

Now, I am not replacing my camera anytime soon, let me make that entirely clear. If I do replace it, I shall replace it with another AE-1 Program...or an AE-1, or A-1, or F-1, for that matter, they should be relatively easy to get. I mean, I found two AE-1 Program bodies in a little shop in Mishawauka, Indiana, of all places. Furthermore, after my current roll is finished, I will have the camera checked and inspected and cleaned and tested. After all, it's 31 years old, and probably needs a bit of attention.

However, two of my friends (and by 'friends', I mean people who generally tolerate my presence), have been bugging me about getting a digital camera. So, in planning for something that I still see no chance of ever happening, I have decided to put together a short list of 25 requirements that will have to be met before I consider purchasing any kind of camera, digital or otherwise.

- 1: The camera shall have removable, interchangeable lenses, preferably Canon FD type.
- 2: All lenses shall be equipped with an aperture mechanism within the lens body.
- 3: All lenses shall be entirely without electronic components of any kind; all electronics shall be contained within the camera body.
- 4: F-stop selection shall only be made by a rotating ring on the lens, and shall be in the standard sequence, including half-stops.
- 5: No automatic focus of any kind is permitted; it shall be done manually.
- 6: No image stabilization of any kind is permitted; a tripod shall be used.
- 7: There shall be no digital or electronic zoom function; all magnification shall be purely optical.
- 8: Shutter speed selection shall only be made by a rotating dial on the top or front of the camera body, and shall be in the standard sequence from at least 2 seconds to 1/1000 second, plus Bulb setting.
- 9: Film speed selection shall only be made by a rotating dial on the top or front of the camera body, and shall be in the standard sequence.
- 10: The shutter button shall be equipped for use of a cable release.
- 11: The camera shall be equipped with a standard threaded hole for tripod mounting.
- 12: The camera shall be equipped with a standard hotshoe.
- 13: Either the camera or each lens must be equipped with a lever or slide for manual aperture

closure to any selected f-stop.

14: The camera shall be equipped with a prismatic focus screen in the viewfinder.

15: Each lens shall be equipped with range markings.

16: The camera shall be equipped with through-the-lens metering, with a display of the necessary f-stop on the viewfinder.

17: There shall be no electronic displays or screens of any kind, except for the metering display.

18: Automatic metering is permissible, as long as it can be disabled.

19: Fully automatic operation is permissible, though not desired, as long as it can be disabled.

20: Manual resetting of the shutter shall be preferred.

21: The metering shall be shutter-priority only.

22: The camera shall have a response that is essentially identical to a standard film stock.

23: The camera shall not make any adjustments to the image, including but not limited to: Color balance, contrast, color saturation, exposure level, or any other aspect of the image, other than to capture it as it comes through the lens, without alteration. Any adjustments shall be made in post-processing.

24: The shutter shall have a time-delay mode, preferably no less than ten seconds.

25: The image path through the entire camera, from first lens element to viewfinder, shall be entirely optical.

If anybody knows of any cameras that might fulfill these requirements, please don't hesitate to let me know.