

Large format camera types

There are literally hundreds of different large format camera models available new and used.

They typically take 4x5 inch (9x12cm) and 8x10 inch (25x20cm) sheet film. There are also 5x7 inch film cameras.

Many of these cameras have adapters for roll film holders that allow 120 size film to be shot in 6x6, 6x7, 6x9 and 6x12cm.

Large format camera lenses are fitted into a lens board that clips into the front of the camera. This makes for a wide range of available lenses. It is just a matter of getting the right lens board.

Film is held in a cut film holder or double dark. These are hand loaded and slotted into the back of the camera.

There are three basic categories: monorail cameras, folding field cameras and press cameras.

Monorail

Monorail cameras operate on a rail that connects the front and rear standards with a wide range of movements for the lens and film back. These cameras tend to be large and heavy making them best suited to studio work or areas such as architecture where the extreme movements are needed.

Arca-Swiss models and the Standard Camera 4x5 are light weight monorail cameras suited to outdoor use.

Regardless of this monorail cameras are always used on a tripod. Viewing and focusing is through a ground glass screen on the back of the camera.

INTREPID 4X5 MK4 (approx \$500 plus lens and lens board)

Arca Swiss (approx \$1,000 plus lens)

Chamonix 45F-2 (approx \$1600 plus lens and lens board)

MCC Large Format Cameras

Linhof Technika 4x5

Newton Speed-View SV-1 4x5 rail camera

Field cameras

Field cameras usually are more lightweight and fold down into a compact size. They can be made in metal, wood or carbon fibre.

Field cameras have less movements than monorail cameras but enough for landscape and basic architecture work. These cameras can range in weight from 900 grams (Intrepid 4x50, up to 3 or 4 kilos (Toyo or Horseman Field and Linhof Technika).

Field cameras are used on a tripod. Viewing and focusing is through a ground glass screen on the back of the camera.

Linhof Technika 45 4x5 (approx \$2-3000 plus lens and lens board)

Horseman 45FA (approx \$1000 plus lens and lens board)

Iford Harman Titan 4x5 Pinhole Camera (\$350)

Press cameras

Press cameras are 4x5 cameras with a rangefinder and viewfinder that allows them to be used hand held, They are generally lighter than 4x5 field cameras.

They have no or limited movements and are quick to operate.

Graflex Crown Speed Graphic (approx \$800 inc lens and lens board)