



market
info



Valued



THE ART OF BLACK & WHITE

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MONOCHROM

It would appear Leica are having an effect on the camera industry having just announced their new monochrome camera a day after Pentax launched their first. Whether other brands follow suit remains to be seen but with Pentax releasing something I wouldn't be surprised if others go this way as well. But why release a camera that is only capable of shooting in black and white?

It turns out there are quite a few benefits to camera sensors that don't deal with colour. The photosites on camera sensors are actually only sensitive to light and the intensity of that light. They only see colour by way of a Colour Filter Array (CFA) of red, green and blue micro-filters. These filters allow the photosites to register these colours and are usually set out in a combination of two green, one red and one blue. This arrangement is known as the Bayer Filter, the most popular used in colour camera sensors. The adverse effect of these is that colour sensors are less sensitive to light filtering out spectrums before they hit the photosites. Monochrome sensors do not have this issue and are capable of receiving up to three times the light of their colour counterparts as the light is not filtered. This also leads to sharper images as well as the camera no longer needing to go through the demosaicing process to produce a colour picture.

The M11 Monochrom is Leica's latest M-series model, a range



and lens mount that was introduced in 1954, and is still going strong, even producing three film cameras, sticking to its analogue roots. Featuring the very latest BSI CMOS sensor without colour filter array, Leica are stating that the M11 Monochrom has a an extreme ISO rage up to 200,000 ISO. This is up from the M10 Monochrom's 100,000 maximum ISO but it was really only usable up to 50,000, which is still very high enabling shooting in very low light. I suspect the M11 Monochrom will be able to shoot at 100,000 ISO with a comfortable and very usable amount of noise.

The camera's body has been given the usual 'Monochrom' treatment. The Leica red dot is



gone in favour of a more stealthy black screw. The buttons have been given a flat black paint as opposed to the M11's chrome finish, and any accents that would usually be painted red are now grey. Like the black variant of the M11, the top plate is constructed of aluminium as opposed to brass providing a weight saving of 110g. The new Monochrom also features the same base as the M11 with no removable base plate.

The rear screen is protected with a sapphire glass, something that has not been used since the M Monochrom (TYP 246) two generations ago. A welcome addition that is more rugged and scratch resistant and hopefully be a standard for 'M' cameras

moving forward (or any camera for that matter). Leica have also built-in 256GB of internal memory up from 64GB on the M11. The M11 Monochrom is also an Apple "Made for iPhone and iPad accessory" for enhanced functionality with the Leica FOTOS cable and app. The Leica FOTOS cable is a USB-C to Lightning cable.

The Leica M11 Monochrom is available now for £8,300.00/ AU\$14,990.00 (body only).

F14

Alongside the launch of the new M11 Monochrom, Leica have launched a new version of the Summilux-M 50 f/1.4 ASPH., an update which brings the 50mm in line with the redesigned 35mm Summilux update of last year.

Of note, is the new close focusing distance of 0.45m enabled by a double cam mechanism. The rangefinder is still coupled down to a minimum focusing distance of 0.7m so in order to make full use of the minimum focusing distance the use of Live View, the Leica FOTOS app, or a Visoflex electronic viewfinder is required. These closer focusing distances are distinguished on the lens barrel by subtle grey engravings, as opposed to the white and yellow of the rangefinder coupled distances.



The new design also features 11 aperture blades up from 9 on the previous model for a rounder and more pleasing bokeh. The new lens is just as compact weighing just 337g. Like the newer 35mm Summilux, the new 50mm features a built-in hood that can be extended or put away with a simple twist.

The new 50mm Summilux is available now priced £4,000.00/AU\$7,490.00 for the black model or £4,200.00/AU\$7,790.00 for the silver which are both constructed in aluminium.

Lossless audio has grown in popularity in the last few years especially with the popular streaming services upgrading their offerings but until now the only way to really enjoy the higher quality audio streams has been with external DACS and wired headphones that is until now.

It was rumoured for many years that Sonos were working on them but recently Sonos admitted it was pursuing its existing categories, so things have fallen to a small Swiss startup called HED Technologies. The HED Unity headphones offer what they call 'Full-Fidelity' wireless audio. They do this by avoiding the lossy formats of bluetooth and using your WiFi network enabling high resolution audio streaming up to 24bit/96kHz. The first headphones to achieve this! Unfortunately, being first often comes with a price tag and these are no exception. It's looking like the starting price will be in the region of £1,750.00/ AU\$3,249.00.

They don't quite meet full high-res spec. For example, Apple's High-Res Lossless has a maximum resolution of 24-bit/ 192kHz which still requires a DAC and wired headphones but it can easily deal with Apples standard Lossless streams which run at 24-bit/ 48kHz. The ear cups are crafted from high-grade aluminium which houses the 40mm titanium-coated drivers. They have a frequency range of 20Hz-22kHz and when not hooked up to WiFi they still operate on Bluetooth 5.3. HED Technologies quote a battery life of 80 hours regardless of how music is streamed and there's onboard noise cancellation via 12 onboard microphones.

