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Creative Content

Inside this edition

Compare: DJI Action 3 or GoPro Hero 11 Black

Compare: DJI Air 3 or DJI Mini 3 Pro? (Or Maybe the Air 2S)

New to Lighting? A Tutorial Part 2

Comment: "It Just Isn't Worth the Effort Any More"

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Table of Contents

From The Publisher	3
The Latest News From Australia and Overseas	4
DJI Action 3 or GoPro 11 Black?	6
DJI Mini 3 Pro or Air 3. Decisions, decisions ...	9
New To Lighting? A Tutorial Part 2	12
Comment: "It Just Isn't Worth the Effort Any More"	16

Cover Shot:

Kalbarri Western Australia. Taken on GoPro Hero 9 Black



editorial

From The Publisher

Good afternoon / evening

This edition of Creative Content e-Mag by accident more than design is dominated by DJI and GoPro with stories that review and compare different models from both the two companies and products from the same company. I trust you find them useful.

Still on drones, I also have an editorial comment regarding a post I saw in an online blog about drone flying. See if you agree or not.

Additionally, with thanks to Sydney based [Kayell](#), the distributors for Aputure, Part 2 of my lighting tutorials is in place. As well as giving a heads-up on various methods of lighting in specific circumstances, I also introduce you to a brilliant piece of software I have found that helps anyone who wants to work out the best lighting for a situation and has no idea where to start. Having said that, for the seasoned lighting expert, it is also a very useful tool for testing out alternative lighting rigs – and is not expensive either.

Finally we have some hardware coming through with three cameras from Canon, Fujifilm and Sony, either in the pipeline, or here and currently under test. Hopefully I'll have them all done for the next edition.

As always, thanks for the support! Comments are of course always welcome via david@creativecontent.au

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The Latest News From Australia and Overseas

DaVinci Resolve / Fusion Studio 18.5 Final Releases Now Available

DaVinci Resolve 18.5 is a massive update with new AI tools and over 100 new features which include major additions to the cut page editing toolset, text based editing, AI dialogue transcription, new Resolve FX, enhanced Fusion tools including Universal Screen Descriptor support and powerful new Fairlight audio mix automation. The Cut page features 3 new menus including..

Read the complete story and where to [download for free here.](#)

DJI Air 3 Drone Announced

The DJI says the Air 3 has the first dual-primary camera system

of the Air Series, which embeds a 1/1.3-inch CMOS wide-angle camera and a 1/1.3-inch CMOS 3x medium tele camera in a compact space. The two cameras have the same sensor size but different focal lengths, which results in more consistent image quality and more diverse camera language.

With the wide-angle camera, sweeping landscapes can be captured more fully. It offers 2.4µm pixel size, 24mm format equivalent and a F1.7 aperture. The 3x Medium Tele Camera offers 2.4µm pixel size, 70mm format equivalent and a F2.8 aperture.

Read the full story with all specifications, imagery and pricing by [clicking here.](#)

Sky Racing Chooses Panasonic PTZ

Sky Racing Queensland broadcasts thousands of thoroughbred, greyhound and harness races each year taking Queensland racing to TAB venues, gaming apps,

homes and international audiences. Recently the company had a requirement to upgrade all of their OB facilities, including outside broadcast, production and speciality cameras. Having carried out a comprehensive assessment, evaluation and due diligence of available options

The full story is available [here.](#)

New Canon Patent for a Viewfinder

Canon has filed a patent in Japan for a new style of viewfinder for mirrorless cameras. It's a variation on the style used in the C100 and has a telescoping style as well as a rotating system as used on the C100. But unlike that camera which only allows a 68° tilt of the viewfinder,

The Latest News From Australia and Overseas

this new mechanism allows a complete tilt to 90° so you can look at it top down so to speak.

The new viewfinder internals sit between the camera's sensor and the hot shoe, and apparently Canon had to miniaturise some components to make it fit.

I accept many will ignore this as they use the rear screen for framing and focussing, but I personally prefer a viewfinder, especially in bright conditions where the LCD screens get washed out in the sunlight.

