

Nauticam NA-GH3 housing

By Peter Rowlands

The Panasonic GH3 mirrorless 4/3rds camera was eagerly awaited when it arrived in late 2012 because it was following on the heels of the groundbreaking GH2 which had set new standards in video output. The GH3 didn't disappoint and provided much higher video specification as well as a significant improvement in stills quality. In addition, dedicated control buttons for ISO, WB and Exp Comp together with several customisable Function buttons showed that Panasonic had listened to feedback from serious shooters.

The slight downside was an increase in body size and weight but the spec more than made up for that. For a body price of just over £1000 the GH3 satisfies the demanding professional but with an amateurs price tag.

I'll leave more knowledgeable people to go into details about the GH3 camera itself. I respect DP Review so I've added a link at the end of this review.

When I first saw the Nauticam NA-EM5 housing for the Olympus EM5 I was very impressed with its 'tightness' and by that I mean the secure way the camera was held and

the precise way in which the controls were designed to interact with the camera body. I noticed subtle changes in the design of the controls and clever ways of displacing controls to make ergonomic improvements.

I was pleased to see that the same attention to detail and control design has been incorporated in the NA-GH3 housing for the Panasonic GH3. This camera has more control buttons and wheels than most SLRs in a slightly smaller body size so to provide total control through the housing is very impressive indeed. In fact there are some controls which are actually easier to operate through the housing than with the camera handheld!

Despite being a slightly larger camera the chunky NA-GH3 housing still falls to hand easily but I suspect that most users will add a tray and handles to mount lighting systems. My preferred set up is to use the right hand handle as a backstop rather like a hand strap because the housing is ergonomically tuned for right hand handheld use.

The NA-GH3 benefits from Nauticam's relentless striving for real improvements rather than gimmicks and their ability to produce beautiful



curves from angular cutters provides a housing which is not only easy on the hand but also makes the housing look smaller.

As a lover of tilting LED screens the GH3 with its articulated screen design was disappointing but actually, for video users, you would be mad

not to use this housing without Nauticam's excellent Small HD video monitor or even madder not to use it without their Ninja housing which records HDMI output to its incorporated hard drive with no loss in video quality.

If I have one criticism. I thought



the small optical viewfinder provided didn't give a good view of the camera's viewfinder and it would be better not to have it and so provide a cleaner view of the LCD screen.

To be honest with you it gets harder and harder to come up with something new to say about Nauticam housings. Their designs constantly evolve yet feel familiar to hand

and with a body price of £1530 for such design, control and precise performance it is very impressive indeed.

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www.dpreview.com/reviews/panasonic-lumix-dmc-gh3

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Intensity: 220 lumens
Run Time: 10 hours
Depth Rating: 400ft (120m)
Weight: 4 oz (113g)



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