

The Digitized Kodak Catalog Project (1886 - 1941): A Very Brief History

Most camera collectors at some point in their collecting careers pass through a Kodak phase - some never come out of it. And if there ever was one name that came to be associated with both cameras and collecting, it was Kodak.

George Eastman received his first patent (for coating dry plates) and bought his first manufacturing facility in 1880, and in 1881 he started the Eastman Dry Plate Company. In 1886 he received a patent for the near-mythical Eastman Detective Camera, but it wasn't until 1888 that the first camera bearing the name "Kodak" was introduced.

One of the nice things about collecting Kodak is that the product line is pretty well known, and because the company produced annual catalogs for many years, collectors can be reasonably sure of what they're looking at, when it was made, the variations and so on - presuming that they have access to either the appropriate catalog, or a number of the many books which document Kodak, each to some greater or lesser extent.

But what would be really nice would be to have a complete set of Kodak catalogs in an easily accessible form and readily available. And since the advent of portable computing devices (PC, Macintosh, etc.) that's been possible - except for the difficulty of assembling a complete set of Kodak catalogs in one spot and then scanning them and making the results available.

The idea of digitizing a complete set of Kodak catalogs has kicked around the collecting community for many years. It's been proposed on a number of online forums, during meetings of various photohistory groups, and for years there have been many incomplete "Kodak CDs" on eBay but at best, they only contained a few catalogs - whatever the owner had available. But assembling a complete set of catalogs, then scanning and processing perhaps 3,000 to 4,000 pages, was a daunting task - if not completely overwhelming - and nothing ever came of it.

Until now.

In early 2010, the idea came up again, but this time we - "we" as in "the collecting community" - were lucky. A number of collectors were willing to loan their catalogs to this project and a couple of insane - wait, let's call them "dedicated" - dedicated enthusiasts - neither of whom collected Kodak, but both of whom enjoyed the challenge of such a project - were willing to put in the time and effort to scan and pull together the entire set of catalogs into a full-blown Kodak Catalog Digital Library.

Our initial objective was to include just the annual amateur catalogs, but it turns out that many cameras only appear in certain professional and specialty catalogs. We included as many of those as we could obtain so that almost every Kodak camera made in the US, Canada and Europe, would be documented - at least up to about 1941. After that, it becomes much more difficult as Kodak stopped producing annual catalogs as their product line became increasingly more diversified.

However, even with the additional "non-amateur" catalogs, we weren't completely successful in illustrating "every" camera Kodak ever made. There are an elusive few that might appear in specialty catalogs that we simply couldn't track down. If you can't find one of those odd cameras, that's no doubt why. We may do a revision at some point in the future if someone is willing to loan us a catalog that includes a camera that isn't already recorded.

In this project, a total of 67 catalogs were used from 1886 through 1941 including a number of professional and dealer catalogs, and in some years, two or even three different catalogs to cover all the bases. With the cooperation of a number of dedicated collectors, we were able to pull together all those catalogs and in June 2010, the project started in earnest.

By November 2010, we had scanned everything we needed and eventually all 67 catalogs were then reassembled as image folders and converted to the universally accepted PDF format and finally, converted into individually searchable PDFs which could then be searched globally as a collection.

For those of you interested in the statistics: about 200 hours of scanning time (we never want to hear that sound again), 67 catalogs and 3,908 page scans - which generated 7,917 original and processed images - and 11.4 GB of disk space. Additionally, another 100+ hours of technical development time was needed to convert the digital catalogues into a fully searchable "knowledgebase" that could be launched from most any standard web browser.

The overwhelming number of catalogs was loaned to us by that most remarkable of Kodak collectors, Charlie Kamerman of Eagle Creek, Oregon. Without Charlie, it's very doubtful that this project could even have been attempted.

