

Olympus μ -mini DIGITAL & 3m housing

Japanese camera manufacturer Olympus have a long history of producing 'weatherproof' cameras and their latest digital compact μ -mini DIGITAL is no exception.

My review camera was gold but there are also five other colours available and I think this says a great deal about the camera. This is a camera for those who want to be seen with it.

Rather like the Apple iPod Mini which was underspecified and not much cheaper than the original iPod (yet is much more popular amongst youngsters), the μ -mini DIGITAL is very much about style. You only have to look at it to appreciate that.

However, this is no dumb blonde camera. Its 4 mp chip produces excellent results at the touch of a button. Sure there is the usual shutter lag but this comes with the territory. Other than that you have a fully automatic point and shoot camera that not only looks good, it performs well. Sure there are 14 'scene's which can be selected but I suspect that the majority of people attracted to this camera will like its up front simplicity with added flexibility if needed. Similarly with the zoom it's 2x which is less than most by comparison but more than adequate to this cameras purposes.

Now our idea of waterproof is not the same as Olympus's. To them it really means 'moistureproof' i.e. don't run it under a tap but you'll be fine in the sauna, though why you should be taking pictures in there is nobodies business. Whilst to us mild eccentrics this is nowhere near waterproof enough, to your non-mild eccentric it is a very useful specification because you don't have to worry about



the camera. It is designed to be rugged and still perform.

For those who want to take the camera underwater there is a very dinky 3m water resistant housing, the CWPC-01 which is only just bigger than the camera (obviously) and has all the controls to operate it to that depth. Being just 3 metres means that the majority of controls don't have to have O rings but can be operate through more elegant gaskets.

Just like the camera, the housing is very stylish and attractive and looks much nicer than those brutish 40m housings with their butch O rings, bulky



filter threads and oversize controls. I suspect the majority of users will take it in the swimming pool despite the fact that it will perform well on shallow coral reefs.

The μ -mini DIGITAL and CWPC-01 are perfect for the image conscious who are concious of their image.

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