

October 6, 1954

wjgd

TO: [redacted], C/TSS/APD.

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FROM: [redacted] TSS/APD.

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SUBJECT: Portable Copy Stand for Minox Camera.

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1. The entire day of October 5, 1954 was spent with [redacted] and [redacted] of the [redacted] relative to the acceptance of a copying stand for the Minox camera.

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2. The original specifications called for a copy stand similar to the E. Leitz, Inc., BOOWU stand in that the stand could be easily assembled and disassembled with the various parts of such geometry and weight that they could be carried with relative ease in the pockets of a suit so that an operator could enter some enclosure and use the camera in a positive manner for procuring copy in a clandestine manner.

3. In my opinion, the copy stand submitted is wholly acceptable for the use for which it was constructed.

A. The unit is small enough and of sufficient light weight it will easily more than meet our requirements for concealment and portability.

B. The assembled stand is rugged with all fittings and connections so well made there is virtually no chance of possible slippage of the camera, in working position, or the legs once they are in proper adjustment. This should ensure the sharpest negative, with rapid operation, the film and lens are capable of producing.

C. Attention should be called to several mechanical features which are outstanding and which I never have seen in similar equipment.

1. The rotating device which locks and holds the legs in proper pitch and position to the camera-holding section. The means used by P. R. C. are vastly superior to those used on the BOOWU by E. Leitz, Inc..

2. The spring mechanism which secures the legs in their extended positions, one and two, so the camera is correctly positioned the sharpest copy negatives for the two areas covered.

3. The making the camera-holding portion of the stand, all edges and corners are so bevelled they will not catch on clothing to tear it or to otherwise catch on objects in a pocket to impede easiest insertion or withdrawal of the equipment.

4. The top, or camera-holding, portion of the assembly secures the camera in such a manner it can be withdrawn easily, yet is sufficiently secure so that the camera will not loosen or tumble out while being extended, for shutter cocking, or in copying in the manner of "walking" along a wall.

*10/6
Need case for
camera & stand
see attached*

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4. I personally am against the use of 8 mm and 16 mm negative size cameras in line of general use. In my opinion such small-negative size cameras are virtually worthless in holding detail in film or paper negative or positive work. I do realize the fact, however, there are probably numerous occasions when nothing larger than an 8 mm or a 16 mm camera can be used. And, for such conditions, in my opinion this copying stand will be a necessary accessory for Minox camera copy work in that it will eliminate many of the difficulties usually encountered by an operator. Because of this P. R. C. copy stand it is exceedingly possible the Minox camera may be used much more than it has been in the past with successful results insofar as clandestine copy work is concerned.
5. We now are engaged in obtaining an electronic flash tube unit of such lower power that it may be successfully used with the Leica camera and the BOOWU copying stand. This same flash unit may be used, in all probability, with this Minox camera stand. This would again greatly simplify the obtaining of correct exposure. Correct exposure is vital to successful photography with the sub-miniature negative sizes. It goes hand in hand with correct processing.
6. It is further suggested a Leica, or similar, accessory clip be considered for attachment to the outer perimeter of the camera-holding section so correct "existing light" exposures can be obtained. The Leica meter or the Minox meter could be used with this stand in such manner. I have used the Leica meter with the Leica camera and the BOOWU copying stand and have found exposures are accurately indicated when the meter is used in this manner to measure "existing" light.
7. It also is suggested this same general type of stand be fitted with a differently-shaped top which would accommodate certain 35 mm cameras so that when a possible position 1 on the leg setting was used, a portrait lens number 1 could be used thereby setting correct camera to subject distance. The extremities of the spread legs, in the various extended position would accurately indicate the square-inch area included on the given negative. The extremely ingenious method used by P. R. C. in the case of the Minox stand would enable them to construct the other stand, for certain 35 mm cameras so the stand could be quickly assembled or taken apart. [redacted] (we discussed this possibility in general manSTAT thought one edge of an oblong top could accommodate a tripod screw to which the tripod socket of a 35 mm camera could be tightened without too much difficulty. There would be considerable problem to getting the correct "pitch" of the legs so that, when extended, they would accurately fringe the area of the original which would be included on the negative obtained. I believe this would be an item in which Training and the Field Stations would be greatly interested.

Respectfully submitted,

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