

the Poser

THE Photozine

Issue FIVE

CLASH · SLITS
Pink Military



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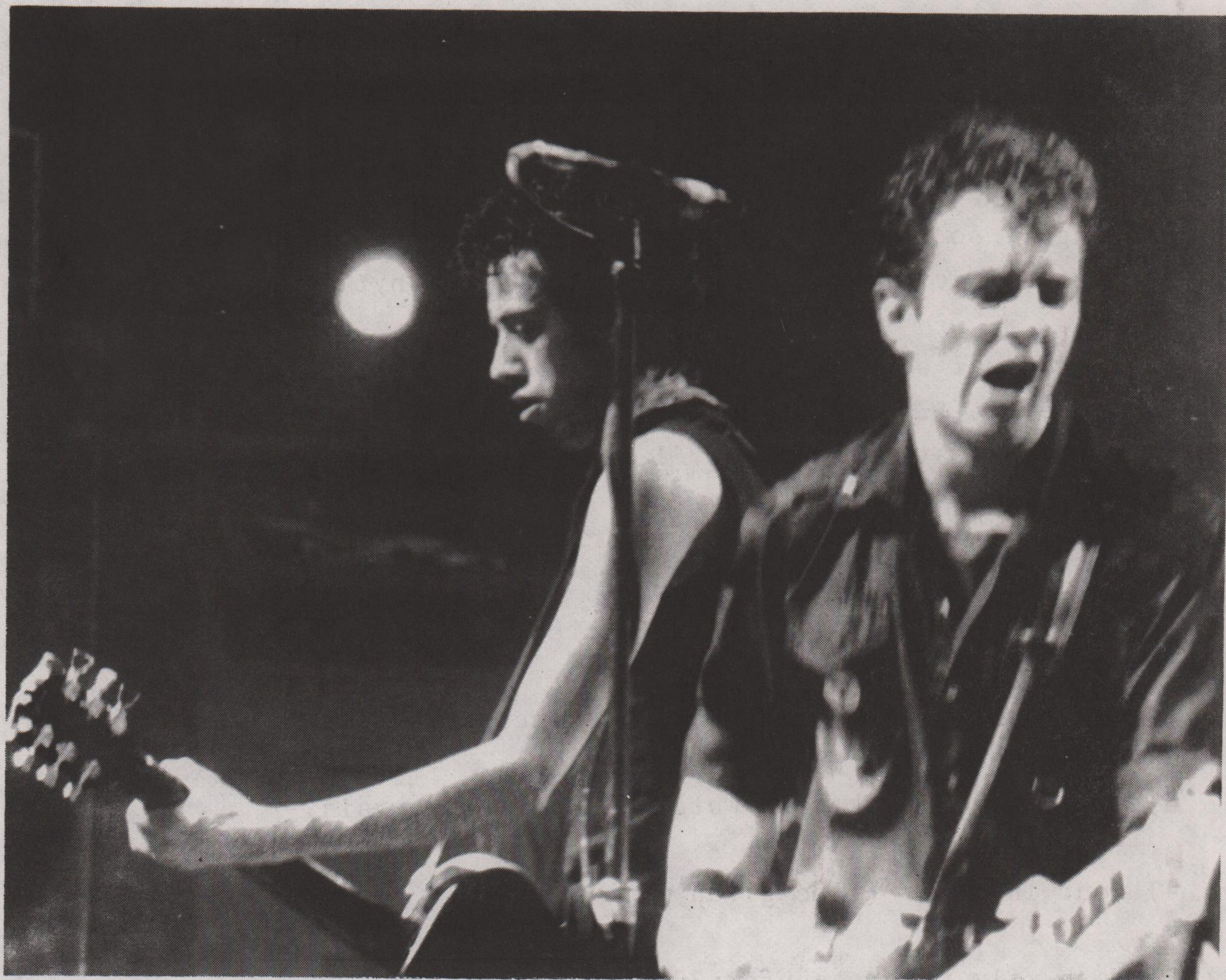




Developing your own Pictures

Developing your own black and white negatives is very easy, and once you've made an initial outlay for equipment, very cheap. It also gives you more control over the negatives you produce as by developing the film for longer you can make allowances for under exposure.

You need a developing tank which costs about £5. The one made by Patterson is recommended as it has a particularly easy loading method. The most difficult part is taking the film out of the cassette and loading it into the spiral as this must be done in the dark - but even this becomes simple with a little practice. The spiral is then put in the tank and the lid screwed on to make it light tight. The rest of the process can be done in the light - and should be done in the kitchen as pouring liquids in and out can be a bit messy. Once the film is in the tank you pour developer into the tank (you should use a thermometer to get the developer to roughly 20°C first) and leave it there for the length of time specified in the instructions with the developer. There are several different developers available, most are supplied as bottles of liquid which are diluted to produce the required quantity to fill the tank - for this you will need a measuring cylinder. You should be able to develop at least 6 films for a pound's worth of developer. The actual developer you buy depends on the type of film you use. I use Aculux with HP5 film. If you ask in a photographic shop they will be able to recommend a suitable developer. The development will be for something like 8 minutes; after you have poured the developer out of the tank you fill it with water (this can be done without removing the top of the tank, as if you did remove the top the light would ruin the film). The water stops the developer acting on the film. Then you pour in Fixer which is available in a similar form to developer although you can use the fixer more than once. Fixing takes about five minutes. After fixing you can remove the lid from the tank; if the film looks 'milky' or appears to have streaks down it pour the fixer back in until these go (this will be because the film has not been fixed long enough). The film must then be washed to remove all traces of the fixer. This can be done by putting the tank under a running



tap for 20 minutes. All that remains is to hang the film up to dry by pinning the top and putting a weight at the bottom - hanging it so that the film does not touch anything. Don't touch the actual picture part of the negative at anytime.

So the actual equipment you need is: a developing tank (£5), a thermometer (£2), measuring cylinder (£1) plus developer and fixer (smallest sizes about £1 each).

The steps involved

- 1) Put film in tank (detailed instructions given with tank)
- 2) Pour in developer (development time given with developer)
- 3) Wash - fill tank with water and pour out again.
- 4) Pour in fixer (time given with fixer)
- 5) Wash film under tap for 20 minutes
- 6) Hang up to dry.

It is best to get a bit of practice on films that aren't too important to you. After you've developed a couple of films, and got a bit of experience you'll find it really easy and cheap. Then you need only print (or get printed) the negatives that look any good, and this saves you money on prints as well.

Next issue - Printing your own Black and White pictures.





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