



Questions and Answers: Photographic Equipment and Techniques

Q: What type of Projection Screen should camera clubs use?

A: When buying a front projection screen, the size of the screen, the aspect ratio, and the surface composition are important. The minimum size of the screen depends on the size of the room. The height of the screen should be at least 1/6 of the distance from the screen to the last row of the seats. For the projection of still images, the aspect ratio 1:1 can accommodate the new 1024 x 1024 pixel format.

The optimum nature of the surface depends on the light output of the projector, the ambient light in the room, and the width of the room. The surface should be neutral and not affect the hue of the projected image. The screen should be washable, abrasion resistant and easy to adjust. The nature of the surface affects the reflectance of the screen, the view angle and the resolution of the projected image.

The screen manufacturers offer surfaces ranging from matte white to structured surfaces. The matte white is the most popular screen surface. The detail of the projected image is preserved and the hue is not affected, unless the screen yellows with age. A gray screen diminishes highlights and the effect of ambient light, while darkening the shadows. For stereo projection only a silver matte or a lenticular screen can be used. The glass beaded and the pearlescent surfaces have the lowest resolution but the highest reflectance, sometimes called gain.

The screen may be mounted on the wall or on a tripod. If the screen is movable, its size will limit portability.

Readers are urged to email Erik with your questions. < EKISSA@aol.com > For more questions and answers, please visit http://psa-newmember.org/consultation_services/equipment.html or Erik's new site at <http://www.psa-photo.org> and go the *PSA Journal* section. ■

Any mention of products or services in this article or anywhere else in the *PSA Journal* does not constitute an endorsement or approval of those items.

Planning a Trip?

Seek the Help of a PSA Travel Aide!

For assistance with your upcoming trip, contact Travel Aide Director, **Ellie Webster, FPSA**. PSA has volunteers who will provide you with information on *where, what* and *when* to photograph at your destination.

Being at the right place, at the right time with the right equipment is everything in travel photography... nothing compares with having access to the experience and knowledge of a serious photographer living in the destination area. This is what the PSA Travel Aide Service provides for its members. (George Garbeck, PSA Journal, July 2008, PSA Travel Aide in Action).



Contact Ellie Webster, FPSA, with your personal PSA membership number and information about your travel plans. Ellie will provide you with the name(s), addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of the volunteer(s) in your destination area. Please remember that these members are volunteers; therefore, you will need to allow ample time for the contacts, and you will also need to provide self-addressed stamped envelopes if the Aide is going to send you any material or for Ellie if you are contacting her by U.S. mail.

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