

# Many a Trip

**A**mong 35mm film cameras there are a few that have become icons for classic design, generally sophisticated professional models. At the entry level though, the major contender has to be the Olympus Trip.

Simple, robust and reliable, it had a production run of 10 million units between 1968 and 1984, surely a record for any model of camera? It also indicates how well it was accepted by its intended market, holidaymakers who wanted a simple camera that had professional quality. This was played on in the famous Olympus adverts in the 1970s featuring David Bailey, with 'Who do you think you are, David Bailey?' becoming a high street catch phrase.

The rugged metal construction of the Trip, with black leatherette and chrome, was indeed well matched (and could act as an entry point) to the OM range of Olympus SLR cameras.

The Trip 35 was based on the half-frame Olympus Pen EES, and was only a little bigger and heavier. Where this design really shone was the exposure system; no battery, but automatic point and shoot exposure, using a solar powered selenium cell surrounding the lens. There are just two shutter speeds, in A mode, the camera operates as a program automatic, selecting

either 1/40sec or 1/200sec, the aperture adjusting to match. The camera can also sync with flash, the shutter working at 1/40sec, with manual selection of the aperture settings from f/2.8 to f/22. The only other controls are a four-position zone-focus ring, and the ISO setting covering 25-400. Rather than the complexity of a lever wind, film advance is with a knurled knob in right hand thumb position. The quality of the lens, however, belies the simplicity of the camera, and is a multi-coated Zuiko 40mm f/2.8, a Tessar design with four elements in three groups.



is offering a wide range of customised finishes on his refurbished cameras. As he explains, the original leatherette has to be removed to strip the camera down, and can never be replaced to match the original finish. And as the appearance of the camera, otherwise clean and utilitarian is just a little...well,

the lightest abrasion, so a dented baseplate would always be changed for a good one from a model broken down for spares.

Finally the choice of covering, which could include snakeskin in turquoise, blue, pink or – most popular – red snakeskin. No snakes suffer, these are embossed cowhide, and there are smooth cowhide options in white, orange, brown or a luxurious black. But there are plenty of vegan options such as pink lizard, black & white snakeskin, and sealgrain leatherettes. Check his website for clear illustrations of all the options.

We are stocking a good range of Paul's Trip 35s in the shop at Silverprint, expect to pay around £50 including VAT for most models. If you've ever yearned for a gold plated Rollei-35S in lizard skin, here's the realistic alternative – and you'll actually dare to take pictures with this one!

## Websites

- Paul Lamb [tripman.co.uk](http://tripman.co.uk)
- Olympus [olympus-trip.co.uk](http://olympus-trip.co.uk)
- Reviews [kenrockwell.com/Olympus/trip-35](http://kenrockwell.com/Olympus/trip-35)

With nearly 20 years of production, there are a lot of Olympus Trips out there, most of them still working, and their sheer numbers keeps the exchange price well down. A cottage industry has formed to keep them running, and one enthusiast, Paul Lamb, has taken the camera one stage further and

boring, why not go to town when replacing the coverings?

The cameras are highly robust, so a total strip down is not always necessary, but the shutter and viewfinder optics are always given attention, and the light seals fully replaced. Paul will also replace parts that have received anything other than



## www.silverprint.co.uk

Full details of everything we offer are on our website, now standing at about 500 web-pages, not to mention downloadable PDFs etc. Mail-order from the site, or come and visit us in Waterloo.

- Silverprint Ltd, 12 Valentine Place, London SE1 8QH
- Tel 020 7620 0844