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From the Archives

Kodak Supra

Text and Photos by Jack and Sue Drafaht, December, 2000



New Kodak Supra 400 captured the vivid colors of the fruit while retaining natural skin tones.



Supra 100 provides extremely fine grain, great sharpness and bold yet true-to-life colors. It's a terrific good-light film.

Putting 3 new pro color-print films to the test.

When we heard that Kodak was coming out with a Supra film family, we decided that it was the perfect opportunity to take the family on a vacation. This Professional Supra family consists of ISO 100, 400 and 800 films that sound so great that we decided they deserved a trip of a lifetime. We weren't going to just take them on a simple weekend excursion. We were headed around the world!



So, just what was this Supra film that we were packing in our suitcases? Kodak designed this group of film emulsions for anyone looking to capture images featuring bold, dynamic colors. These three emulsions offer fine grain and excellent sharpness so you can make extreme enlargements. They are excellent film choices if you are planning to scan the final negatives into your computer.

Professional Supra 400 gives vibrant colors without oversaturating skin tones. This is thanks to its Color Precision Technology that allows more accurate interaction between red, green and blue colors. Kodak's proprietary Advanced Development Accelerator provides fine grain for higher-quality scans and bigger enlargements. Supra 400 replaces Ektapress 400 and has a more durable emulsion overcoat to make it more scratch resistant. You can even push-process it one stop if you need the speed.

Better yet, you should just grab some Supra 800, which replaced Ektapress 800 in Kodak's pro line. Its improved

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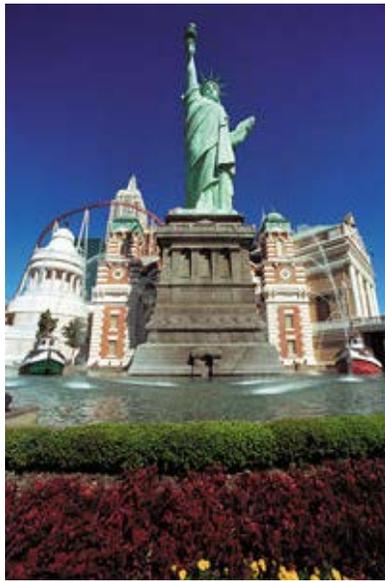
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DIR, Universal DIR and DIAR Chemistries give great color saturation, even if underexposed. Supra 800 is able to capture precise detail with its new High-Efficiency T-Grain Emulsion. It too features fine grain because of Kodak's Advanced Development Accelerator and can even be pushed two stops, if necessary.



Professional Ektrapress 100 film will be renamed Professional Supra 100. It continues to provide extremely fine grain because of its Enhanced Cubic Grain Technologies. Supra 100 features excellent sharpness with bold, yet true-to-life colors.

Enough about the film makeup; these three films are going to be perfect traveling companions. Let's get our bags packed and head off for some high-flying adventure.

The fastest member of the new Supra film family, Supra 800 is a great low-light emulsion, with its combination of high speed and excellent image quality.

We heard it was Brazilian carnival time in Rio, so we made that our first stop. There was excitement and action everywhere. The Masquerade Show, with its floats, parade, stilt walkers and colorful costumed ladies, was the perfect challenge for our film trio. We found that with the low light levels and fast-paced action, the ISO 400 with flash was our best choice. The portraits we took of the woman with the colorful fruit basket atop her head displayed natural skin tones while capturing the vivid colors of the fruits.



The middle member of the Supra family, Supra 400 is a great general-purpose film, providing excellent image quality and high speed.

The next place we tried out our Supra films was on the Manhattan skyline. The Brooklyn Bridge, Empire State Building and Coney Island Roller Coaster provided something to photograph with all the film speeds. Of course, a trip to New York would not be complete without a shot or two of Miss Liberty with her torch held high. The bright sunlight allowed us to use ISO 100 with wide-angle lenses to capture fine detail and hold the fine grain. With the longer lenses and

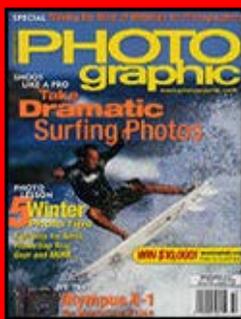


These Venetian canals at dusk were a great subject for Supra 400.

zooms, we switched to the ISO 400 film to give us more depth of field. Although the lighting was contrasty, both films provided bright whites and extreme shadow detail throughout.

