

# The Grays of Westminster

Exclusively... **Nikon**

Gazette

Issue No. 59

The Periodical for the Nikon Devotee

## NIKON'S BEST LINE UP EVER!

### Bodies

F5 body	£1549.00
F100 body + MB-15 grip	£979.00
F100 body	£899.00
F100 & 28-105mm	£1199.00
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F90X Pro (Inc MB-10 grip)	£599.00
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F80 body + 28-80mm	£449.00
F80D body	£429.00
F80S body	£529.00
F60 Silver or Black	£259.00
F60 body + 28-80mm	£309.00
F60 + 28-80mm + 75-240mm	£429.00
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Including 17.5% VAT

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50mm f1.4 AF-D	£260.00
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85mm f1.8 AF-D	£330.00
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AF-S 28-70mm f2.8D	£1,349.00
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AF-S 300mm f2.8D	£3,939.00
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AF-S 500mm f4D	£5,645.00
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28-200mm f3.5-5.6 AF-D IF	£420.00
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105mm f2.8 AF-D Micro	£895.00
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70-180 f4-5.6D AF Micro	£810.00
PC Micro Nikkor 85/2.8D*	£1399.00

\* Perspective Control Micro-Nikkor

### Featured in this edition of the Grays of Westminster Gazette...

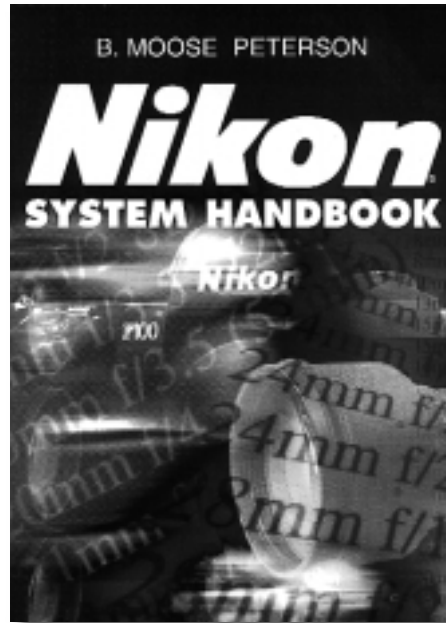
- Nikon's Best Ever Line Up Ever!
- Nick Wynne - The Story So Far...
- Hello Again!
- 0% FINANCE
- The Survey
- Gray Levett - Nikon Legend - Part LVIII



# Nikon System Handbook Has Been Updated

*Nikon System Handbook, the source authority for Nikon enthusiasts, is now available in a completely revised and updated sixth edition published by Silver Pixel Press.*

Written by Nikon expert B. Moose Peterson, this handbook offers invaluable insights into the development of the complete Nikon 35mm system from 1959 to the present, including the new Nikon F60, F100 and new lenses. It discusses everything from the pros and cons of each Nikon camera body and lens to the uses of system accessories. In addition, this



handbook chronicles technological innovations and includes quick-reference charts that offer compatibility data, production dates, serial numbers and product designations for the entire Nikon 35mm SLR system. With more than 70,000 copies sold, *Nikon System Handbook* has been standard reference for Nikon aficionados since its first release. *Nikon System Handbook* is softbound, 192 pages, 7 1/2 x 10", and illustrated with 130 duotone illustrations. These have just arrived in our stock and cost £19.95 plus £3.00 postage & packing.

## HOW TO ORDER

**By Telephone** on **020-7828 4925** for immediate service. Please have your credit card number and its expiry date to hand.

International Telephone:  
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(for UK residents only). If you are ordering from outside the United Kingdom the mailing address is: **Grays of Westminster, 40 Churton Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 2LP, England.**

By Fax. Fax your order to us at any time on:  
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**International Fax: +44 20 976 5783**

Alternatively e-mail your order to:  
**info@graysofwestminster.co.uk**

**Methods of payment:** Orders may be paid by credit card, postal order or cheque. Please make cheques payable to:  
**Grays of Westminster.**

**Amex, Diners Club, Eurocard, MasterCard, Visa, Switch, Delta.**



## LETTERS

You can always write to Grays of Westminster with any query you might have on any aspect of the Nikon system. We will endeavour to assist you in anyway we can.