The new headphones are available to buy now.





K-3 Mark III MONO

Pentax have been making a few splashes lately. A few months back they announced they were looking at bringing some film cameras to market, and now, they are launching their first monochrome camera.

body. The SR 'Shake Reduction' badge is finished in silver. The camera's menus are finished in a black and white scheme as standard but this can be changed. Finally, the buttons and switches across the camera are finished in three shades of grey making the monochrome concept evident throughout.



The new K-3 III Monochrome is a variant of the existing 25.7MP APS-C DSLR, but with no colour filter array. Replacing the usual colour modes are options for both high and low key photography. 'Hard' mode produces high contrast images, whilst 'Soft' mode creates high-key low contrast images. These modes also give the user minute adjustment options for changing tone, key, contrast and sharpness so they can achieve the specific look they desire in their pictures. The monochrome can also shoot video footage at 4K/30p.

Hopefully, more monochrome cameras popup on the market from other manufacturers like Sony, Canon, Nikon and Fuji. If they can just make changes to an existing camera in their lineup like Pentax have here then this could be an easy win picking up a slice of a market that whilst is niche, there is clearly an appetite for. After all, there are still plenty of photographers who only use black and white film, and as prices of film continue to rise monochrome digital cameras could be an avenue for such photographers.



The K3 Mark III Monochrome features an in-body shake reduction system (5-axis) allowing the use of the very latest Pentax lenses but also old vintage Pentax lenses which easily attach to the body with a mount that goes back to 1983.

The new camera has been given a number of monochrome treatments both externally on the bodies design as well as how the menu systems look. The top LCD features white backlight illumination and the word 'Monochrome' is printed on the top left shoulder of the

INSPIRED

The world's biggest and best known drone manufacturer, DJI has introduced a new high-end drone for filmmakers. So, unless someone has more money than sense, not the sort of drone for the average consumer coming in at a cost of £13,419.00/ AU\$20,469.00. That's before adding the Inspire 3 RAW licence for shooting in either CinemaDNG or Apple ProRes RAW codecs which will surely be a must for many.

The Inspire 3 is a full-frame 8K cinema drone with a 161° FOV night-vision FPV and the latest pro transmission and control system. The drone features a new lightweight and rigid design with the FPV camera visual sensors, positioning antennas and storage card slot seamlessly integrated into its minimalist frame. The hot-swappable TB51 dual batteries provide up to 28 minutes of flight time. The drone can reach speeds up to 94km/h with a 8m/s ascent and descent speed and dive speed of 10m/s.

The Inspire 3's camera covers 14+ stops of dynamic range. Alongside the new drone are two new lenses. An ultra-wide 18mm f/2.8 and a new telephoto constructed specifically for 8K aerial cinematography. Onboard is a 1TB PROSSD capable of 1,040mb/s write speed and

900mb/s read speed which can be connected directly to a computer via USB-C.

Inspire 3 features RTK positioning technology (real-time kinematic) used in architectural and surveying industries to deliver centimetre accurate positioning. This makes the drone incredibly stable but also allows highly accurate route planning for greater efficiency in creative endeavours. A new feature called 3D Dolly leverages this technology to mimic the use of a crane, cable cam or dolly to create aerial motion paths making cinema-grade camera movements easier than ever before.

Inspire 3 comes with the DJI RC Plus controller which features a 7-inch, 1,200 nit brightness display for use in bright sunlight. The battery in the controller last up to 3.3 hours which can be extended up to 6 hours with an external battery and with Inspire 3's new O3 Pro transmission has a range of up to 15km from the controller. The live feed can be transmitted in 4k/30 up to 5km which is a first for a DJI drone.

These are just some of the highlight features for this advanced drone that will likely become a mainstay in the movie industry for some time! It's available to order now!



RUMOURS

Rumoured for quite some time now, it's looking very likely that Apple could be launching a new 15-inch MacBook Air this year.

Bloomberg have managed to acquire developer logs shared with them that highlight the testing of a new Apple laptop referred to as "Mac 15,3" in the logs. The logs point to an eight-core CPU, 10-core GPU and 8GB RAM. The logs also suggest it will ship with an Apple M2 chip, not Apple's next generation chip (likely an M3) as previous rumours suggested. The logs also highlight macOS 14 which will most likely get announced at June's WWDC event. The logs also reveal this new Mac to have the same display resolution as the 14-inch MacBook Pro which would mean that it has a lower pixel density than other MacBook's in the range.

It remains to be seen if we will see hardware announcements at WWDC but the M2 MacBook Air did get its reveal at last year's event so this could be a shoe in for this year. Seeing an updated 27-inch iMac would also be a sensible move as it has been many years since the 27-inch disappeared.

