

KIRLIAN PHOTOGRAPHS

The article, "How to Make Kirlian Photographs," which appeared in the May 1986 **Radio-Electronics**, has done a disservice to your readership and to science by

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stating, albeit obliquely, that there could be something beyond the realm of known physics that influences the Kirlian "aura."

The generation of Kirlian images, although a complex process subject to many variables that are not easily controlled, even in the laboratory (e. g., pressure, temperature, conductive residues deposited by the object being tested—or left over on the electrode from the previous object, exposure time, etc.), is explainable without invoking the paranormal.

For readers who would care to learn more about the physical aspects of Kirlian photography, an excellent study was published in the Spring issue of *Skeptical Inquirer*, a quarterly that is published by the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of the Paranormal (CSICOP).

Also, several years ago, in the trade journal *Functional Photography*, an article presented a fairly convincing theory of how the Kirlian corona interacts with the dyes in color film to yield those complex images.

I really enjoy **Radio-Electronics** magazine, particularly the construction projects. However, it's bad enough that Kirlian photography, pyramid power dowsing, and other such stuff get favorable coverage in the news media and supermarket tabloids. Let's at least try to keep it out of informed technical publications.

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