Keep it simple!

Dogmatic streetphotography project with a minor camera gear by Dan Berntsson
This book is dedicated to all my friends all over the world that make me go back to analogue photography.

Especially some friends from the Street Hunters Community
Keep it simple!

A streetwalk with my Olympus 35 SP from ´69
and some roll´s of Kodak Tri-X 400.
I´m in love..
Hallo again!

I want to see if I can produce good street pictures only with an old minor camera gear, and I think I did.

Analogue photography force my self to think better and with less settings to adjust I get quicker, being quick is necessary in this genre. When you got less technology to account of, you can concentrate more on the scene. The more I use this camera, the more I understand what’s makes analogue photo so special, it is much more slower pace and you shoot more relaxed.

Then when you come home and will look through all the pictures so it actually is more percent good pictures than if I had taken pictures with a digital camera, I become careless and distracted when I can shoot thousands of photos for free, it is just to throw all the bad images away....

Kodak Tri-X 400 gives a nice feeling and roughness with a great dynamic in street pictures, it is not the same sharpness and detail as my Fujifilm X-Pro1 produce but it’s not about that, it’s about what is told in the image that is important.

When you capture a human, you freeze a moment in that person's life and I think the grainy raw bl/w film increase the feel of a reality.

I leave the pictures in this book without any comments or spoilers how I see them.

I do not want to destroy your imagination!
This is the camera I use in this book and of course my everyday camera, it is one of the smallest compact mirrorless rangefinder cameras in the world.

Olympus 35 SP (’69 - ’72) with a prime lens G.Zuiko 42/1.7 (G stands for 7 elements in 5 groups) w 129 mm, h 76 mm d 61 mm and weight 600 grams. (Fully mechanical)

Format 24x36 (35mm rollfilm) ASA 25-800

Shutterspeed range from 1 to 1/500 second and bulb.

Flash hotshoe and a PC synk connector at all speed.

Self timer at 9 second.

Spotmeter. (SP stands for spotmeter and that is rare at this time)

The film I use in this book is the classic Kodak Tri-X 400, the most popular b/w film in the world.

The flash is an Olympus PS 200 that I use as an off camera flash.
Some explanations before we start looking further:

To be successful on the street you have to be quick, like a sport or bird photographer. The best way to be fast is to always have the camera in manual mode and manual focusing to get the best respond from your camera.

One behavior is to prefocus to a fixed object at the same distans as the main object, just wait for an interesting person to walk in to your frame..snap!

My favourite settings is to use hyperfocus and zonefocus and that means that you have the smallest apture you can get and set the focus distans to e.g. 3 meter on my Olympus 35 SP.

F 8 get DOF from 2 - 6 meter  
F11 get DOF from 1,8 - 11 meter  
F16 get DOF from 1,5 - Infinity (Hyperfocal)  
(*DOF is Depth of field)

A sunny day with asa 400 gives me this possibility and if I push the film to 800 or 1600 you can get this even a grey day.

To be able to learn the DOF at all apture it’s preferable to have a prime, not a zoomlens because the DOF change with the focal length, if you have 28 mm you get a longer depht of field than a 50 mm lens.

Sometimes I shoot with “off camera flash” that is really fun and how I set the camera is explained on the last page in the book.

Most important for me is to have fun, meet friends at bares and coffieshops, have a few laughs, out on the streets again and interact with people. Did you get some good pictures to keep, it’s a bonus!

Hope you enjoy this book!

My first picture in this book explain how much I love this. Enough talking, let’s go out and shoot...
NK DAMUNDERKLÄDER
NK MANLIG DEPÅ
Gatuplan
Ulbes
Hamburgare
90kr 40
150kr 50
Pannkakor
3kr 30
Kebab
Vilt och grill
49
Festis
Kaffe
Dricka
Bock 33cl
10
Flaska 50cl
15
Pfalz
Apfelsaft
10
How to use “off camera flash” without TTL

Old flashes as mine have only full power, so the only way to adjust the light is to change the distances, aperture or the ASA/ISO.
The shutter speed does not affect the exposure, it is the flash firing time that work as a shutter for all things that been illuminated, all other things in background is handled by the camera shutterspeed.

You can shoot in the night with a slow shutterspeed and still get a sharp object and have a blurry well exposed background.

Here is the calculation at ASA/ISO 100:  \[ f = \frac{\text{GN}}{\text{dist}} \]
\[ f = \text{Apture} \]
\[ \text{GN} = \text{Available light from the flash (typed on the flash)} \]
\[ \text{dist} = \text{Distans in meter} \]

Using ASA/ISO 100:
\[ \text{eg.1} \quad \text{GN} 14 \text{ and a distans of 3 meter gives you an aperture of 4.7} \]
\[ \text{eg.2} \quad \text{GN} 14 \text{ and a distans of 2 meter gives you an aperture of 7} \]
\[ \text{eg.3} \quad \text{GN} 14 \text{ and a distans of 1 meter gives you an aperture of 14} \]

Using ASA/ISO 200, 400 or 800
You have to multiply you GN number before you calculate
\[ \text{GN} \times 1,4 = \text{iso 200} \]
\[ \text{GN} \times 2,8 = \text{iso 400} \]
\[ \text{GN} \times 4,2 = \text{iso 800} \]

Tri-X 400 gives me a GN number of 39,2 (my flash have GN 14) the calculation for 2,5 meter:
\[ \text{GN} 39,2 / 2,5\text{meter} = f 15,68 \]

I usually use a synk cable so I can be more creative with the direction of the light.
Finally

Thanks for reading and I hope you liked it!

Best regards Dan Berntsson