

ADOX CMS 20 Film

The sharpest and highest resolution film in the world!

With CMS 20 high resolution film ADOX rounds off its line ordered by grain characteristic and layer construction. Cubic Crystal Monodispersed Single Layer means round silver grains coated one layer a single grain thick. Since this is the smallest grains of silver that technology can produce, the film has the highest resolution, the finest grain and is the sharpest film in the world. It belongs however to the toughest and slowest emulsion in the stable.

The Anti-Halation layer between the emulsion and the film base guarantees sharpness, the ADOTECH CMS developer yields true to life halftones enabling you to make pictures that no-one will believe were taken on a 35mm camera!

Orthopanchromatic sensitivity with a spectral distribution that differentiates colour nuances – CMS “sees everything” – no green filter necessary with portraits. CMS resolves 800lp/mm greater than even the Kodak Imagelink or Copex and is about 4 times the resolution of Tech Pan.

But can one use 20 ISO without a tripod?

CMS lends itself to outside work as indoors there is too little light to render detail and contrast to make the use of this film a reasonable proposition. Outside, it's a different story: a high performance lens is needed of at least $f/2.0$, better $f/1.4$ and NOT stopped down. A normal winters day, at least an hour after sunrise through to an hour before sunset will normally dictate, at $f/2.0$, a shutter speed of $1/125s$ – $1/250s$. This means that pretty nearly all landscape and portraiture can be taken with the camera in the hand. Any more sensitive and by sunlight you'd need to stop the lens down thereby losing its maximum resolving power!

The results are pictures that appear to have been taken with a large format camera not least because the mainly longer focal lengths used have a similarly reduced depth of field. You'll need to consciously focus on the most important detail in the composition and derive pictures that have a new slant on the world: as a rule pictures with little depth of field (in which the main subject gently merges into the out of focus background) appear to be just as those in which everything is equally sharp.

The example pictures (on the website) were taken with a handheld Leica M with Aspherical M 1:2/35mm oder M ASPH 1,4/50mm with ISO 25 and 40. A cloudy winters day at 5pm. The scanner, working at 4000 DPI, could not capture all details. For those who can't live with slight movements – pack the tripod.

ADOX CMS has a clear base and the anti-halation layer disappears completely in development so the film is suitable for slide reversal processing. Make tests though to ascertain the actual usable speed.

ADOTECH CMS Developer

With this special developer the CMS film can be rated at 20-25 ISO and deliver perfect halftone results. In contrast to other microfilm processes the CMS developer is very tolerant against base fogging which means you can develop it in any developing tank.

The ADOTECH developer deliberately plays off contrast against sensitivity in order to bring the film to a usable 20 ISO. Rated higher and the film loses fine shadow detail but depending on the composition still usable at 25 ISO with respectively better separated midtones and highlights.

All this techno babble should go unnoticed by the photographer in actual use. Film in, set ISO, expose and develop according to normal practice – using, of course, the ADOTECH developer instead of the favourite soup. Dilute ADOTECH 1+10 to 1+19 and use one-shot.

Stop – Fix- Wash – Dry and enlarge.