But as it turned out, even Charlie didn't have all the publications that were needed, but he was able to track down the five that he lacked and was able to secure either a copy or high resolution images that we could work with. And so, our thanks to the contributors of the catalogs and scans that we used:

Charlie Kamerman for the vast majority of catalogs used and all his help, Steve Shohet for loaning a variety of test catalogs, Ryerson University (Toronto) for the 1886 Eastman Catalog George Layne for the 1890 New Kodaks Catalog, Mike Kessler for the 1891 Dealer Display Catalog, Ralph London for the 1893 UK Catalog, Michael Pritchard for the 1897 UK Catalog.

The digital side of the project - also known as "all of the work" - was done by Rob Niederman of Medina, Minnesota, and Milan Zahorcak of Tualatin, Oregon. Remarkably we're still friends and in a few years, we'll probably be able to talk about this project rationally.

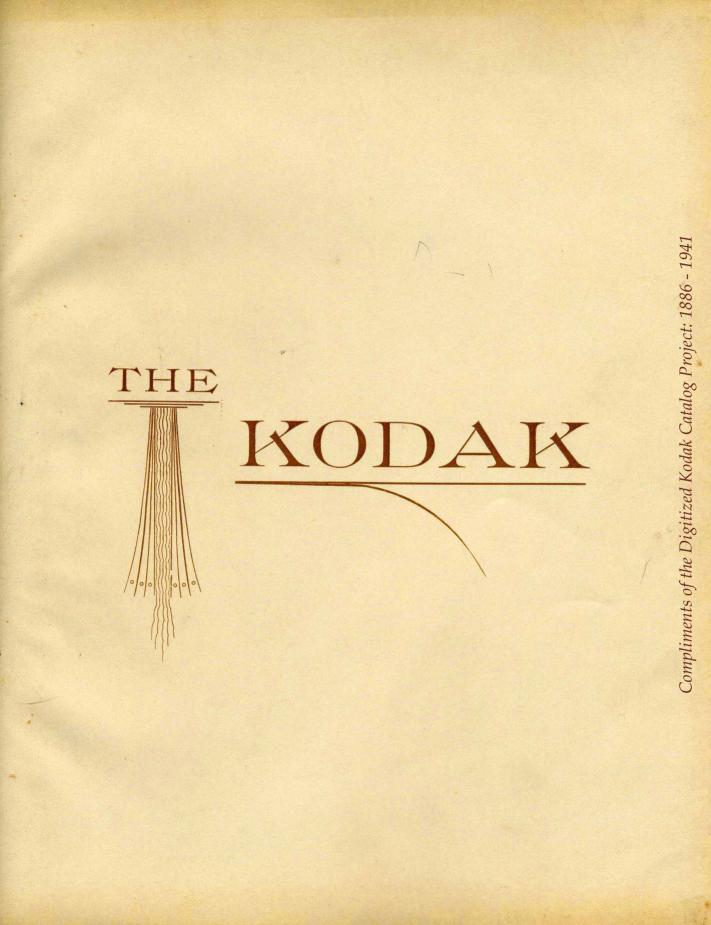
And there you have it, a more-or-less done deal. We're fairly sure that it isn't quite perfect, and expect there will be some carping about something or other; but all-in-all, we believe this to be a pretty good product and can now move on to something else.

Our thanks to all of those involved.

Rob Niederman Milan Zahorcak

Fall, 2011

Compliments of the Digitized Kodak Catalog Project: 1886 - 1941



Compliments of the Digitized Kodak Catalog Project: 1886 - 1941

"You Press the Button, We Do the Rest."

THE KODAK · ·

Alone of all cameras, permits the division of labor in making photographs, which is indicated by the above sentence.

"WE DO THE REST"

If you want us to, but if you want to do all the work yourself, it is made easy for you with the Kodak and the Transparent Film.

The Eastman Company.

List of Kodaks.

No. 1 KODAK.

For round pictures, 21/2 inches diameter; capacity, 100 exposures.

No. 2 KODAK.

For round pictures, 31/2 inches diameter; capacity, 100 espesares.

No. 3 KODAK.

For square pictures, 31/4 x 41/4 inches; capacity, 100 exposures.