Of course, seasoned Videocamera users will sneer quietly into their beers as they have been used to this sort of viewfinder system for years ...

Adobe Forms Alliance for OpenUSD and Photoshop Updates

Adobe announced that they're working with Pixar, Apple, Autodesk, NVIDIA and the Joint Development Foundation (JDF) to create the Alliance for OpenUSD (AOUSD). AOUSD's overarching goal is to enhance collaboration and facilitate standardisation across the 3D ecosystem through the capabilities of Open Universal Scene Description (OpenUSD).

For more information, please see the [Adobe blog.](#)

Adobe also announced that Firefly-powered features in Photoshop (beta) will now support text prompts in 100+ languages --- enabling users around the world to bring their creative vision to life with text prompts in the language they prefer.

Adobe is also evolving Photoshop's Genera-

tive AI capabilities with Generative Expand, a new frictionless workflow dedicated to expanding images beyond their original bounds. Powered by the same Firefly-based technology as Generative Fill, Generative Expand enables users to seamlessly expand and resize any image by clicking and dragging the Crop tool, expanding the canvas. After clicking "Generate" the new white space is filled with AI generated content that naturally blends with the existing image.

To ensure you have access to the updated language prompts and Generative Expand, start a [free trial of Photoshop](#) or [update your Photoshop \(beta\) app today.](#)

COMING SOON

Review: Canon EOS R50

Review: Sony ZV-E18

Review: Fujifilm X-S20

Review: Zhiyun Weebill 3 Gimbal

Review: Sennheiser MKE400 Mic



DJI Action 3 or GoPro 11 Black?

To some, it may come as a complete surprise there is a viable alternative to the venerable GoPro camera range, and it comes from those clever drone makers at DJI.

Called the Osmo Action series, the range is now at its 3rd generation – which of course in theory gives GoPro a huge leg-up being at its 11th. The Osmo Action 1 was unquestionably a GoPro clone with some enhancements DJI saw, quite understandably, as improvements on the original GoPro.

The Osmo Action2 was, as they used to say in “Yes Minister”, a brave move to change the way the action camera genre was being approached. Whilst it was a clever

idea making the Osmo Action 2 a modular beast, and using magnetism as the “glue” between the different modules was genius, the idea never really took off I am guessing, as the Osmo Action 3 is a direct return to what could be called the definitive “GoPro” style.

The long and short of it is that if you want an action camera for your adventures when hiking, canoeing, fishing, skydiving, MotoX-ing, BMX-ing, snorkelling/ SCUBA-ing or for the inside of a race car (amongst the myriad other uses), then your choices are pretty much narrowed down to these two cameras.

(Yes, I am aware of there being models from the Insta fold, but I have tried for years to get review



models to no avail so for the purpose of this exercise, I discount them. Simply if they are not prepared to help me – thus you

DJI Action 3 or GoPro 11 Black?

– then I am not interested in including them).

garding action camera – particularly GoPro – usage.



At this point I'd like also like to comment on what I have read re-

I wrote an article quite some time back suggesting a GoPro (or similar) could act as a “standard” camera at a pinch. I still stand by that, but it would have to be a last resort, and as much as it pains me to say so, your phone is often a better option. The ergonomics of the Go-

Pro style makes it a little uncompromising when used by itself; a huge strength of the genre is the number of

add-on mounts etc that let you use the camera in compromising positions, especially in conjunct with the GoPro app to control the camera.

In short, thinking the GoPro (or indeed Actions 3) is a camera suitable under all conditions is just not feasible and bound to be a disappointment in most cases. I see posts asking about using them as cameras to shoot weddings or other similar events and, well, just don't, unless you have absolutely no other option.

Righto, so having said all that, what are the differences between the GoPro Hero 11 Black and the DJI Osmo Action 3? And does one have an advantage over the other?

Specifications

They both weigh approximately the same and have similar dimensions, so these things are not an issue. The only real differ-

DJI Action 3 or GoPro 11 Black?

ence here is that the GoPro incorporates the “finger” system for external mounts into the main body as a hinged arrangement. Earlier models used to have these fixed whereas now the fingers can lie flat against the body of the camera when not in use.