You can contact Grays of Westminster by letter post, e-mail or fax.

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# THE STORY SO FAR...

"Main radio silence" is the order given when something is to be kept quite about. To use the old wartime vernacular we might say "Hush, Hush" or "under wraps"! Since our last Gazette and Christmastime Catalogue were published quite a while back, you may have wondered what has been happening over at Grays of Westminster. You might have speculated that we are up to something. Well indeed we are! But more of that later...

When you review the developments in the Nikon world in that period, you would not accuse that famous manufacturer of

offering as it does so many of the great features of the flagship F5 at two thirds the price and weight. The dream camera for the Nikon enthusiast amateur or professional about describes it and well priced by the standard of most dreams at under £1000.00.

Few could resist teaming it up with the simultaneously launched AF 28-105mm f/3.5-4.5D Zoom-Nikkor lens which built so effectively on the technical advances successfully tried

and tested in the AF 28-70mm f/3.5-4.5D and AF 24-

Zoom this gave a two-lens set up that many customers judged perfect for their needs.

In that period two entirely different camera vied for the greatest number of awards. Certainly the F100 won plenty but the Coolpix 950 digital camera kept up enthusiastically. Based on a fixed lens design offering picture angles the same as a 35-105mm zoom on a 35mm film camera, it introduced many to the possibilities of seeing their chosen image on its built in monitor screen, on a tv or computer screen, or printed out on plain paper or better still special (quite expensive) glossy paper. Intriguing stuff!

Whilst 3 clever screw-on ancillary lenses increased the cameras capabilities by allowing wider angle, telephoto and fisheye shots, a big question remained unanswered - will the digital revolution deny us the chance to use our favourite Nikkor to produce a digital image? How can we retain the freedom to choose from (currently) xx lenses but record the image created by these legendary optics digitally.

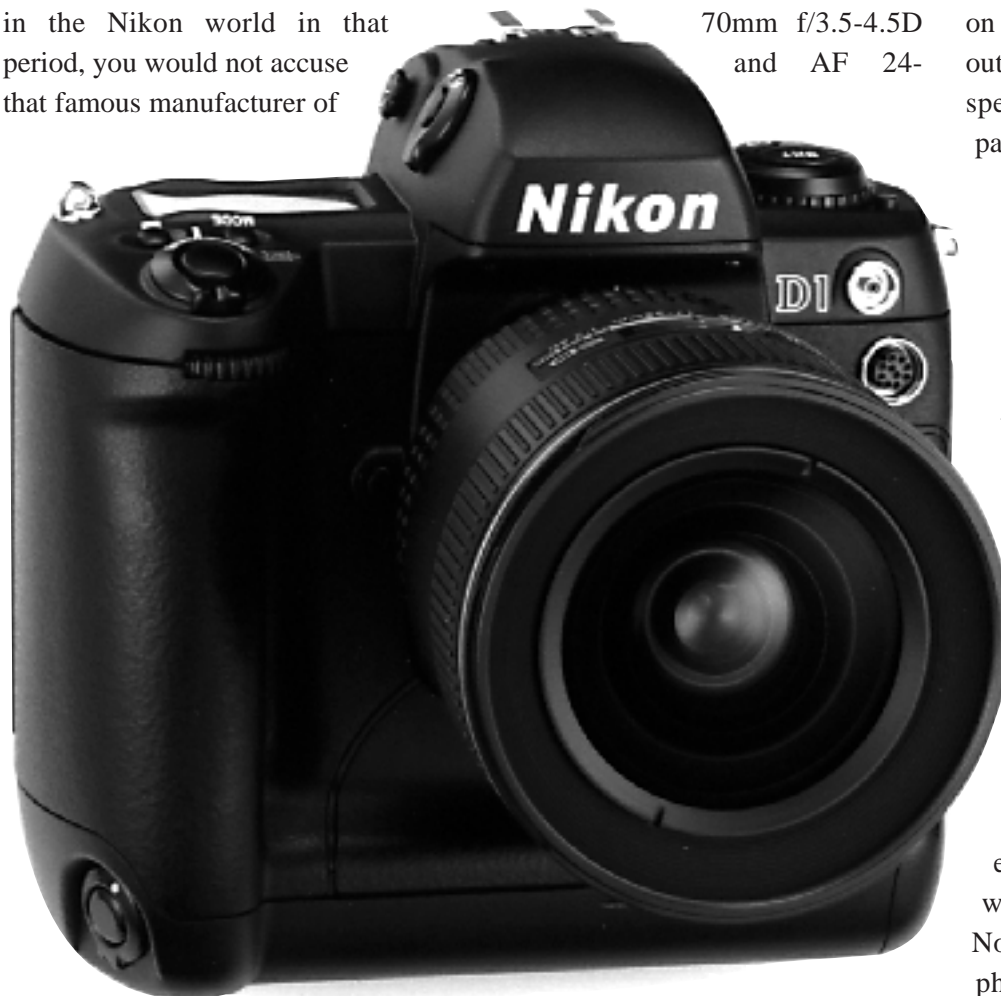
Nikon answered that question emphatically and dramatically with the D1 digital SLR camera. Now the choice was up to the photographer: the carefully composed image captured with super fidelity by the Nikkor lens could be recorded on film or light sensitive electronic sensors.