No. 3 KODAK JUNIOR.

For square pictures, 31/4 x 41/4 inches; capacity, 60 exposures.

No. 4 KODAK.

For square pictures, 4 x 5 inches; capacity, 100 exposures.

No. 4 KODAK JUNIOR.

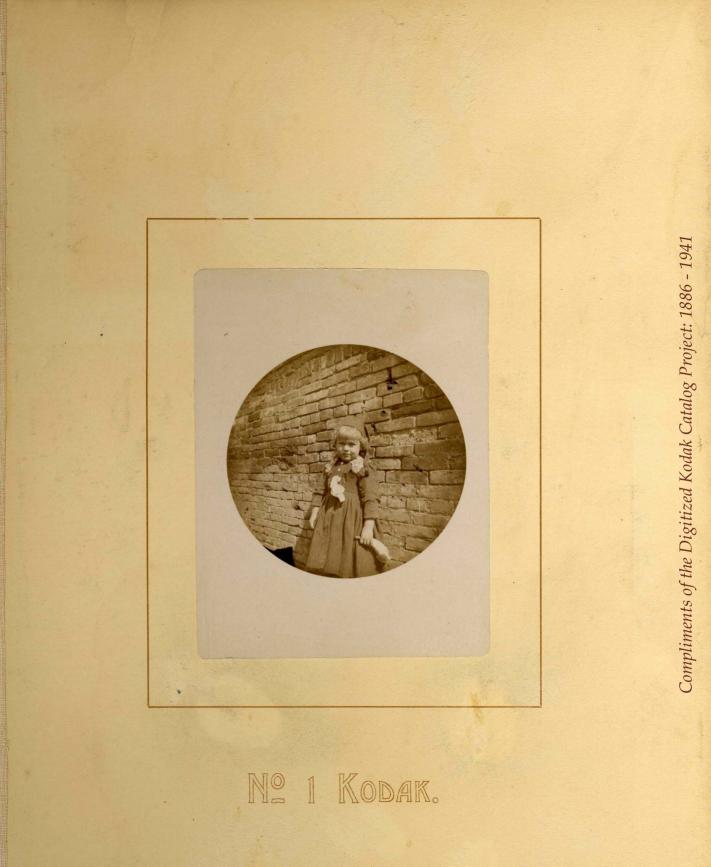
For square pictures, 4 x 5 inches; capacity, 48 exposures.

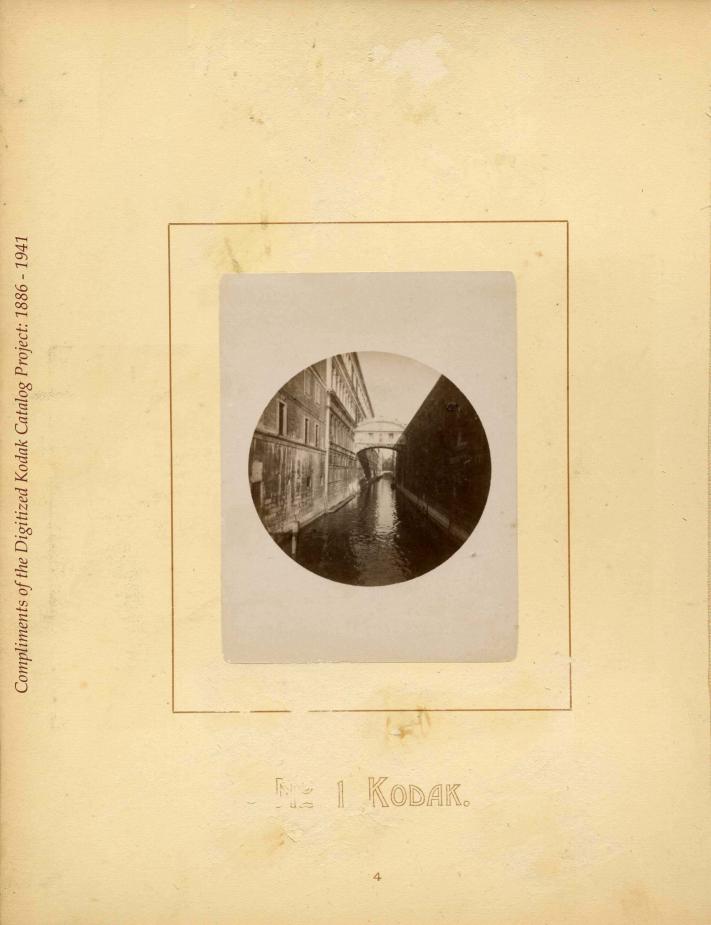
4 x 5 FOLDING KODAK.