The Osmo Action 3 on the other hand has borrowed the magnetism technology from its earlier sibling, and the fingers are attached when needed – and the magnetic grip is exceedingly strong I have to say.

The Battery capability is pretty close too, at least in specification, with the GoPro having a 1720mAh unit versus the Action3’s 1770mAh. The trouble with battery life comparisons is that it relies on so many factors

such as outside temperature (the Osmo Action 3 is rated down to -20 C and the GoPro to -10 C). In my tests, I got slightly better battery life with the Action 3, but in the real world, your mileage may be better, so I’d say there is little difference to mark one over the other.

If you are into water sports, especially snorkelling or SCUBA, then the Osmo Action 3 is the clear winner as without any further protection it is waterproof down to 16 metres as against 10. You can of course add a housing to the Hero 11 Black to increase that to 60 metres, but similarly, one is also available for the Action 3 so that’s a draw.

Lens wise, again, ballpark with the GoPro having an aperture of f/2.5 (Action 3 f/2.8) and the CMOS processor at 1/1.9” against 1/1.7”. Both lenses are replaceable and hydrophobic (water repellent thus eliminating drops on the lens).

However, the GoPro will take stills to 27MpP as against the Action 3 at “only” 12MP. Another advantage of the GoPro is in video where all specs are the same except at 1080p the Hero 11 Black has an added frame rate of 200 along with 240 and 120 fps.

Another big thing in this day and age is that the sensor in the GoPro is almost square. Why is that important? It means TikkyTokky users etc can use the footage as is from the camera, and simply crop it for more traditional 16:9 applications. The Action 3 doesn’t have that luxury – yet.

Both have a rear and front display with almost identical sizes, and both are touch screens.

The rest of the review can be read on the [website here](#).

DJI Mini 3 Pro or Air 3. Decisions, decisions ...

With the release of the DJI Air 3, a tricky conundrum for many is to ask: “Should I buy the Mini 3 Pro or the Air 3?”

Now I don’t as yet have access to an Air 3, but I do have a Mini 3

Pro and the Air 3’s predecessor, the Air 2S, so can answer the question in part at least, and then fill in the gaps with known specifications of the Air 3.

As well as the Mini 3 Pro I have the Mini 2 and used this a lot until the Air 2S turned

up, and this became my Go To unit very quickly. I found it easier to fly, the object detection is an obvious bonus, and the camera was far better. And the Air 2S just feels more solid in construct.

Then the Mini 3 Pro arrived, and things



DJI Mini 3 Pro Fly More Combo Kit

DJI Air 3 Fly More Combo Kit

DJI Mini 3 Pro or Air 3. Decisions, decisions ... cont

changed quite markedly, specifically in one area. For travelling, the Mini 3 Pro beats the Air 2S hands down due to its smaller size. The image quality from the camera is not as good in my opinion as the Air 2S has the bigger sensor and the on board 8GB storage is a major bonus, especially if one tends to forget to pack SD cards!

The difference in favour of the Mini 3 Pro of 3 minutes flying time I find neither here nor there as for peace of mind, I always allow a maximum of 20 minutes in the air thus allowing a decent margin of safety, but the Air 2S does have superior sensing technology over the Mini 3 Pro.

For me, though, the biggest major

advantage of the Mini 3 Pro over the Air 2S has nothing to do with the camera specs, photo or video formats available of the [Mini 3](#) over the [Air 2S](#) or even the physical size difference. It is more basic than that.

With the Mini 3 Pro having the RC-2 Controller containing the built in LCD screen as against the default RC-N1 controller for the Air 2S that needs a mobile device (smartphone or tablet running the DJI Fly App), it is so much easier to simply pull the drone out of the bag, open the arms, turn it on and get flying quickly. Mere seconds in fact.

In other words, no more faffing about putting the mobile device into the controller holder, plugging in a cable, making sure everything is paired, firing up the app etc etc.

In fact the only drawback of the RC-2 controller is that you are hard wired to the DJI

Fly app so cannot use a 3rd party program like [Litchi](#) which gives you advantage of waypoint navigation among other things.

