



CURRENT ISSUE

From the Archives

Recent Additions

- Accessories
- Buyer's Guides
- Digital Cameras
- Digital Peripherals
- Film
- Film Cameras
- Lenses
- Monthly Contest
- Photo Techniques
- Point and Shoot
- Travel Photography

Site Features

- ▶ Photo Links
- ▶ Vote
- ▶ Previous Votes
- ▶ Previous News
- ▶ Classifieds
- ▶ Photo Store

Past Issues

2003

- | | | |
|------|-----|------|
| Jan | Feb | Mar |
| Apr | May | June |
| July | Aug | Sept |
| Oct | Nov | Dec |

2002

- | | | |
|------|-----|------|
| Jan | Feb | Mar |
| Apr | May | June |
| July | Aug | Sept |
| Oct | Nov | Dec |

Photo Offers

- ▶ Digital Photo Printing
- ▶ Digital Photo Camera
- ▶ Digital Imaging
- ▶ Kodak DC4800
- ▶ Zoom Camera

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Magazine

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From the Archives



FUJICOLOR SUPERIA X-TRA 400

Here's a 400-speed film with the grain and resolving power of a 100-speed film: RMS 4, and 125/50 lpm. Superia X-TRA 400 incorporates Fuji's Fourth Color Layer technology, with a cyan-sensitive emulsion layer for extremely accurate color rendition under a wide variety of light sources (including tricky fluorescents). It's amazingly sharp and fine-grained for an ISO 400 film, produces beautiful colors and skin tones, and performs equally well in ambient light and with electronic flash. It's a great combination of high speed and excellent image quality. *Photo by Ron Leach*



KODAK PROFESSIONAL PORTRA 400VC

Our favorite member of Kodak's new family of professional portrait films, this terrific available-light portrait emulsion has it all: speed, fine grain, beautiful skin tones, wide exposure latitude and a little extra color punch for those drab existing-light situations. And it handles

those hard-to-reproduce colors very well—a purple dress and a purple flower might look the same to the eye, but they'll often photograph differently. With Portra 400VC (and its normal-color brother, Portra 400NC, and their slower counterparts, Portra 160NC and VC, and the new Portra 800), the colors will appear in the photo much as they did to the eye. *Photo by Lynne Eodice*



KODAK PROFESSIONAL SUPRA 400

Kodak's new Supra line replaces the Ektapress films long popular with photojournalists and other working pro photographers. The new films feature finer grain, greater sharpness, and better color—making them truly excellent films. We especially like Professional Supra 400, for its

amazingly fine grain (its Print Grain Index rating of 36 is noticeably better than the 41 rating of Portra 400NC and Royal Gold 400, Kodak's next-finest-grained ISO 400 color-print films) and its versatility: it's great for people, nature, action, products, and just about anything when you need great color and image quality plus added film speed (its normal speed is

Article Index

[Page 1](#)
[Page 2](#)

[Digital Camera HQ: See prices and reviews of digital cameras.](#)



400, but it can be pushed to EI 800 with good results). *Photo by Ron Leach*

FUJICOLOR SUPERIA X-TRA 800



Fuji's 800-speed consumer film has been one of our favorites since its introduction as Fujicolor Super G 800 back in 1993. In its current incarnation as Superia X-TRA 800, it's even better than the eye-boggling original—an ISO 800 film that produces image quality

darned near as good as that of the best ISO 400 films. We love this film for hand-held shooting with supertelephoto lenses as well as for existing-light action shooting. It also works very well with electronic flash, and can be pushed to EI 1600 when you need more speed. (Note: Fuji's NHG II 800 Professional, with its Reala-based fourth emulsion layer for realistic colors under a variety of lighting sources, is optimized for wedding and portrait photography, and a better choice for those specific duties, but for all-around shooting, we love X-TRA 800.) *Photo by Ron Leach*

KODAK MAX ZOOM 800



The "Zoom" in the name means this film was designed for use with point-and-shoot zoom cameras, whose very slow maximum apertures at the longer focal lengths mean blur-inducing slow shutter speeds unless you use a fast film. A fast ISO 800 film minimizes this problem by causing the camera to use faster shutter speeds. But Max Zoom

800 is an excellent ISO 800 film for serious photographers, too—it's actually a little finer-grained than Kodak's new pro 800-speed films (Portra and Supra), very sharp, and produces beautiful colors. *Photo by Jack and Sue Drafa*



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