For square pictures, 4 x 5 inches; capacity, 48 exposures.

5 x 7 FOLDING KODAK.

For square pictures, 5 x 7 inches; capacity, 54 exposures.





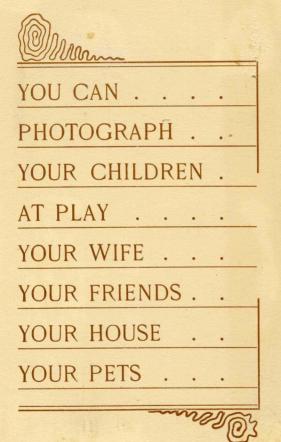


No. 1 Kodak.

For round pictures, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter; capacity, 100 exposures without reloading; size of camera, $3\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{4} \times 6$ inches, or 73 cubic inches; weight, loaded, 1 lb. 8 oz.

This is the original Kodak, and it will always continue to be the Note Book of Photography. It is the most compact camera in existence, being hardly larger than an ordinary field glass. It makes a picture plenty large enough for most purposes, and one that can readily be enlarged to any size. The cost of each picture, including the film, is only ten cents—a most important feature tothose who desire to photograph everything that interests them. A collection of these pictures may be made to furnish a pictorial history of life as it is lived by the owner, that will grow more valuable every day that passes.

Duplicate pictures 6 cents each (in lots of one dozen or more.)



WITH THE KODAK. \triangle





N. 2 Kodak.



No. 2 Kodak.

For round pictures, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter; capacity, 100 exposures without reloading; size of camera, $4\frac{1}{2} \times 5 \times 9$ inches, or 202 cubic inches; weight, loaded, 2 lbs. 12 oz.

This new Kodak is provided with a finder and a set of three stops for the lens. The lens is "fixed focus" like that in the No. 1, it has wonderful depth and definition and is guaranteed to work equal to any lens known.

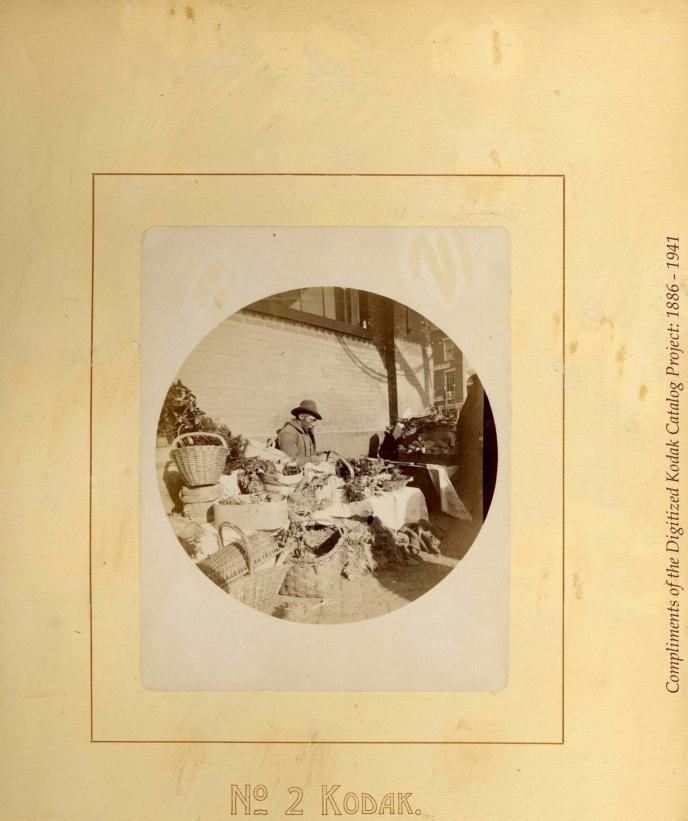
The largest stop is used for instantaneous street work, the middle stop for interiors, and the smallest for timed exposures out of doors.

