

Is it photography any more?

My research into smartphone housings got me thinking. On land the vast majority of us take pictures with our phones; all we do is press a virtual button and we get an image. In the main we don't think about apertures and shutter speeds and, even in most scenarios, focus. We just 'take a shot'.

Then there's the fact that there are now cameras which allow you to refocus an image after it has been taken not to mention phone apps and computer software which will transform your image with another touch of the virtual button.

They allow us to do things that photographically were either impossible or certainly only possible after a lot of time consuming work. Colour correction, unsharp masking and solarisation are three that spring to mind but there are dozens of others.

So my point is the photography part of image creation has changed beyond all recognition. Fortunately the photographer's eye is still important in terms of composition but there are apps which will warn you that the horizon's not straight and I'm sure it won't be long before they'll be able to flag up a composition warning.

At that stage, will it be photography anymore?

Editorial

Flashguns

I was delighted to read Phil Rudin's review of the Backscatter Mini Flash MF-1 and it's SN-1 Snoot. Not because it was an excellent review (which Phil's always are) but because the powers that be at Backscatter have called it a flash rather than a strobe.

They say the English and the Americans are divided by a common language but not when it comes to sidewalks and pavements, boots and trunks, fannies and fannies and comparatively recently flashguns and strobes!

Sure we can have different words for the same thing but not the wrong word. You see, a flashgun creates a single pulse of light and a strobe emits multiple pulses as in stroboscopic. When underwater photography evolved from disposable flash bulbs to the wonders of an electronic flash that's what we continued to call them. But somewhere down the line I think it's fair for me to accuse the Americans of calling them strobes (which is actually short for stroboscopes!)

So I say good on you Backscatter. I hope you've started something which will catch on with other manufacturers :-)

Killer iPhone

Despite coming into an already developed market in 2007 the iPhone has become the most popular smartphone but it has killed a lot of products in it's path.

Calculators, sat navs, compasses, voice recorders, the list can go on and does, to a certain extent, include cameras; but not, to any significant extent, underwater cameras. Why?

Well I think it's because most of the housings are not controlling the functions which would make it an underwater camera killer.

On land, for photography the iPhone sucks ergonomically, but if you housed it with handles and a good shutter release you'd be part way there but for reasons which I think Apple are to blame, nearly all housings do not control the Pano or SloMo functions on the camera and to my mind those two functions could well become an underwater camera killer. Wide angle vistas without the need for a wide angle lens? 1080p HD video at 240fps? Perfect.

Just as the iPhone entered an already developed market so too could an underwater housing manufacturer by providing something which exploited all of the amazing functions which the iPhone camera is capable of.

Featured Product

I decided in this issue to highlight a product which I think is different. This issue on page 26 it is the Kraken Ball to Ball arm QD adaptor which allows you to Quick Disconnect a ball joint arm.

I am always on the lookout for products that improve life and the Kraken adaptor certainly does that but if you think a certain product makes a difference please let me know and I will highlight it.

Ideally it should do something that nothing else does (until it is copied!) so thinking caps on and I look forward to hearing from you.

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