But with the advent of the Air 3, this limitation has been thrown out as the latest DJI Fly app for the Air 3 supports waypoints. Big, big tick. So, even with the mucking about with a smartphone, you do get more flexible flying options. But better, there is a combo pack of the Air 3 that includes the RC-2 controller with the LCD. Even bigger tick.

Another advantage of the Air 3 is it goes one step further than the Air 2S in that the sensing system is now omni-directional – that is, an obstacle in any direction is now flagged as Danger Will Robinson thus making it safer and even easier to fly.

The complete story is available [here](#)



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New To Lighting? A Tutorial Part 2



In the [first piece I wrote on lighting](#), I offered a basic look at lights, and how to setup a generic system of 3 point lighting.

But whilst 3 point is a sort of Swiss Army knife of lighting, it is not necessarily the best for all occasions, and certainly not the best if you are trying to create a specific mood for your still shot, video, film or vlog.

In this article, I'll cover more specific lighting types under certain circumstances and give you a starting point to experiment for your own setups.

I'd like to thank Sydney based [Kayell](#) who are the Australian distributors for [Aputure](#) for their assistance in these articles. I have also used the Set.A.Light3D software to create some of the diagrams showing how to place your lights, models and props etc, and you can download a trial of this from www.exlixier.com.

But I do recommend buying the software as it is inexpensive indeed for what you get. A full review is [here](#).

Creating Hard Light

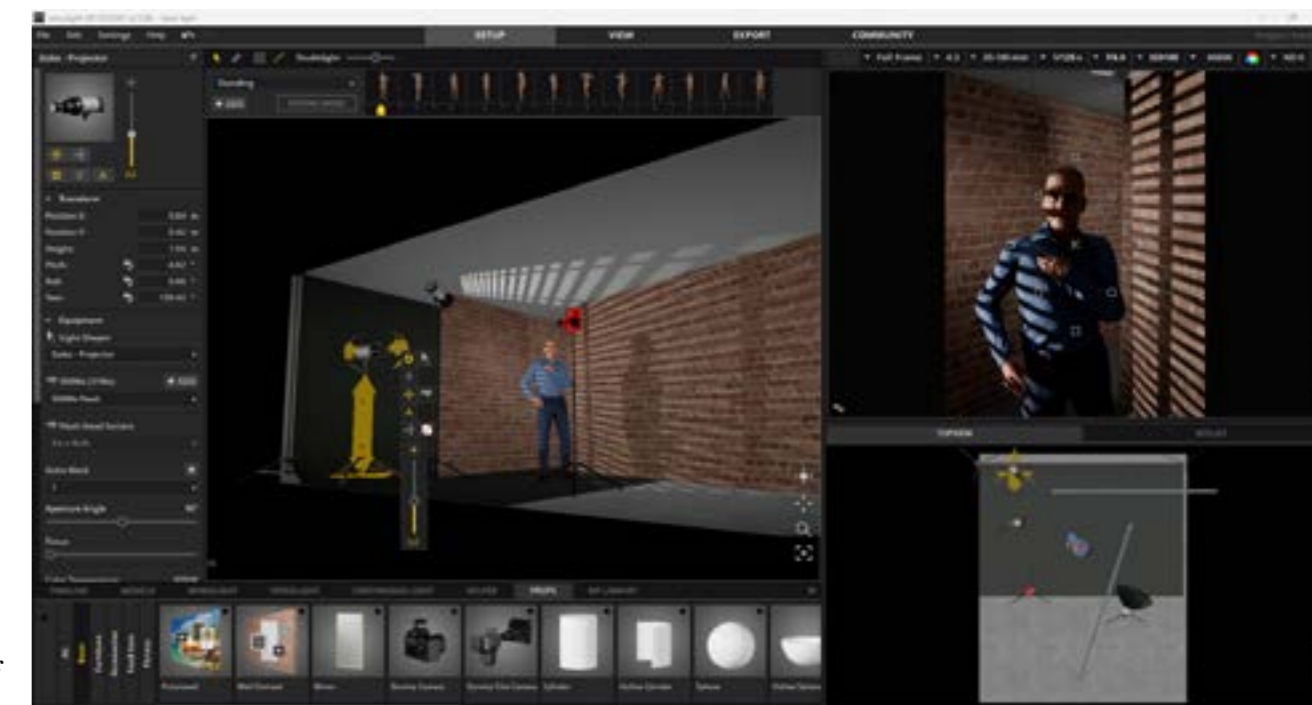
Hard Light I am a great fan of UK police dramas – think Line of

