

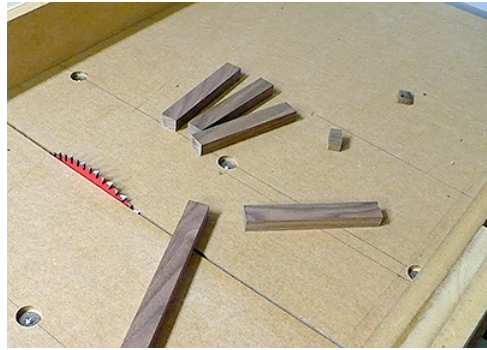
# WHY MODIFY ANOTHER CAMERA?

## PERSONALIZING THE CANHAM 4X10

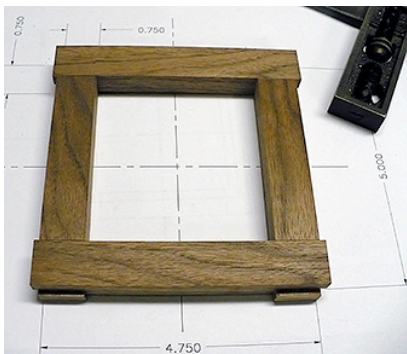
For those that followed the saga of my modification of my new KB Canham 8x10 camera, here is another modification story. This time it is not more being done to my 8x10, but more of the same being done to Susan's new Canham 4x10. She wanted to be



able to use a little longer lens than her somewhat modified Wisner horizontal 4x10 camera could handle. So far this has been an impossibility. . . but. . . the Canham design allows for more bellows draw, hence she could use that 24" Artar. No problem! First, find a used Canham 4x10. Well, that has been a problem. . . 4x10 cameras are scarce as hen's teeth. But one did show up on that auction site and it is now here with us in Texas.



This camera appears to have seen little use. Very little signs of wear in the film back is always a sign that few film holders have every been loaded. The previous owner did put some tape here and there, and marked a lot of the mechanism with what appeared to be a paint marker. Not that big a deal to clean up using a little solvent and some patience. The most important thing with any camera is that the bellows be in good shape and that none of the hardware is broken or missing.



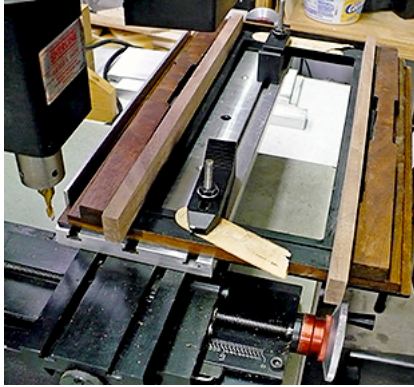
The 4x10 Canham required the same general modifications as my 8x10. The front standard had to be replaced with one that would fit the smaller four inch lens boards we use. The base plate needed to be moved to flush with the bottom of the camera to fit firmly to



the Ries tripods we use. The spring mechanism in the back needed a little cleaning up. We both like a witness mark on the front to make sure when the bellows is

centered. The back standard on the 4x10 was small enough that it did not need to be modified to large thumb wheels like the 8x10, so that was one thing that did not need to be modified.

But, the biggest hurdle was the camera back itself. Most everyone that is familiar with the LF and ULF formats knows there are no standards for some of the odd-size film backs and holders. The 4x10 is one of those that fits this troubling little hiccup. Way back when Susan started with the 4x10 format, the Wisner cameras and holders were about the only game in town. She has a bunch of holders for this camera and unfortunately the Canham uses a different size holder. So, this means the back has to be modified to fit the holders we have.



The film back modification is not too hard to do. I just had to make

the opening of the back smaller by gluing in some more wood and then machining it back out to fit the smaller size of the holders we use. I also had to move the rib lock slot and modify the ground glass back to fit properly into the new opening.



All in all, this was not a difficult series of modifications, since I had already done the 8x10. It took about a week to get things reworked, refinish the new work and assemble, lube and adjust the camera. Now everything fits and the camera is ready for the road.

So, the original question was, “Why Modify Another Camera?” Well, it is something that has to be done in order to make things work. There is nothing better than being able to repair, and modify your equipment to your own specifications. Now we just need to head out on another trip to make some more photos.

As usual, remember boys and girls, do not try this at home unless you are confident you are able to do the work yourself. If you elect to take on such a project, good luck the rewards are many for those that can say, I did this!

