

Super8 Sound Creates New Line of Super 8 Film Stock



Super8 Sound's Phil Vigeant

For more than two decades now, Phil Vigeant, president of Super8 Sound in Burbank, California, and Cambridge, Massachusetts, has been a strong proponent of the Super 8 film format, so it shouldn't come as a big surprise to learn that he has devised a method for taking the format to a new professional level.

"In Super 8 there are only two color stocks offered, Kodachrome and Ektachrome," explains Vigeant. "For both 16mm and 35mm, on the other hand, there are close to 20 different color stocks available. What we're set up to do now is convert these 35mm stocks so they can be shot in Super 8, giving filmmakers more options for shooting less expensively. Super 8 is about one-fifteenth the size of 35mm, which gives you about 15 frames of Super 8 to one frame of 35mm."

Super8 Sound spent the past year developing various equipment for converting the 35mm stocks into Super 8. The company has built gear for punching sprocket holes in 35mm film, slicing it into Super 8 strands and loading it into Super 8 cartridges. Vigeant points out that the company also developed special machines for processing the film and a customized telecine for

transferring it to videotape, as well as a new camera, the Beaulieu 7008 Pro II, designed specifically for shooting with the new stocks. "We're looking to market this as a full service, where people can come here, get the cameras and the film, do their shoots, and come back for the processing and transferring to video."

The market for the new stocks, notes Vigeant, extends beyond Super 8 filmmakers. "People shooting in 35mm can now use the same stocks that they're shooting through their Panavision Gold cameras in a very small, inexpensive camera for second-unit pick-ups and specialty shots. Before now, 35mm filmmakers weren't using Super 8 stocks on their projects because the two that were available used reversal—the old technology—instead of negative. We can now provide them with negative Super 8 stocks. It will be a great secondary tool for the people with decent budgets, and a great primary tool for others who can't afford to shoot in 35mm."

Vigeant expects to make the stocks available for widespread use at both Super8 Sound offices by the end of this month, with film processing and transferring available only in Burbank. ■