New To Lighting? A Tutorial Part 2 ... (cont)

Duty, Grace, Prey and so on (but not necessarily Midsomer Murders as that is mostly fun stuff disguised as a police drama). These shows make great use of hard lighting in order to determine there is some dastardly action afoot, but not necessarily the show face of the perpetrator, or other detail. This is created by using a hard light technique, also referred to as Chiaroscuro lighting.

(Chiaroscuro is an Italian term used to describe the technique of using light and dark in artwork, particularly in painting).

In film and video usage it creates specific areas of light and dark used for creating suspense. Famous films that used the technique brilliantly include The Godfather



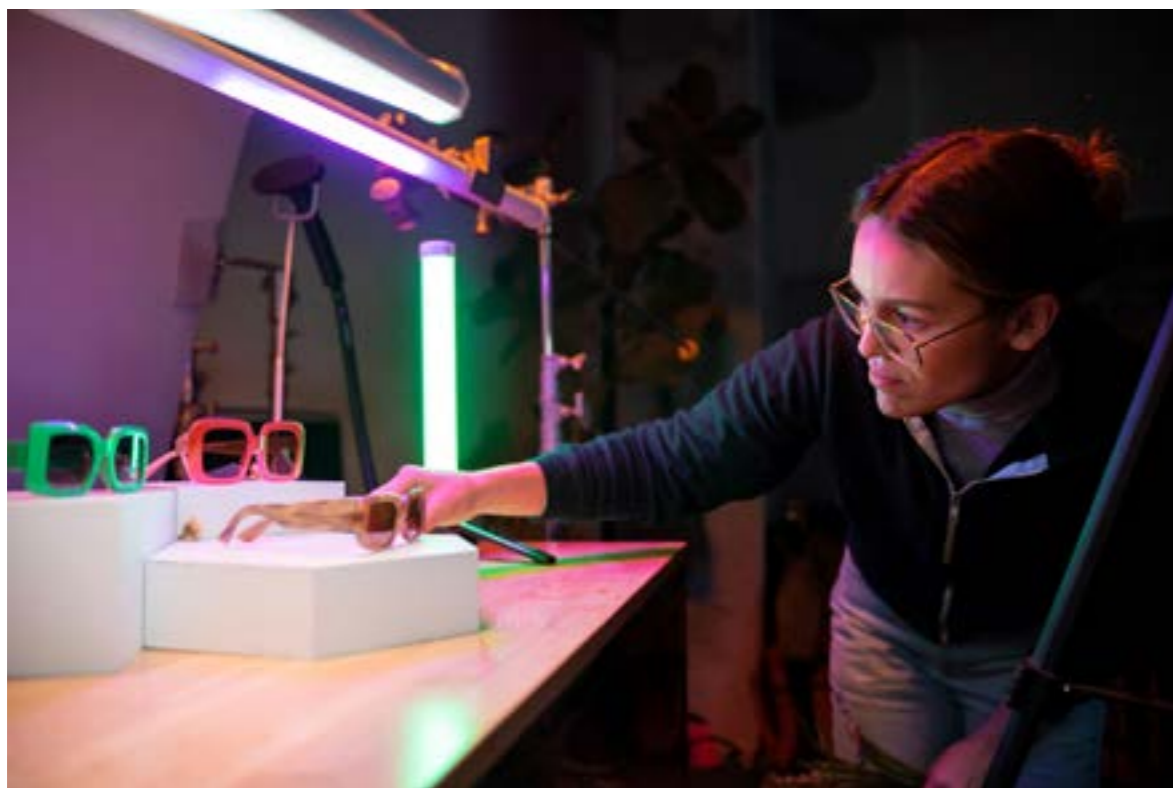
and Casino Royale. Citizen Kane also used it to great effect.