It became abundantly clear that photography has changed less

anything like slackening the pace of development of the range of their products. Hectic as usual would about describe it.

The F100 was very well received

120mm f/3.5-5.6D Zooms. Offering half-life size macro to a general-purpose zoom brought a "standard" zoom of unparalleled versatility, and as it turned out popularity. Coupled with the AF 70-300mm f/4-5.6D ED



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than expected. The communication was what the photographer decided it would be. Merely the means of conveying it could be altered.

Just as telegram and telex messages giving way to faxes and e-mails didn't change the communication, so it is with image recording. A picture is still a great picture and it is recorded by a photographer- this means you!

For many the staggering details available using today's truly

wonderful; film is paramount. For them the teaming up with Kodak by Grays to let you try 5 rolls of Professional print or slide film free when you purchase a camera from us will be of great appeal representing a it as does £30 worth of extra value. Digital appeals for its instantaneousness in image production (For the press who believes the newest information is the most important!) Important as always, the choice is yours and lots of fun - which image to capture, which Nikkor to capture it with,

which Nikon camera to capture it on. Nikon photographers you've never had it so good! Which brings us to our opening remark on a secret project at Grays to make life easier for the Nikon enthusiasts even better. Ladies and Gentlemen welcome to The Nikon Owners Club founded by Grays of Westminster. Please see Grays Levett's article for further details.

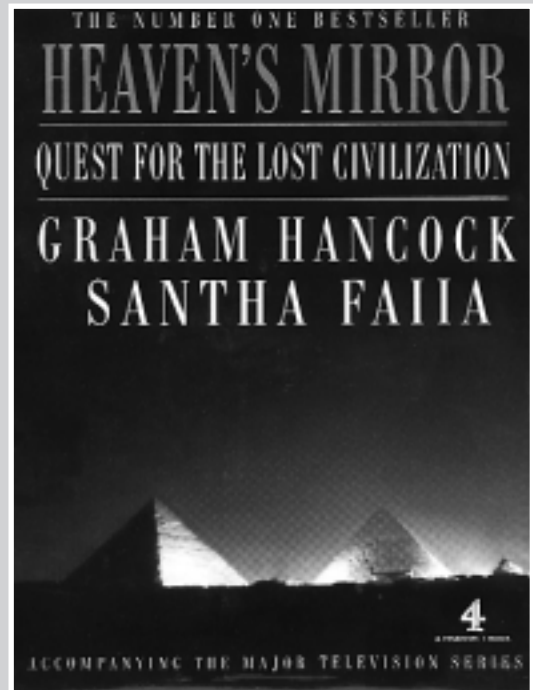
It is nice to be in touch again.