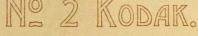
Negatives from this camera make a very pretty lantern slide when masked down to 234 inches in diameter.

The Kodaks

ARE THE ONLY	•	
CAMERAS .	•	
MADE	•	
Č XCLUSIVELY	•	
FOR FILMS .	53-5 1	•

WHY WASTE TIME LEARNING TO USE GLASS DRY PLATES, WHEN THEY ARE AL-READY BEING SUPERSEDED BY A MORE PRACTICAL MATERIAL.







Nº 2 Kodak.

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READER.

You, Anyone,

CAN MAKE PHOTOGRAPHS LIKE THOSE CONTAINED IN THIS BOOK WITHOUT STUDY, TROUBLE, EXPERIMENT, CHEMI-CALS, DARK ROOM,

And without even soiling the fingers.

YOU CAN . . PHOTOGRAPH . AT NIGHT . .

WITH THE KODAK

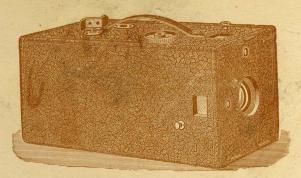
NO OTHER . . CAMERA SO WELL ADAPTED FOR . FLASH LIGHT PICTURES .



FLASH LIGHT PICTURE TAKEN AT NIGHT.







No. 3 KODAK.

For some presences, $3\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$; capacity o exposures v and z size r camera, $4\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2} = 268\frac{1}{2}$ cubic weight, loaded, 4 pounds.

The No. 3 Kodak is provided with two finder e for horizontal and one for vertical pictures. Bausch & Lo ⁷⁷ni versal Lens (list price \$24.00.) The new Kodak has an instancaneous shutter, having rotating stops and adjustable speed, rack and pinion for focusing, two sockets for tripod, screws when used for vertical or horizontal time exposures.

The No. 3 Kodak is the smallest of the Kodaks which make square pictures, and will be the favorite with those who make negatives with a special view to using them for lantern slide printing, and are not content with in pd pictures such as made with the No. 1 and No. 2.

Price of No. 3 Kudak loaded with the exposures, including son is then	ariying
case,	\$40.00
NOTE.—The price includes of 60 ex only, the came is capable of receiping 100 exposures.	spool of
Reloading, developin printing 60 finished pictures,	\$10.00
4¼ inch spool for 60	2.50%
4 ¹ / ₄ inch spool for 100 ditto,	4.25