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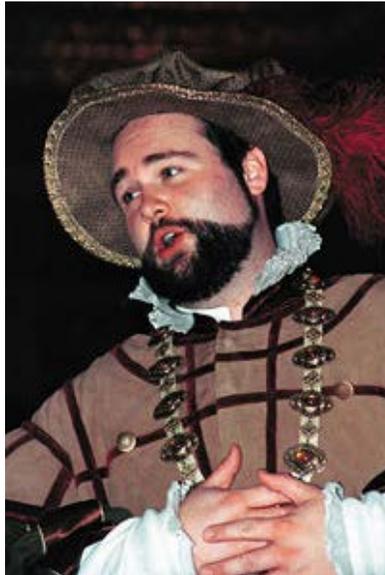
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Despite its high speed, Supra 800 produces good skin tones and minimal grain.

Well, we are now off to jolly ol' England. The British Isle holds its own special ambience as it is home to medieval castles complete with turrets, spires, bell towers and even a moat or two. We were even lucky enough to find a knight in shining armor willing to smile for us.

The Eiffel Tower at night was a sight to behold. We photographed it in the day, but at night it took on a different mood. With zoom lenses, we used ISO 400 and ISO 100 for the wide-angle photos in daylight. Since the light level was low at night, we switched to ISO 800 in order to hand-hold the camera and still maintain some depth of field. The Arc de Triomphe and Place de las Concorde fountain were easily photographed in the hustle-bustle of the busy day. The ISO 100 and 400 were able to capture the extreme scene range of bright sunlight to the depths of the Arc. Of course, between photo sessions, the French pastries were not to be missed.



Supra 800's speed made this architectural interior shot a snap.

There is nothing so peaceful as a gondola ride along the canals of Venice. Sit back, enjoy the scenery as you float by, skillfully directed by your dashing oarsman. What a life! We used ISO 400 with a flash and ISO 800 with available light to capture the moment. As we wandered through the courtyards, we enjoyed the music of wandering minstrel singers. Outfitted in their colorful garb, they were the perfect models for our Supra tests. Their flesh tones were perfectly captured using flash with both ISO 400 and 800 films.

Intricate paintings on the ceilings in Rome capture almost every color in the rainbow. You can't help but marvel at the workmanship and beauty in those paintings. We had to use long lenses to capture their beauty due to the distance to the ceiling, but the ISO

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All three Supra films (this was on 400) have good exposure latitude and can hold detail in contrasty scenes very well.



Supra 400 (top) and 100 (bottom) both delivered excellent results in harsh desert sunlight. Supra 400's extra speed made it easy to get sharp shots of hieroglyphic details from a distance with slower zoom and telephoto lenses (middle). If you haven't guessed by now, all the photos for this report were made in Las Vegas—the only place on Earth where you can travel around the world without leaving the city limits!



800 film did the job well. The chariots of gold and fabulous roman fountains make this the land of romance. The long hallways filled with intricate marble and columns required ISO 800 to capture the extreme mixed lighting scene range.

We were on the move again, this time landing in the ancient land of Egypt. The hieroglyphic tablets and statues of the pharaohs were a photographic challenge with their intricate detail. A wide-angle lens and ISO 100 film gave a great perspective on these massive structures, but ISO 400 and zoom and telephoto lenses gave us the luxury of capturing the fine detail from a distance. The scorching 114° heat of the afternoon sun didn't bother the film, but it made a visit to King Tut's tomb seem cool and inviting.

Well, we were headed back to the good old U.S.A. A quick stop in Hollywood gave us an insight into all the glitz and a look see at the MGM studio. These Supra films were looking so good that it was hard to tell the finished products apart. What more could we ask for in a film family?

No sojourn around the world would be complete without a trip to Las Vegas. It is a bright oasis in the dusty, dry desert. This is the town that stays open 24 hours a day...the city where you can change your luck with a roll of the dice. The only place on Earth where you can travel around the world without leaving the city limits! Viva Las Vegas...and Kodak Professional Supra films.

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