

Panasonic LX3 and UK Germany DL4



This combination, in photographic, physical and financial terms, is right at the top of the proverbial pile.

The Panasonic LX3 camera is 3rd generation camera aimed at the seriously demanding compact user. Bucking the trend to cram ever more pixels onto a chip, the LX3 offers 10 megapixels and concentrates on maximising the quality rather than relying on pixel count.

When announcing the camera, the company pointed out that more pixels on the same sized sensor does not always result in better image quality and described its approach with the LX3 as: “boldly reversing the industry trend of pushing toward ever-higher pixel counts.”

As well as all the usual Auto and Programme settings the LX3 provides full manual control through the whole

aperture and shutter speed range and RAW/JPEG still image recording as well as ‘HD’ video capability. Combine this with the fastest (f2) and widest (24mm) lens and you have, to my mind, the ultimate compact camera.

The DL4 aluminium housing oozes substance and dependability with a simplicity of line and design which sets it totally apart. But then so it should as the price inc taxes is around £1100.

And even at that price there are some controls you can’t operate such as the ON/OFF, aspect ratio or the focus mode underwater but, for me personally, that isn’t a drawback as I enter the water with one style of photography in mind and so devote the dive to that.

The camera fits snugly inside the housing without the need for an



intermediary mounting plate and it is held precisely in position. The housing can also hard wire trigger external flashguns in both manual and TTL mode and a ball socket is provided for mounting ball joint flash arms. There is also an accessory dome available for the 18mm supplementary lens.

There’s no denying that, by comparison to other compact housings, this is a very expensive camera/housing combination but, if you already own the LX3 camera, you are probably very particular about your photography having already chosen a camera that is virtually



without compromise.

As a result, it wouldn’t surprise me that you see the DL4 housing as an obvious choice for this camera.

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