

## DISCUSSION GROUP MINUTES

10.13.2018

JAY PETERSEN MODERATOR

This Discussion Group focused on “Gadgets and Gizmos” and potential future Discussion group topics.

### **GADGETS AND GIZMOS**

Jay Petersen

- Canvas prints:
  - [www.canvasdiscount.com](http://www.canvasdiscount.com); This is a very inexpensive site that produces good quality canvas prints. Jay brought in two 30x40 samples of his work that cost just \$35 each. The site has many sales and shipping is free if the order is over \$70.
- Zhiyun-Tech Smooth-Q Smartphone Gimbal Stabilizer
  - Available from B&H for \$99 at:  
[https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1326405-REG/zhiyun\\_tech\\_smooth\\_q\\_smartphone\\_gimbal.html?sts=pi](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1326405-REG/zhiyun_tech_smooth_q_smartphone_gimbal.html?sts=pi)
  - This is a handy device to be used with a phone. Once the phone is mounted either still or video images can be taken without wobble or unsteady movement. An app comes with the device that uses similar technology that is found in drones. Great for times when you are in an unsteady field or panning.
- Time lapse photography device: Brinno TLC200 Pro Time Lapse Video
  - Available from B&H for \$149  
at: <https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/search?Ntt=brinno%20tlc200%20pro&N=0&InitialSearch=yes&sts=ps>
  - This is an inexpensive time lapse camera that has a plastic weatherproof case to make it watertight. It prolongs battery life by going into sleep mode between shots and does metering. The best part is that once you turn it off the camera stitches together the images into a video without your effort.
- Hootoo: \$30 Amazon; Transfer images from your phone to your computer without all the hassle. This essentially is a flash memory stick with a lightning connector for iPhone and a USB connector for the computer. You can download a free app for your phone that lets you move files easily between your phone and the memory stick.

- Apple Lightning connector for iPhone to connect to HDMI video input on monitors or projectors. Available from Amazon for \$44 at:  
[https://www.amazon.com/dp/B009WHV3BM/?coliid=I1Q71FLNPNIDDJ&colid=O5NY1Z9UKUY1&pvc=0&ref\\_=lv\\_ov\\_lig\\_dp\\_it](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B009WHV3BM/?coliid=I1Q71FLNPNIDDJ&colid=O5NY1Z9UKUY1&pvc=0&ref_=lv_ov_lig_dp_it)

Note: Non-Apple versions are available at about half the cost, but none of them get very reassuring reviews.

#### Peter Melcarek

- Demonstration of Focus Stacking using Olympus camera; Olympus has built in focus stacking software using Olympus Capture software
- Violet single wavelength laser: Cost \$40; Peter uses this as a light source to create fluorescence in specialty imaging; creative effect in macro photography
- Olympus “Tough” \$449 Amazon; waterproof camera; does focus stacking. Good entry point for this technology

#### John Gill

- Platy Pod; large \$80; small \$60. This is a unique “tripod” which can use any flat surface as a tripod. Has adjustable legs to adjust and stabilize. You can strap this almost anywhere...to a tree, to a guard rail, on a bannister, can set it on a car. Kits for accessories (straps, robo flash etc) are purchased separately. Ball purchased separately to fit your camera. All together, the total cost can run \$100-\$120.

#### Helen DeMoyer:

- Custom Bracket to move flash off camera; [www.custombrackets.com](http://www.custombrackets.com) ; cost approximately \$300.
- Raises flash off camera, specialty bracket allows camera to be easily moved from vertical to horizontal. Can be attached to tripod, has legs to stabilize if you want to shoot from floor or lower position.
- Parts come separately so you can configure this to your needs.

#### Dale DeVries

- Bluetooth remote for phone: Cost \$8.00 [www.camkix.com](http://www.camkix.com). Bluetooth remote for phone pairs through Bluetooth; Android or iPhone: web site has lots of low cost gadgets.

#### Rochelle Stark

- iPhone shooting; can shoot using headphone volume control; good for street photography as it is inconspicuous. Uses mono pods also

One off: use swimming “noodle” to stabilize your camera on your car window while shooting from the car. The noodle has a groove that can be set into the window edge.

## TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION GROUPS

Jay developed a listing of 15 suggested topics which he developed, or which came from various members within the club. There were range of suggested sessions focusing on overview of basic photography, beginning Lightroom and Photoshop, composition and intent in creating images as well as more specialized suggested sessions such as night photography, portrait photography among others.

The group offered other suggestions also;

- Set up still life for an indoor photo shoot; learn how to do a “studio” set up for your own still life or macro shots
- Tips and techniques to optimize settings
- Show and tell with members bringing in cameras
- Demo workshop to look at processing of photos; not just the mechanics but also the art of the image
- Have a hands-on session after the discussion group to “practice” what we learned.
- Meet Ups which have a specific theme or subject; opportunity to ask questions while on site and perhaps an after shoot “debrief” looking at images.
- Printing, publishing and photo books: a How To session
- Care and cleaning of camera and lenses;
- Methods to put together videos and still shots

Discussion centered around the best way to encourage newer members or “rookie” photographers to come to these sessions. This group is a great resource to learn both from the sessions themselves and from the experienced participants who also attend. ‘

The group thought there are three elements to beneficial sessions:

- Discussion of hardware i.e. equipment;
- Processing tools; such as Lightroom and Photoshop; and
- Subject; i.e. landscape, wildlife, telephoto shooting, night shooting etc. All of these have composition and intent as elements.

The group suggested formats that might also stimulate interest;

- Workshops, wide open Q and A,
- Having three people take one image and edit it using their tools and/or perspective
- Small break out groups with each table having a topic of discussion; a member would rotate through these “stations”.

Overall the group, even those experienced photographers, felt that everyone can learn from the sessions. These sessions can be tailored to promote and enthuse “rookie” photographers who may use phones, point and shoot or DLRs to come and learn.