*By Nick Wynne*

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"If there are any Nikon users out there who have not heard of Grays of Westminster it is about time you did! Check out their excellent and informative site which shows how their friendly specialist service can be of value not only to customers in the UK but all around the world. As a long-time customer myself I am happy to attest that there is no other Nikon dealer to compare with Grays!! Their expertise and extensive knowledge, combined with a unique level of personal service, make them the ideal first stop for professional and amateur photographers alike. Always charming, they are generous with their time and will go to great lengths to get you what you want and give you the latest product information. Unlike so many photographic retailers today every member of Grays' staff really knows and loves photography - and that makes all the difference".

*Santha Faiia in The Official Graham Hancock Website*  
[www.grahamhancock.com](http://www.grahamhancock.com)



## Visit the Grays of Westminster Website

[www.graysofwestminster.co.uk](http://www.graysofwestminster.co.uk)

A feature we recently added to our website is a few e-mailing lists. One can register an interest in say, early Nikon and receive notification each time that we update the Nippon Kogaku Room listing. This means seeing the stock available long before it reached any of our advertisements.

There are lists relating to Nippon Kogaku Room, new

equipment and special offers, second hand, our exclusively Nikon catalogue. All one needs to do is send us an e-mail. The instructions are on our website. Just send us an e-mail asking to be put on the list in which you are interested.

Our website address is -

[www.graysofwestminster.co.uk](http://www.graysofwestminster.co.uk)







*Hello again!*

As I write this we are gearing up for the 4th Annual Workshop with world famous wildlife photographer Heather Angel at Saint Hill Manor, East Grinstead, West Sussex. And once again it is completely sold out!

This year we are joined by Mark Fury of Nikon UK, Clare Bruce of Kodak Professional with stacks of FREE film, Neal Suckling from Hasselblad UK with a range Gitzo tripods, Harry Ricketts of Fountain Press (photographic book publishers) and Ailsa McWheenie from the new glossy monthly magazine **Outdoor Photographer**.

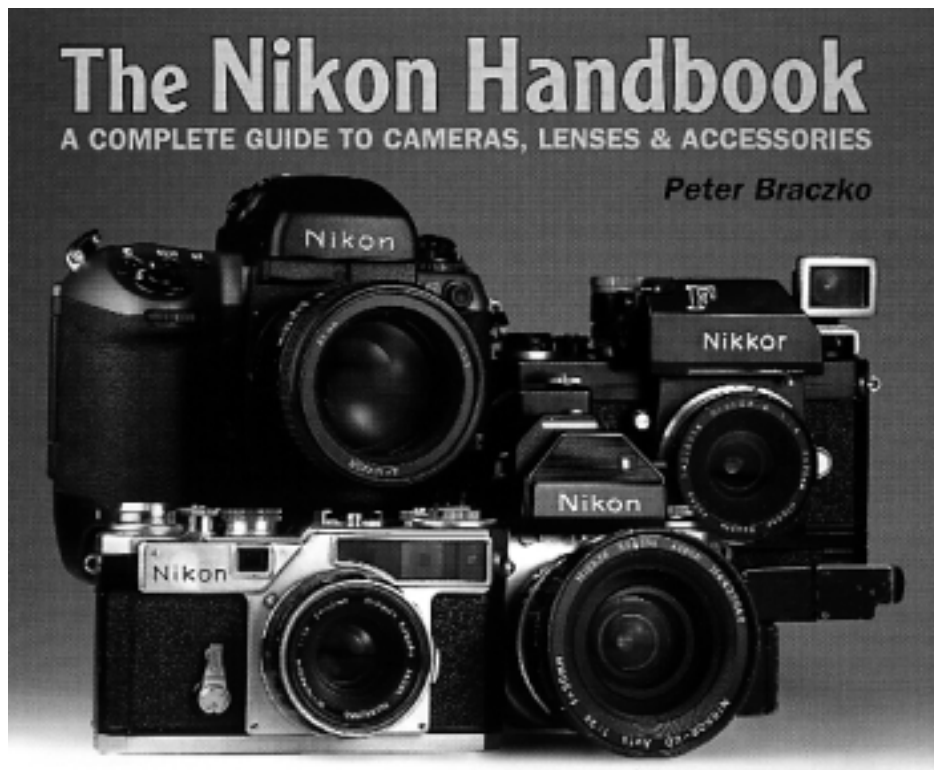
Nick mentioned that we have been working on something for some time