In its most basic form, Chiaroscuro lighting – often also called Low Key lighting – is created with a single key light and a dark background. The angle of the light on the subject against the background dictates

how much effect you get. To soften the background, you can also use a reflector to bounce some light back.

In this example left and above, I have also added a gobo to give the banded effect for extra drama.

New To Lighting? A Tutorial Part 2



An excellent light to use as a key light in this circumstance is the [Amaran 100](#) (pictured at right), a 100W / RGB LED based light that uses either AC power, or if you are on location with no access to AC

has an optional battery pack. It also contains on-board dimming controls, and all features can be controlled wirelessly by a smartphone app. For more power, say over a larger distance, there is a beefed-up Model 200. Both have a ton of other features

making them a versatile light for many circumstances by the way.

Built in effects allow heaps of creative control and of course colour and temperature are all controllable.

Placement Lighting

Let's say you have an indoor scene being shot at night, and have a need for light to be coming from a specific direction. A good example harking back to my UK police dramas is the baddie holed up in an attic with a single window. To the viewer, outside that window – but unseen of course – is a dark straight on a rainy night with a single street lamp. During the scene, you might see the blue lights of a police car gradually appearing.

Another example on the same vein is to simulate a neon sign that might be outside a la say Blade Runner.

New To Lighting? A Tutorial Part 2 ... (cont)

These are perfect uses for LED tube lights such as the Aputure Amaran Pixel Tube. There are varying lengths of Pixel tube available and all offer full RGB, powered by rechargeable batteries. Built in effects allow all sorts of possibilities when you need specific lighting needs, and these are controllable via a smartphone app.

Flexibility

Tube lights like the [Amaran Pixel Tube](#) are also very good in other ways due to their flexibility. For example, if you want to light a subject for an interview, having a tube light vertically lighting the person will give you a harder light than if the light is horizontal.

Product Lighting

Like many, I used to use a combination of a ring light and a light box when shooting product – something I have not done for a while admittedly, except for personal amusement. But I since discovered that if you use a tube light, you can get a whole new feeling and atmosphere to the shots, and it's quite easy.

See the rest of the tutorial [here](#).



Comment: "It Just Isn't Worth the Effort Any More"

I read a post in an online blog the other day that has to be one of the silliest I have seen in a long time when it comes to drone commentary.

It was entitled "*It Just Isn't Worth the Effort to Put a Drone in the Air Anymore*" and lamented that a combination of law-based restrictions and advances in drone technology had taken all of the fun and excitement out of it.

..."flying them seems like too much effort for not enough pay-off", he moans. Whilst admitting they are "still incredibly fun to fly", he says the regulations simply ask too much of him.

The writer continues to go on suggesting drones are now getting

boring, and blames DJI for this as they effectively have no competition (don't tell Autel or Parrot that although I accept in Australia they are small beer).

By way of example, he cites the new Air 3, and says that yes, two cameras are good but they are downgraded from earlier models with a smaller sensor and therefore the photos were "just not that great".

I don't know about you, but I think he has missed the point.

If you are a professional shooter and use your drone for commercial purposes, then maybe, just maybe you need better equipment.

But I think the old adage that the equipment doesn't make the photographer stands true, and as I have said before, I have seen some remarkable shots and footage taken by pros (and amateurs come to think of it)

using simple point and shoot cameras with fixed lenses.

Secondly, whilst the end product of a great photo or video is satisfying if you get it, that is not the be all and end all of drone flying – not in my book anyway as an enthusiastic amateur. It's the whole package.

And blaming the manufacturer for making enhancements? That takes the biscuit. What would you rather have at this point? A Mini original or a Mini Pro 3?

Finally, getting to the rules and regulations part; the truth I feel, is that here in Australia we don't have it that bad as long as common sense is used. (But I know a number will disagree with that).

The full article is at <https://petapixel.com/2023/07/27/it-just-isnt-worth-the-effort-to-put-a-drone-in-the-air-anymore/> if you are interested.