

KODAK Z710

I am now working for a large corporation that builds truck stops all over the world.

The people at corporate call me a project manager, the subs call me many things but mainly a superintendent. I am actually head of the complaint department.

The main thing a superintendent does is to stand around the job and try to look important, hard thing for a carpenter to do. I had much rather be driving nails but it doesn't have the same pay scale as a superintendent. If you have read my book, you know that prestige reminds me of horse manure.

A problem always exist at a job site, especially when you are building a 12 million dollar facility such as a Flying J and the plans are 2½" thick and weigh about 20 pounds. The first set of plans this large could cost in the area of \$300,000, the ones thereafter are in the range of \$25 each (copies).

The main problem is that if you start cutting out pages and try to copy a portion of the page on your copy machine, or worst, loan the page to a plumber or electrician you will soon see that you don't have a complete set of plans. If they find your red letter set (permit set) they will butcher them too.

Each of our subs gets 2 sets of plans, one for the office and one for the job site. It is a miracle if the foreman shows up with his set of plans. They usually come to the office and ask for more. I usually give them a segmented set, the electrician gets an E set, the plumber gets a P set, the carpenters an A and S set and so on.

When I get to a job I don't take the plans home and study them as most supers say they do, and then don't ever even open the plans. I know very well I'll almost have them memorized in about a month. Go home and leave the job at the job, good advice from a vintage carpenter.

I have a Kodak Z710 that I bought and I take pictures (use the "scn" on the camera for close-ups) of the plans and areas that the concrete sub is working at, then I insert the chip that the picture is on into my HP Officejet 7310 printer, I open it into HP image zone and usually lighten it up, crop it, then I save it to an album or folder then it is there for me to print out when someone needs it. I have about a hundred pictures of the plans on my documents.

I have also built me a stand for this camera whereas the end of the lens is exactly 5" from the plan page, camera set on wide zoom, and it turns a ⅜" scale into a ¼" scale. I did

the as-built section and then take a picture of the planned construction of this section and email it to them and try to explain the problem. Usually doesn't work, but I try anyway. An engineer told me one time "Bob, when all else fails, read and follow the plans". Good advice.

ASI's are a superintendent's nightmare. ASI stands for architect's supplemental instructions. What it really means is that somebody made a mistake or a piece of equipment has been changed, or some engineer in another company found a flaw in the design and our company sees a need for a change, and it's usually for the better.

No.	REVISIONS/ SUBMISSIONS	DATE
1	ASI #4	
2	ASI #7	
REVIEWED: djm		DRAWN: twe
CAD FILE: NMTU_CIVIL 5-1-06		PROJECT NO.: 1087

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With this camera I can take a picture of this ASI tab on the plans and send to the appropriate sub and they can clearly see that it exists. They usually don't pay any attention to the ASI and then tell me that they never got it. ASI's are sent with "signature required". We have had many cases whereas you could not read the signature. This is usually done on purpose and

the postal employee could care less. Remember in construction "if it ain't written down, it never happened".

I have built many buildings, homes and structures and didn't have a cell phone, camera, computer, fax, laser level, optic level, not even a calculator. Nothing, but my tools.

Today, I have about 4 thousand dollars worth of these space age tools, but when all of these fail, I know I can build a house with my hand tools.

There are probably many cameras that will do what this Kodak will, but a camera buff that I know told me he had never seen a 7.1 pixel camera that would out perform this one and take pictures that exceed 300 dpi (dots per inch).

I just had an article come out in "Building Connection" (1-800-623-214, build.com.au) and they spec out on 300 dpi on all pictures.

This camera was \$300 and you can pay over \$2000 for one just like it, but I cannot tell the difference in the pictures, but I am also a carpenter, so that might tell something.

<http://carpenterbooks.com>

Bob Johnston, carpenter