Nuvis Pic to go here

and this is correct. We are starting a **Nikon Owners Club** and have been researching and doing feasibility studies. To this end you will find a survey in this issue which I would ask you to fill in and return to us. The first 100 replies will receive a Nikon sew-on patch and the first completed survey form pulled out of the bag will receive a Nikon Nuvis S Gift Set. The Nuvis S is a beautifully made. A shell-type stainless steel design conceals most camera features when closed. Slide open the protective cover and you a host of useful features: Whisper-quiet zooming operation. High-performance 3x zoom with small f-number of f/5.3-7.5, sophisticated autofocus performance. Close-range Correction (CRC) system to minimise picture deterioration. Slow Sync and red-eye reduction capability, a useful built-in dioptre adjustment and a remote

Nikkor which is yet to be released! On the subject of books I have some news of a forthcoming release. The long awaited English translation of Peter Braczko's best selling guide to the Nikon system will be published later this year: **The Nikon Handbook - A Complete Guide to Cameras, Lenses & Accessories**. This handbook provides an overview of the entire Nikon system. All camera models and lenses ever made are listed. The author has developed a coding system especially for this book to make it easier for Nikon users and collectors to search for information about the world's most extensive photographic system.

Not only are cameras and lenses covered in the Nikon Handbook, but other important system components such as viewfinders, motor drives, macro accessories, filters, flash



control option. I have owned one of these for some time now and can vouch for the quality.

The second edition of Nikon Lenses by B. Moose Peterson is now available. Continuing on the work in the popular first edition, this current edition of Nikon Lenses features the latest Nikon lenses including the Nikkor 80-400mm f/4.5-5.6D ED VR (Vibration Reduction) AF Zoom-

equipment, and connecting cables.

Over 1,200 items are illustrated and every Nikon product described in detail. It is due for release in September 2000 costing £29.95. Incidentally I should point out a personal involvement as I was approached to do the technical check on this translation from the German original **Das Nikon Handbuch..**

We are now taking orders for this title which will be despatched immediately upon its release. This is my first chance to introduce you to a new member of staff, Uri Zakay who joined us since late last year. We have known Uri for a number of years. He



contacted us about a vacancy when he was planning on a permanent move from North America to England. You will find Uri friendly and willing and able to handle your queries and requests.

Nikon must be beside themselves with pride with what must be the best lineup of equipment they have ever had. From the highly specked yet modestly priced F80 through the reliable workhorse that is the F90X on to the fabulous F100 and flagship F5 cameras: to say nothing of Silent Wave lenses and ever expanding AF (autofocus) range of general Nikkor optics. We now add the mighty Nikon D1 digital camera of which much has been written. Nikon's impressive range of Coolpix digital cameras is widely acclaimed for their outstanding image quality, unbeatable speed and versatility and this range is now joined by Nikon Coolpix 990.

The 3 million pixel Coolpix 990 is top of the range. It has a dazzling array of creative features offering full manual exposure. This is assisted by the introduction of a 7-blade iris diaphragm and a sophisticated 5-area multi autofocus system similar to that found on Nikon's professional 35mm single lens reflex cameras. Also featured is a newly designed 3x Zoom-Nikkor lens with focal range of 8-24mm (equivalent to 38-115mm in 35mm). These are combined with a USB interface for fast data transfers and the ability to connect to Nikon's extensive speedlight range. The Coolpix 990 places complete creative photography at your fingertips.

We recommend the Nikon Coolpix 990 Premier bundle which includes the following: 32Mb and 16Mb CompactFlash cards, leather case, LCD (liquid crystal display) monitor sunshade, AC Power adapter, 4 x AA rechargeable NiMh batteries, charge, Photoshop 5.0LE and FotoStation Pro 4.0. Cost inc. Vat is £949.00.

Incidentally the new FotoStation Pro 4.0 software package (worth £89.99) is exclusively bundled free of charge with all Nikon's digital product. FotoStation Pro 4.0 is a professional image storage and archiving piece of

software that works like a digital database of images. It allows you to search through thousands of images, write Photoshop compatible text (IPTC), acquire new images from different sources, add text information, enhance your images for inclusion in documents or create web pages containing images automatically and much more besides.