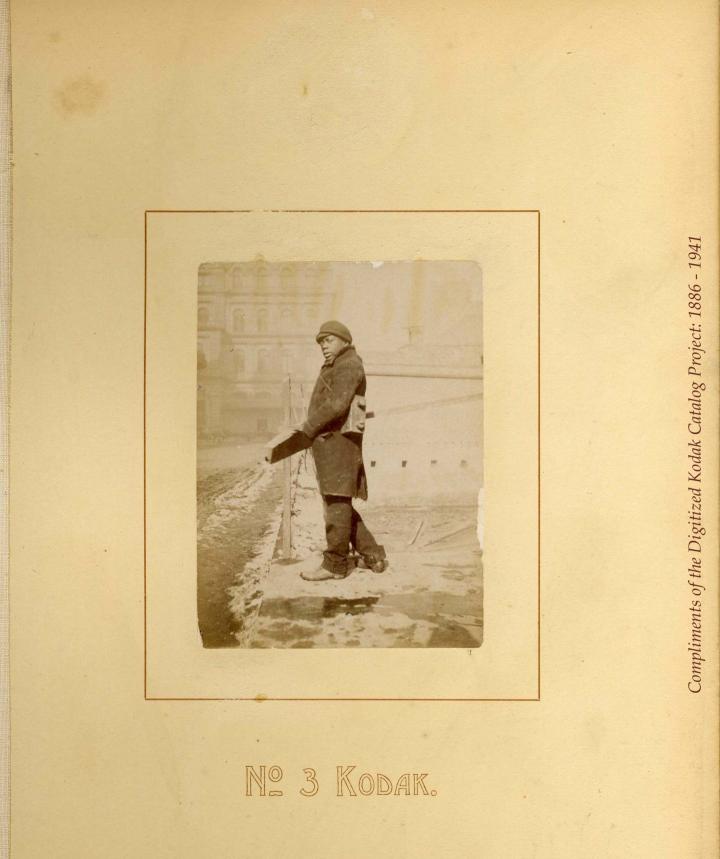
Duplicate pictures 8 cents each (in lots of dozen or more.)



NOTE THE SIZES IN CUBIC INCHES

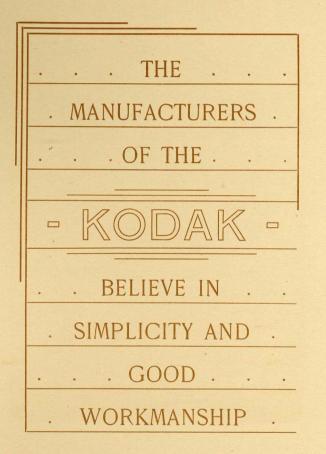
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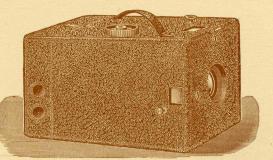
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Nº 3 Kodak.





No. 3 KODAK JUNIOR.

For square pictures, $3\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$; capacity, 60 exposures without reloading; size of camera, $4\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times 9 = 210$ cubic inches; weight, loaded, 3 pounds.

This camera is substantially the same as the No. 3, except that it has a capacity for 60 *exposures only*, and is $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches shorter, a more compact camera for those who want the smallest possible camera that will make a $3\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ picture. The No. 3 Junior takes a $3\frac{1}{4}$ inch spool, making the negative, the other way of the film from the No. 3, which takes a $4\frac{1}{4}$ inch spool.

Pric	e, No. 3 Kodak	Junior,	loaded	with	60	exposures	s, inclu	ıding	sole	leather
	carrying case,	• •	•	-	-		-	-		\$40 00
Relo	ading, developing	and prin	nting 60	finisl	ned	pictures,		-	-	10.00
31⁄4	inch spool for 60	exposure	es, 3¼ x	4¼,	Tra	nsparent 1	Film,	-	-	2.50
	Duplicate pictures	8 cents	each (i	n lots	s of	one dozer	n or n	nore.)		,



Nº 3 Kodak Junior.

Compliments of the Digitized Kodak Catalog Project: 1886 - 1941



Nº 4 Kodak.



No. 4 Kodak.

For 4 x 5 square pictures; capacity, 100 pictures without reloading; size of camera, 5 x $6\frac{3}{8}$ x $12\frac{3}{4}$ = 406 cubic inches; weight, loaded, $4\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

