

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1986

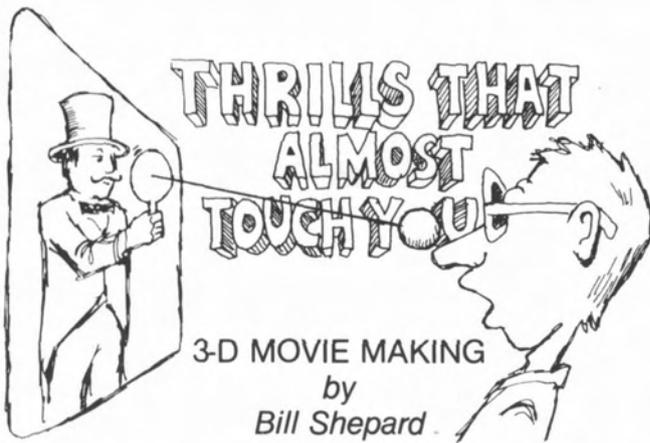


STEREO WORLD



Liberty Stereos ★ Riverside ★ Arizona Part IV

THE MAGAZINE OF STEREO PHOTOGRAPHY

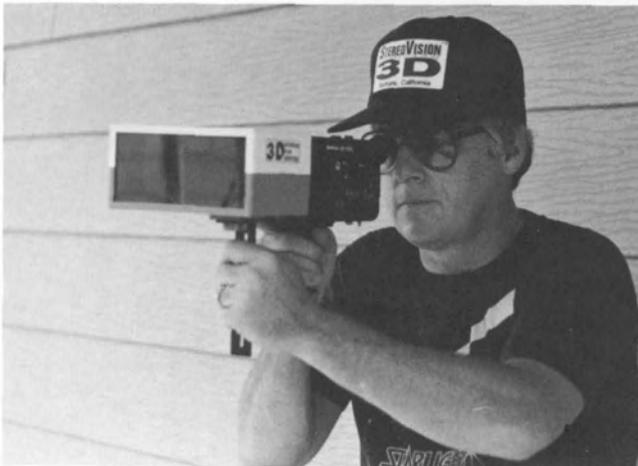


INSTANT ANAGLYPHIC MOVIES

One of the frustrations of writing a regular column on 3-D movie making is having continually to refer the reader to hard-to-find equipment long out of production. Well, I can happily report that a *new* 3-D movie system is available for purchase, the Spondon 3-D unit. The name refers to a British film supply company that is producing the device and also to the city where the company is located. The attachment is very similar to the do-it-yourself device discussed in my May/June 1985 column.

The Spondon camera attachment uses the anaglyph, or red/green format. A disadvantage of anaglyph films is that full color images are not feasible. Also, the color filters produce a "retinal rivalry" effect that is not as satisfying as polaroid filtering in projection. There are, however, some important advantages to anaglyph films. By using the full frame area, rather than splitting an already small film frame, image clarity is increased. Also, neither a projection attachment or a silver screen is required. Finally, the potential exists for application to home video cameras and recorders.

The unit should fit most movie cameras with lens diameters of 60mm or less, where the lens is not too deeply recessed. It is easily attached to most super 8 cameras with the bracket provided. An optional extra bracket is available for cameras with folding handgrips. Although the device measures 7" x 4½" x 3½", its lightweight plastic construction allows the camera and unit to be handled comfortably. A square, double image is seen in the camera's viewfinder. Zoom lenses may be used but the useable image area may be cut off at shorter focal lengths. The camera's built-in conversion filter must be switched out.



Convergence adjustment is accomplished by two small screws at the rear. Vertical alignment of the two images is also controlled here. These are, essentially, one-time adjustments rather than variable convergence settings for different shooting distances.

Of course, color movie film is used, but the resulting image is basically monochrome, the colors being filtered out in taking and viewing. The filters and glasses are red and green, which is a more effective combination than the red and blue colors typically used in American anaglyphs.

As of this writing I've had my unit for only a short time, but have obtained very satisfactory results. I've found that good lighting is important but that high contrast scenes may produce some "ghosting". Exposures have been read fairly accurately by my camera's through-the-lens metering, but I will experiment with manual override exposures as well. The 3-D effect has been very good, even with through-the-window effects, which often fail in anaglyphs. Needless to say, I'm very happy with my Spondon system, and expect to try it on print stills and video recording as well. I'll be happy to correspond with anyone interested in pursuing this form of stereo imaging.

The system may be ordered from Spondon Film Services, 5 Charles Avenue, Spondon, Derby DE2 7AJ, England. The current price is 69 pounds, with airmail to the U.S. at 15.57 pounds. The optional adapter for folding handgrip cameras is an extra 4.60 pounds. Payment is preferred by bank draft in Sterling. Incidentally, Spondon also offers a Super 8 anaglyph print of the 1941 Pete Smith short, "Third Dimension Murder", for 25 pounds plus postage.

CINEMAGIC

The world of 3-D is fortunate to have as one of its ambassadors, NSA member David Hutchison of New York City. David is the Technical Editor of "Starlog" magazine and an active stereo photographer. Under his leadership, "Starlog" has published many articles about 3-D as well as the book, *FANTASTIC 3-D*, an excellent illustrated survey of stereoscopy.

Now comes the summer 1986 issue of *Cinemagic*, a Starlog publication, featuring several articles on amateur 3-D movie making. The article describes various 3-D systems available to the small format filmmaker, including the Bolex, Elgeet and Elmo attachments. The 3-D movie division of the Stereo Club of Southern California is covered, and members David Starkman and John Hart are pictured with their Bolex and Powell systems. Also included are frame enlargements from the SCSC film, "The III-D Olympiad".

The issue reprints Michael Riley's February 1977 "Petersen's Photographic" article on constructing one's own super 8 3-D system. It presents detailed instructions for assembling inexpensive camera and projector attachments, using a vertical split-frame format. The reprinted article is updated with a list of sources for the needed materials, and with a picture of an accessory rear projection device for the system.

The *Cinemagic* summer 1986 issue is must reading for 3-D filmmakers, or anyone contemplating becoming one. It is currently on the newstands, or may be ordered from STARLOG, 475 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016. Mail order price is \$3.95 plus \$1.00 postage and handling. Specify *Cinemagic* issue #33.

