



PSNZ Help Sheet No 4

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**Films and Their Uses**  
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*Produced for the affiliated Camera Clubs of the Photographic Society of New Zealand Inc. by PSNZ*

**Black & White**

**ASA 25 TECH PAN**

This is a Kodak film with the highest resolving power in the B&W range, it also has the highest contrast of B&W range, its grain is also very small. On the minus side as you can see from its **asa** rating it is very slow so for critical work (in my estimation ) requires the use of a tripod. also it is recommended that a special developer is used ( TECHNIDOL ) but for a photographer who wishes the best quality it is hard to beat.

**ASA 100 PLUS X**

This is a film that has many uses, it has moderate grain good contrast and is a workhorse suited to many photographic uses. It is compatible with most developers; the instructions for each developer must be followed.

**ASA400 tri x. cn400. tmax**

There are three films in this category tri x and **tmax** use standard processing in b&w chemicals again you can use any no of formulas but it is very important to read the instructions. Some of the developers are the evergreen d 76 and the Kodak special formulation for **t max**. with **tmax** the process of stop bath and fix are very important if the fix is over used or the time is not the six minutes required you will get a pink caste on the film which will affect the printing. A definite no no - this can be rectified by re fixing. The grain structure of these films is moderate and the contrast is lower than slower films. The question of grain raises many complications some judges decry grain but if used in the right way it can improve the picture.

How to get greater grain size this is achieved by increasing the film speed and increasing the development time the times are available from the film manufactures. There are also some high speed films available; check with the manufactures. KODAK CN 400 is the odd man out it is a chromagenic film (colour film without colour ) ILFORD also makes one called xp2. These films are developed in c41 chemicals and can be pushed to 1600 asa but you will need to find a lab. That can push process c41 more in the colour film section. I use cn400 one of the reasons is the quality of the b&w prints from one hour labs (if the colour is not b&w ask for them to be redone you can get very good b&w's if the printer is competent).

This film gives quite extraordinary results very good detail in shadow areas of print (example you can see the faces in the rear seat of car with the land well exposed)

The 400 **asa** films are good to use in light conditions of a lower level, or when high speed is required to stop action with large depth of field

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