

Editorial

ISO control

Alex M's excellent review of the new Nikon flagship D4 and Nauticam NA-D4 housing in this issue makes drooling reading with talk of superbly fast and precise autofocus, pin sharp pixels and incredibly high ISO performance and it was that last spec that floated my boat.

With each new high end camera comes an improvement in high ISO performance. True, a larger sensor helps provide that but it has now got to the stage where the ISO is now just as important a tool like aperture and shutter speed.

In the bad old days of film the ISO came with the film and you were stuck with it for the whole 36 exposures. True, you could push or pull the processing to use a different speed but it had to be applied to the whole roll.

Nowadays we can adjust the ISO for each exposure and this gives us the ability to have the exact combination of aperture and shutter speed that we want. That way we can control depth of field or capture faster movement sharper by adjusting the ISO.

The Nikon D4 boasts an incredible 100 - 12,800 ISO range

which can be extended to 50 - 204,800. In my day it was rare to have an ISO with a comma in it but that changed when the golf ball grained AGFA 1,000 came along. Nowadays it won't be long til there are 2 commas in the ISO speed!

For someone like myself who enjoys the simplicity of available light photography this new capability is very tempting but everything comes at a price and in the case of the D4 and NA-D4 you're talking about the price of a small car. Fortunately there is image processing software out there which can significantly reduce noise in high ISO images for a fraction of the cost of upgrading camera and housing.

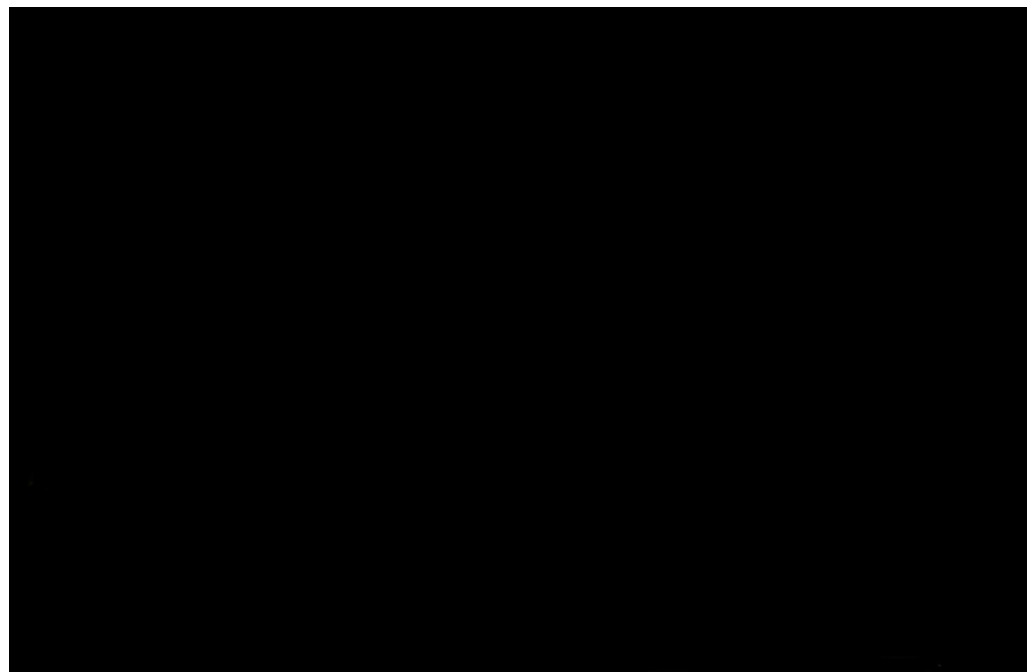
The problem is that that same software could also be used on D4 images to enable you to take images of subjects which just a few years ago were virtually impossible to capture.

Exciting times. Exciting times, indeed.

Peter Rowlands
peter@uwpmag.com

Readers Lives

Cover shot



Another fantastic edition UwP65. Sorry I couldn't get the attached to you earlier, as I'm certain that it would have solved your cover dilemma.

It's not often that a photograph of coelacanths swarming comes to light, and, as I'm sure you'll appreciate, it is not one to waste on lesser, internal, pages.

The technique required to produce this shot is daunting, given the depths involved, these mystical creatures' aversion to light of any

kind, and the propensity for the bloody 100mm Canon macro lens to endlessly hunt for focus in dim conditions.

However, persistence pays off. Final result was achieved at f32 @ ISO 100.

Resolution is excellent in the original so I'm anticipating this will make an outstanding poster, To that end, if you wouldn't mind running an ad for me? I'd appreciate it.

Wade Hughes
www.uwpmag.com