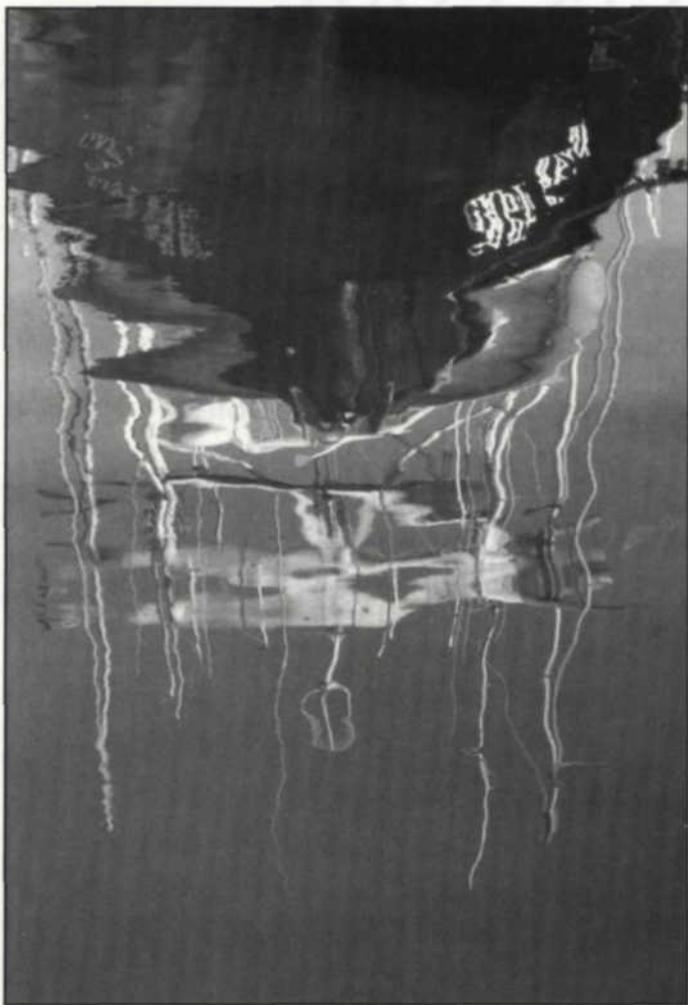
To insure maximum creativeness and practical application, this emulsion can be rated from EI 200 to EI 3200 by simply altering the combination of time and chemistry concentration. Suggested exposure times and temperature recommendations come printed on the inside of each film box, but should only be used as a guideline. Ilford recommends shoot-

ing a test roll and processing it to determine if you need to make any modifications to match your black-and-white shooting style.

The target market of Ilford Delta 400 is as wide as the exposure and processing applications of the film. Both amateurs and professionals alike will find that this black-and-white film has the versatility to adapt to any lighting situation. Delta 400 is ideal for photojournalists, fashion photographers, nature buffs and for many different commercial applications.

Delta 400 can be used with the various filters that can alter and enhance black-and-white films. Keep in mind that if you do use a deep orange or red filter, your film may be underexposed as much as 1½ stops when using a TTL meter. Additional tests should be conducted to determine the best compensation when using these filters.

Your processing of Delta 400 film should be in total darkness, but the film can be inspected for a brief time using an Ilford 908 (very dark green) safelight fil-



ter. Care must be taken not to let light from this safelight fall directly on the film. Processing can be done using a variety of processing equipment such as hand tanks, dip and dunk tanks, rotary processors, and fully automated processors. The film for this test was processed in our Wing-Lynch Model 5 rotary film processor using Ilfotec DD-X chemistry.

Our first introduction to photography was with black-and-white film. It helped formed the basis of our photographic knowledge and allowed us to have a better understanding of the technical side required to capture a moment in time. When a new black-and-white emulsion, such as Delta 400 comes along, it gives us a refreshing break from the color film testing we do.

If truth be told, we seem to find an endless supply of subject matter available for black-and-white photography. Every subject takes on a whole new look when you view the world through shades of gray. The varying lighting and tonal ranges become the key ingredients for creating black-and-white images, not just the subject matter.

For our Delta 400 tests, we used a Nikon F5 and a Tamron 28-200mm

zoom that covered just about any situation we would encounter. We rated our first roll at ISO 400 and processed the test roll in Ilfotec DD-X at the standard 1:4 dilution. We found the negatives to have a little more density than we liked, so we rated the next roll at EI 640 and the results were much more to our liking. We varied the lighting ratios from full sun to flat lighting in full shade, all on the same roll. Eventually we shot additional rolls at EI

800 and one at EI 1600 to test the film's push-process capability.

The resulting negatives had excellent tonal range from deep shadows to full sunlight. Several images of a black train locomotive showed incredible detail, even when it included a pure white wheel in the same scene. Image sharpness was excellent, even when the subjects were some distance from the camera. The change in grain size from EI 400 to 800 was not visible, and only slightly noticeable when increased to 1600. If we had to pick a best rating for the film, we would suggest you try your tests from EI 400 to 640.

To identify the new emulsion from the old, Ilford has reversed the order of the word in the name from 400 Delta to Delta 400, and a new shade of green used in the artwork on the cassette and film box. Ilford Delta 400 can be printed on a traditional enlarger with photographic materials, or scanned into a computer system and printed on inkjet papers such as those made by Ilford Imaging. The versatility of Delta 400 makes it an ideal black-and-white film for producing high quality images under any lighting condition. For information on Ilford black-and-white films and traditional or digital output options, you can log onto Ilford's Web site at www.ilford.com.



Jack and Sue Drafahl are freelance journalists/photographers living in the Pacific Northwest. They have owned and operated a custom lab and service bureau, Image Concepts, for many years. They can be reached at: concepts@pacifier.com/.