1 Purpose

Documentation for bellofy program

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2 What is a bellows

Google it. It's camera thing. You make them out of fabric or paper or leather or something. It's really hard to get them straight and to the right dimension.

What I find interesting is how you are supposed to pluralize "bellows". It seems to be something of a mass noun; I hear both "a bellows" and "the bellows" and just "bellows".

3 Patterns

The camera bellows pattern I'm using is a hybrid of several techniques I saw online and what I found to work from making the bellows myself.

In general bellows can be either square in aspect ratio (such as for a square camera format like 6x6) or non-square (such as for a camera that is wider than tall, like a panoramic camera format). Besides that, the bellows may be tapered from the rear standard of the camera (larger typically) to the front standard of the camera. Furthermore, we may also wish the pleats of the bellows to taper in size from the rear to the front of the the camera. And the aspect ratio of the bellows can even change between the front and rear of the camera...the front may be square and the rear may be non-square! So you can see how complicated it can be to make one and get it to fit your camera once it's folded. In the past, I have made the bellows first, then built the camera around it, but this doesn't work for making replacements.

Bellotron is intended to handle all the variations described above. It is intended for cameras, so it does not handle non-rectangular bellows (no octagon or triangular bellows) and it cannot handle pleats that vary in size nonlinearly from the rear to the front of the camera (some cameras have even-size big pleats for the back half of the bellows, then the pleats start tapering down from the middle of the bellows to the front).

Given this theoretical bellows definition, The essential parameters are the (folded) inner and outer widths, the inner and outer height for the front and rear standards, and the desired length (when fully extended). Defined this way, the pleat-size is automatically determined by these constraints and pleat-size linearly changes between the front and back standards.

4 Technical details

The patterns are written in PostScript which may be directly printed on most printers.

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