By the way if you have access to the Internet you may wish to visit our Web Site at: [www.graysofwestminster.co.uk](http://www.graysofwestminster.co.uk) which contains up to the minute information on the latest products from Nikon. You will also be able to download and view our regularly updated lists of secondhand Nikon equipment.

In closing may I take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful summer and let you know that we are as ever ready to assist you.

Best wishes



*Gray Levett*



**RECOMMEND SOMEONE TO  
GRAYS OF WESTMINSTER  
AND YOU CAN EARN UP TO  
£100 IN GIFT CERTIFICATES**

If you have friends or colleagues who haven't yet become Grays of Westminster customers, refer them and we'll send them a £5.00 gift certificate in your name. And as a way of saying thanks, we'll send you a £5 gift certificate for every one of them who becomes a Grays of Westminster customer.



**FISHEYE-NIKKOR 6mm f/2.8**



**WANTED FOR CASH AI or AIS  
EXAMPLE SOUGHT.  
MUST BE IN AS NEW CONDITION  
COMPLETE WITH CASE.**

Grays of Westminster also stock Domke, Outpack camera bags, Gitzo tripods, Maglites as well as Leatherman multi-tools.  
*Please contact us for full details.*

**WANTED FOR CASH**

We urgently require F5, F100, F90X, F90, F3HP, FM2n, FE2 as well as AF D and AIS Nikkor lenses. Most of the range of Nikon accessories is constantly needed also.

Please contact Nick Wynne on telephone no. 020-7828 4925.



***PART EXCHANGE***



*We are happy to take in part exchange most makes of camera equipment.*

For example: Bronica, Canon EOS, Contax, Fuji, Hasselblad, Leica, Mamiya, Minolta, Metz, Olympus, Pentax, Rollei, Sigma, Tamron, Tokina as well as Nikon of course!





# The Nikon Legend - Part LVIII

By Gray Levett

A few issues ago I wrote an article about the NASA F3 camera and the special dummy version that we had on display for a limited time at the shop. After these articles of mine appear, it is not an uncommon occurrence that they generate a certain amount of correspondence from our readers. These take the form of not only asking further questions but also of providing me with more detailed information. It was this later form that would improve my scant knowledge of this area, as I did not have much information on Nikon's involvement in the NASA space program. A letter appeared from the former head of the PR Division at Kodak Limited, H.J.P. (Douglas) Arnold.

Enclosed with the letter were a number of his articles on

photography in space, which originally appeared in The British Journal of Photography. These articles contain a treasure trove of information on this fascinating subject.

Witness the photograph of astronaut Marsha Ivins - surrounded by camera equipment

aboard the shuttle shows how easy it is to handle heavy gear in micro-gravity - finger tip control!"

As I mentioned in my original article Nikon provided a 250-exposure back. What I did not know was that it was loaded with 025 millimetres thick film. A dark



in Columbia's aft flight deck during the record-setting 11-day STS-32 mission in January 1990. Marsha Ivins played a prominent part in an experiment conducted to compare a battery of different films and photographic equipment. In all, 16 Kodak and Fuji film types were taken into orbit - including colour negative materials as well as a few black-and-white films.

In her left hand she is holding a Hasselblad fitted with a 70mm-film back and long lens (focal length unknown) while floating above her right hand is a Nikon F3HP. The rest of the equipment is generally kept in place with the aid of Velcro patches. In Douglas Arnold's letter he points out that "The picture of Marsha Ivins

slide permitted removal and installation of the magazine at any time. Fortunately, it is reloadable in flight. The magazine was also equipped with an automatic counter, which keeps record of exposures and stops the camera at zero. Electrical power was provided by an external 12V DC source or by a self contained battery pack (approximately 2000 exposures per pack). On the base is a data annotation module that digitally records days, hours, minutes, seconds, and tenths on each frame of film.

I would like to thank Douglas Arnold for supplying us with these articles together with the NASA photograph reproduced here.

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