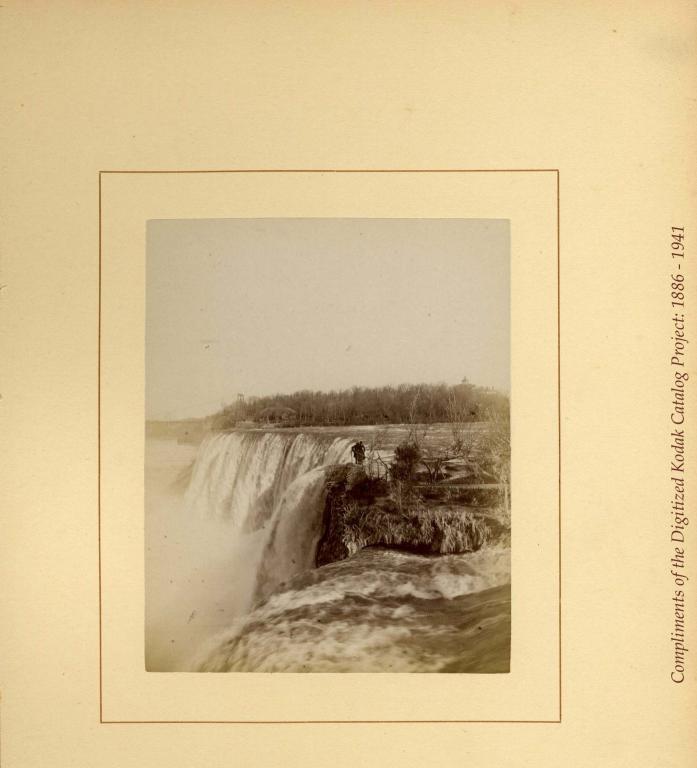
The No. 4 Kodak has two finders, one for vertical and one for horizontal pictures. Bausch & Lomb's Universal Lens (list price \$28.00.) The new Kodak has an instantaneous shutter, having rotating stops and adjustable speed; rack and pinion for focusing; two sockets for tripod screws when used for vertical or horizontal timed exposures.

The No. 4 Kodak is the largest of the regular Kodaks, but while it makes 100 pictures 4 x 5 inches, it is much smaller than cameras by other makers for making single negatives.

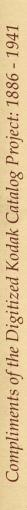
Price, No. 4 Kodak, loaded with 48 exposures, including sole leather	carrying
case	\$50.00
NOTE.—The price includes spool of 48 exposures, but the camera is capable of receiving 100 exposures.	a spool of
Reloading, developing and printing 48 finished pictures,	\$10.00
	- 3.00
5 inch spool for 100 exposures ditto,	6.25
Duplicate pictures 10 cents each (in lots of one dozen or more.)	

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Keep a ÷ Pictovial ÷ Diary whether ÷ at home • e ÷ or abroad









Nº 4 Kodak Junior.



No. 4 Kodak Junior.

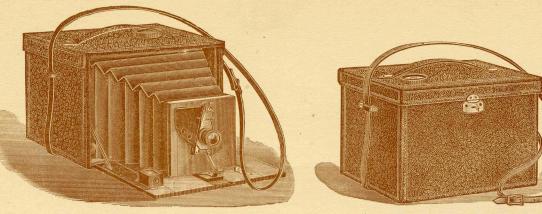
For square pictures 4 x 5; capacity, 48 exposures without reloading; size of camera, $5 \times 6\frac{1}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{2} = 326$ cubic inches; weight, loaded, $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

This camera is substantially the same as the No. 4, except that it has a capacity for 48 exposures only, and is $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches shorter, making a more compact camera for those who want the smallest possible camera that will make a 4 x 5 picture.

The No. 4 Junior takes a 4 inch spool and makes the negative the other way of the film from the No. 4, which takes a 5 inch spool.

Price of No. 4 Kodak Junior, loaded with 48 exposures,	including	sole 1	leather
carrying case,		-	\$50.00
Reloading, developing and printing 48 finished pictures,		-	\$10.00
4 inch spool for 48 exposures, 4 x 5 new Transparent Film,		-	3.00

Duplicate pictures 10 cents each (in lots of one dozen or more.)



FOLDING KODAK OPEN.

FOLDING KODAK CLOSED.

No. 4 Folding Kodak.

