

Photography –
You've Never Had it SO Good!
(or at least I do!)
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(Visit our webpages <https://u3asites.org.uk/hillingdon/page/61662>)

Introduction

- Here's a few of my personal reasons for saying, *with some personal "thanks"*, that You Never Had I SO Good in photography!
 - "Schoolboy Dreams – and the Reality!"
 - "The Differences in the costs" (X2)

Basic stuff, and the Reality!” Pt 1 “Then”

- Schoolboy dreams of being able to D&P my own shots
 - Big ideas but very little cash, so I built a “darkroom” from wood & plastic sheet in my bedroom, basically consisting of:
 - Old kitchen table with sink it & pipes through the wall to the bathroom;
An enlarger home built from wood, steel plumbing pipes for the arms, 2 large baked bean cans soldered together & with a lamp holder & light condenser lens as light source, fabricated wooden negative holder, and the lens from my Praktika SLR (*or the 105mm one from my old Kodak folder*), screwed on the bottom!
- Processed the film in a tank and prints in dishes
 - the paper was mainly “war surplus” ex-RAF printing paper
-> ,& thus the prints were rarely any good at all!!☹

Basic stuff, and the Reality!” Pt 2 “Now”

- I don't need a darkroom or kit in it
- When I do actually print photos, it's from the PC across the network to the Canon MFP sitting behind me in our “office”.
- Takes 2-3 mins, doesn't involve messy, expensive chemicals or working in the near dark, & the cost per print is much lower
- OTOH, I might just email the files to an online processor and get the results back 2-3 days later!
- Either way, **results are generally MUCH better!** 😊

◦ The Costs & Time involved – “Then - No 1”!

- At EMI Medical in Hayes in the 1970's I took a lot of photos for work purposes (scanners, IT kit & so on),
- Mostly done on 35mm, but also on a Polaroid SX70 SLR when “quick results” were needed.
- Either way, the film (*especially for the SX70*) & processing costs were high & repetitive, and the 35mm stuff took up to a week to get processed & printed locally *and you never knew what you had until it came back!*

The Costs & Time involved – “Now - No 1”!

- I get out one of my DSLRS (*or the phone is there is NO other alternative* 😞) take a few shots, transfer the card to the PC and view the results on my big monitor!
- Takes a few minutes and effectively costs me nothing (*other than what I spent some time ago for general use!*)

◦ The Costs & Time involved – “Then - No 2”!

- I used to come home from holidays & business trips with at least 10-20x 35mm cassettes each time
- These were away to the cheapest mailorder processor I could find, & then followed a 7-14 day wait for the results.
- *Me being me*, 90% of the prints or slides were non-descript/ “not great” and thus that I “wasted” a LOT of money on all that film & processing.
- *(FWIW, I recently threw out dozens of unused cassette mailers, labels, boxes of mounted slides, returned prints envelopes full of 7x5 prints, etc.,
- I just couldn't be bothered to sort through them all! ☹)*

◦ The Costs & Time involved– “Now - No 2”!

- I can check & retake most shots on the spot wherever I am – and I take far more shots because cost per shot is low.
- Then, having already discarded the worst shots as above, I come back with a few loaded 16/32GB SD cards in my bag.
- I download those shots onto one of the large HDDs attached to my NAS boxes – from where I pull them up, as required, to view on the PC monitor – finally edit & print as required (*or may not often in reality!*).
- (**NO** *additional costs apart from the substantial initial costs for the cards, NAS boxes & HDDs – but they also store lots of other stuff as well, & I still have much empty space!*)