

FIX SystemFrame PT01

by Peter Rowlands

The FIX SystemFrame PT01 fits to the PT-058 and 059 housings which allow the Olympus Tough TG-5, 6 and 7 cameras to be used down to 45 metres. It is a multi function accessory mount and handling frame which not only adds protection to the polycarbonate housing but also allows several accessories to be fitted such as strobes, lights and lenses.

The FIX SystemFrame PT01 is machined to a very high standard from aluminium which is then anodised for corrosion protection. It is available in three colours - black, silver and red and my review sample was the matching red which I think creates a positive sense of integrated design.

Talking of design, the polycarbonate PT housings from Olympus and now OM Systems have provided a very economic entry level for beginners and advanced alike but, by their very nature, they are not as strong as aluminium housings, especially when adding even the smallest and lightest of accessories so that is where the FIX SystemFrame PT01 comes into its own. It provides the strength of aluminium without the bulk and weight and the result really

transforms the housing into a very robust working tool.

The OM Systems PT-058 and 059 housings slide into the SystemFrame and are positively located using the cold shoe mount and then the two are secured with a tripod screw into the base of the housing. This is rather like the 'cages' used on digital cameras when used primarily for shooting video; they allow accessories such as LCD screens and lighting to be added.

The left hand handle has a ball mount fitted as standard and there are several accessories which can be added to the SystemFrame including an aluminium cold shoe for much stronger holding of strobes and lights, a Tplate and 52mm adaptor for safe storage of lenses when not needed and a strap handle for the right hand side to keep your trigger hand in the correct and comfortable position. The combination of the two handles will help steady your images and especially your video footage immeasurably.

To complete the package there are six tapped holes above the shutter release lever for additional accessories of your choice and a final M10 tapped hole on the slope to the right for



The Tplate can be added just above the camera's built in flash so that a wide angle or close up lens can be safely stored when not in use but I think the better position for this would be above the shutter release lever as it would allow the cold shoe to be fitted for a very strong and correctly positioned strobe or video light.





Whilst it supports the right hand nicely I think the strap handle limits the hand's movement when accessing the rear buttons which might need to be changed for fast moving subjects. Hand straps or not has always been about personal preference.



The solid aluminium cold shoe provides a much more secure fixing for heavier strobes and lights.



The sloping surface to the left of the shutter release lever has an M10 tapped hole on the slope to the right for ball mounts such as the Nauticam NA#25221, 25224

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The base price for the FIX SystemFrame PT01 is \$129.95 but by the time you add all of the optional extras you could double that so you are looking at a significant investment compared to the housing itself. I can't answer the question of value for money for you and if you wanted to shave the price a bit I'd lose the right hand strap handle because the left handle provides a very positive grip

on its own; I would argue that your right hand is better suited to accessing all of the controls on the housing if it is free to move back and forward slightly to allow the most ergonomic finger or thumb to push or turn the controls.

FIX System FramePT01 USD129.95
 FIX T plate USD12.95
 FIX Hand Support 01 USD29.95
 FIX Shoe Mount USD19.95
 FIX Lens Holder USD29.95



This is my preferred layout with the solid aluminium cold shoe providing a much more secure mount for strobes and lights than the one on the housing which is a metal plate held onto the polycarbonate housing by four small screws.

The TG series of OM cameras and the PT series housings provide excellent value for money in a small, light and travel friendly package. In the right hands they are capable of much more than just point and shoot holiday images. How seriously you want to take your images is up to you but all I will say is that quality comes at a price and the fully rigged FIX SystemFrame PT01 will definitely take the performance of the basic housing to an improved level which I am sure will be reflected in the quality and consistency of your images.

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http://www.fisheye-jp.com/en_top/fe_systemframept01_e.html