

IPO/OSB/M-190-60
27 December 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant for Technical Development, NPIC

ATTENTION: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Evaluation of the Advanced Tilt Top Light Tables

1. Both the [REDACTED] light tables were evaluated by the Photographic Analysis Group over a two months' period. The [REDACTED] light table was found to be unsatisfactory except for the light source. It was requested that this type of illumination be incorporated in the final design.

2. Other comments received after evaluation are as follows and concern the [REDACTED] Light Table:

A. The power-assist mode should be eliminated. Fully powered film transport is desired with the manual mode used as a backup capability. The fully powered operation of the table was not entirely satisfactory in that smooth translation of film was not available. In addition, during very slow speed operation, film tension increased to the point that no movement of the film was possible. Single handwheel operation was well received. Operation of spooled film in the same or in opposite directions was advantageous. Independent drive of either the front or back film is also desirable.

B. The two outside masking shades were acceptable and should be a part of the final design. The center shade approach by [REDACTED] was better and should be considered.

C. Film loading and unloading was easy because of the excellent design of the spool release. It is suggested that this design be considered for other, future tables also.

D. It was not possible to view the entire format when using an 18-inch film format. Some consideration for either repositioning the film-tensioning rollers or increasing the length of the light source and glass plate cover is necessary.

Declass Review by NGA.

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E. The lateral drive gear and other gears should be covered to prevent accidents.

F. Elevation of the lighted surface by an electric motor is an advantage over manual operation. The noise level of the motor drive will have to be reduced or better yet, eliminated.

G. Rotation of the light table on the "Z" axis or inclination thereof is acceptable and necessary considering the variety of systems used for photography.

H. Overall reduction of weight is a necessity especially since a small elevating table [redacted] is being used at present to allow use of two of the [redacted]. A different elevating table should be designed if weight reduction cannot be accomplished. The table should be able to carry two of the advanced 918 instruments.

25X1
25X1

3. Features of the [redacted] Light Table, except for the light source previously mentioned, were considered as unacceptable or did not offer any advantage over presently available equipment. Although the positioning of the film reel brackets may eliminate film tracking problems, the slotted bar of the [redacted] table actually served the same purpose.

4. It is the consensus of PAG that the Advanced Tilt Top Light Tables will be of value only to one branch which at present uses these instruments in their normal daily operations. Replacement of the older 918 models will necessitate a relatively large procurement of these new tables upon acceptance of a modified version of the [redacted] Light Table.

25X1

25X1

[redacted]
Colonel, USA
Assistant for Photographic Analysis

Distribution:

- Orig & 1 - Addressee
- 1 - IPO/PAG/NPIC
- 1 - PAG/NPIC

SECRET

Bud:

Does this table have
sufficient width for
materials (per Bob Wo needs)?
If so, believe the memo to
DDI should so state. If
not, we're in trouble.

HU

4/19

(DATE)

25X1

Frank,
For your info
→

20 APR
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101 (47)
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED

Per conf 18/11/1967 the following additional info is required for approval of this project:

1. Written request from PAB indicating requirement for this light table.
2. PAB approval of this particular proposal.
3. PAB components served by this proj:
 - a. Name component and briefly describe their function
 - b. Name types and quantities/month of acquisition materials to be read out on this light table.
4. Determine interest of COPE members
 - a. operational
 - b. financial