For square pictures, 4×5 inches; capacity, 48 exposures without reloading; size of camera, (folded) $7 \times 5 \times 5^{\frac{1}{2}}$,=192^{$\frac{1}{2}$} cubic inches; weight, loaded, 3 lbs. 9 oz.

This is an entirely new style of Kodak, embodying the Kodak principle but folding up into about two-thirds the space. It is selfcontained when closed, and can be opened and focused in two motions. It is the most compact and simple folding camera ever made and can be used either for tripod or detective work. It is provided with a Baush & Lomb Universal Lens (list price \$28.00.) Special new Kodak shutter having rotating stops and adjustable speed, reversible finder, socket for tripod screw and focusing index.

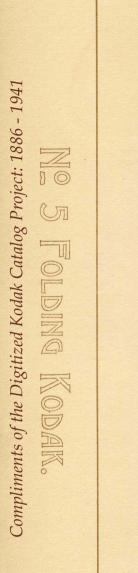
The camera forms its own carrying case.

Price No. 4 Folding Kodak complete with shoulder strap, 1	oaded with	spool of 48
exposures,		- \$50.00
Reloading, developing and printing 48 finished pictures,		- 10.00
4 inch spool for 48 exposures, New Transparent film,		- 3.00
The state of the s		

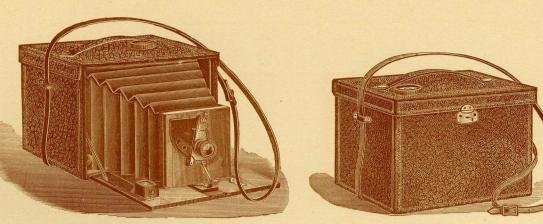
Duplicate pictures 10 cents each (in lots of one dozen or more.)



Nº 4 Folding Kodak.







FOLDING KODAK OPEN.

FOLDING KODAK CLOSED.

No. 5 Folding Kodak.

For 5×7 pictures; capacity, 48 exposures without reloading; size of camera, (folded) $6\frac{1}{4} \times 7 \times 9 = 393$ cubic inches; weight, loaded, $5\frac{1}{4}$ pounds.

This camera is exactly the same as the No. 4 Folding Kodak except the size. Bausch & Lomb Universal Lens (list price \$34.) Special Kodak shutter having rotating stops and adjustable speed, reversible finder, socket for tripod screw, focusing index and shoulder strap.

Duplicate pictures $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents each (in lots of one dozen or more.)



The Carrying Cases.

FOR all the Kodaks (except the Folding Kodaks, which are self-contained) are made from the best sole leather and are hand-sewed. The cases are not disfigured by any openings for fittings, and when closed present no appearance of the conventional camera carrying case. They are neat, elegant and substantial.

Workmanship.

KODAK cameras of all sizes and styles are covered with fine black morocco leather. The fittings are all carefully finished and the closest attention is paid to the minutest details of manufacture, with a view to maintaining the present reputation of the Eastman Company for turning out work of the highest class.



Compliments of the Digitized Kodak Catalog Project: 1886 - 1941



THE lenses furnished with the Kodaks are strictly rectilinear and very rapid. They are positively guaranteed to be equal in quality to those of any other make whatever.

e de

Testing.

Lenses.

EVERY Kodak is carefully tested in actual work at our factory by an expert operator before it is finally loaded. From one to half a dozen negatives are made with each camera. The focus is adjusted and the definition of the lens is examined under a magnifying glass, and every lens that does not come up to the best standard is rejected. We keep on file the final test negative of every Kodak, and know positively what each lens and camera will do before offering it to our customer. The result is complete satisfaction in every case.

The enormous success of the Kodak camera is the result of painstaking systematic care in every detail of its manufacture.

The Eastman Company,

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

The Eastman

Transparent Films.

Are as transparent as glass. Weight only 1-20 as much. . Are unbreakable. Give bright, brilliant pictures. Are as quick as a flash. Require no extra manipulation. Anybody can use them. They supersede glass dry plates For Amateur Photography.

