

Newsletter For Weekending 4th May 2019

FZ1000 Tutorial Series

By the publication date for this newsletter there should be a complete set of tutorial videos for new users to the FZ1000 (original version).

It compliments the FZ1000 User's manual that I wrote

I have created a new playlist for the series and you can find it [here](#)

FZ1000 Subscriber's Gallery

Subscriber Bruce Graner suggested that I start a subscriber's Photo Gallery – similar to the FZ200 and FZ300/330 gallery to showcase the imaging potential of this great camera.

So I have started a new page and added a few of Bruce's images.

Now I invite you to send some of your FZ1000/FZ10002 images for possible inclusion into this gallery.

Images can be of any topic (excluding the usual types that are not allowed like infringing, threatening, false, misleading, abusive, harassing, libellous, defamatory, vulgar, obscene, scandalous, inflammatory, pornographic or profane content).

You can check out [the new gallery here](#)

Submit your entries as an attachment to [here](#)

Tripod Mounting Plates Update

I'm sorry for the delay in getting these made/ I initially thought that may be a dozen or so people might be interested – however that has now topped the 50 mark!

I have had some problems making a universal plate so have decided to have a FZ200/300/330 version and a 1000/2000 version.

The first batch had to be re-worked to remove part of the plate which made it a little uncomfortable to hand hold the camera. In doing so the painted finish got marked. So rather than throw these out I have decided to release them to anyone who isn't interested in getting a plate with perfect paint job. They are still functionally OK.

These will be for the FZ200/300/330 and will go into the store page at just 5.00 GBP including postage. There will be 10 available before the new ones will go on sale at 8.50 GBP including postage.

Due to the fact that I will be on holiday from the 6th May for 1 week I will place these in the store on my return as I will not be able to post any out whilst away.

Manchester Photo walk 16th May

I've emailed the joining instructions to those who registered an interest in joining me on that date. The email address for David Hamilton keeps bouncing back as undeliverable – David if you are reading this can you please verify your email address please.



Bluebells and Panasonic Lumix Cameras



With our bluebells in full bloom at the moment I went out to try and capture a few of the beautiful swathes of colour – only to find that the FZ2500 had rendered the vibrant blues as a paler shade of purple. I had a similar experience a few years back with the FZ200 when photographing some blue flag iris.

My assumption is that infra-red light is contributing to the overall exposure pulling the blue hues towards the red spectrum causing the hue shift.

I shot some more with the FZ1000 and again the images show the hue shift.



It didn't make any difference shooting with a custom white balance.

If you were shooting a wedding with bridesmaid dresses with a vibrant blue colour you would be a little disappointed with this outcome.

Next week, in Scotland, where the bluebells will be about 2 weeks behind our blooms I will be trying again using the Canon M50 and the Canon 5D Mk3 as I think that the last tests I did at the time of shooting the blue flag iris turned out correct!

Images capture with my iPhone X also had a hue shift! I'll also try the Huawei P20 Pro.







Update....

I have since been out with the Huawei P20 pro and the Canon SX740 and both render the colours very similar to the iPhone X. On closer look the bluebells do look a little purple this year and not the vibrant blues that I remember.

And I found an image shot with the GX8 back in 2016 which also shows the same hue. So maybe it's me that is changing colour sensitivity!



Lack of YouTube Content and Photoblog Entries

Of late I haven't achieved nearly any of the goals that I set myself at the beginning of the year. I thought that I would have a lot more productive time since I only need to mind our grandson for just one day a week from the three days the previous year.

There has been a lot of time spent doing garden maintenance such as cleaning and staining all the decking that I built in 2017 and the general gardening tasks to make ready for the summer. I know that I have a fairly long list of DIY jobs that need to be done as well this year. Whilst I can still do them I refuse to pay trades people to come in and do them.

I had to have a diseased tree felled this week and the cheapest quote that I could get was £400. It was only 30 feet tall with a 14 inch diameter - I could have taken two large skips and hired a chainsaw and protective gear and still save over £100 but I decided to hire in a tree surgeon for this one because of the proximity to my neighbours garage. The next tree that has to come down will not be seeing any professional services!

I guess I am a victim of my own making with the amount of email responses and requests for help. The tripod plates have become a nightmare and I've just ordered some more material to try and finish another batch. This newsletter is much shorter than usual due to the fact that I had to re-shoot part 5 of the FZ1000 several times because of both technical issues (out of focus/ helicopter noise and mistakes) and the need to complete some other jobs before leaving for Scotland on Sunday night.

Arran Trip



Lamlash, Arran, by Drone

I'm so much looking forward to a week on Arran next week. I'll be staying in a camping pod this time so a little more creature comforts like heating and power!

I'll be shooting several videos whilst up there some for private use and others for tutorials.

I'm hoping the wind speeds this time are more favourable so I can get some aerial shots with my drone (DJI Mavic Pro). For the last 3 trips the wind has been too strong for safe flights.

I'm hoping to capture images of new seal pups which are normally born early May around the island. The Otters and red squirrel again will be hard to capture, I'm Sure.

I have the new FZ10002 to take with me so I can get a better feel for the changes made and I'll be taking the G9 and Canon M50 with me. I'll be trying a new speed booster for the EOS EF to micro four thirds system so I can get back to somewhere near the EF focal length with a brighter aperture.

I am really cutting back on the kit that I am taking this time as I usually end up not using the majority of it.

My Panasonic Camera Guides and Why I may not be writing anymore!

I have four guide books now on Amazon sites for sale:

The FZ200, FZ300/330, FZ80/82 and the FZ1000

The reason that the hardcopy editions came about was from requests from subscribers. The original manual for the FZ200 was ever only intended to be a PDF downloadable file for free. The only method available to me was via the CreateSpace publishing division of Amazon.

So I published the guide through Amazon at almost the Amazon production/mark-up cost.

I was not really happy with the quality of the images that were printed on the ordinary stock paper – The format for publishing is really intended for novels or books with black and white illustrations. The production cost of the colour versions, to me, put the books well out of the price that I was anticipating them to sell at.

So the book got very mixed reviews, some good and some pretty bad ones. The less favourable comments tended to relate to illustrations not showing the true picture as subtle variations did not show up.

My writing style was also highly criticised. I totally accept that as well. I'm not a technical writer and don't have any specific training in writing technical journals. My English teacher hit the nail on the head when I failed one of the set exams – "tends to ramble in essays!" Some comments suggested that It was written by a photographer for photographers and did not take into account new camera users. I do try to explain why certain settings are needed and the effects of changing them. I also like to augment any discussion with as much theory as possible so that those of you who want a deeper understanding of the camera have that as well.

In my own mind I feel that the publications lack that professional edge that most photographic text books have. I don't have the facility to add an index for example – but in defence of that when using the PDF format it is possible to search for any word, or phrase, which I feel is superior to an index built on the words that I might consider the most important.

If this was my main source of income then obviously an investment in proper publishing software would be a very high priority and a more structured approach using perhaps a template which could be adapted to other camera makes and types.

It does take a considerable amount of time to get to know a camera, test its operation, find the things that work and those that don't. Then there is all the illustrations to photograph edit and verify.

Without sitting down and writing full time it makes the process even more time consuming through constant checks and re-checks. I often find that I have written a section and then started to write it again (lack of planning or scripts to work to)!

The later books have seen the price escalate quite a lot for the colour version and, for me, it puts the books way outside of the price range that I would consider paying for a camera manual.

My suggested option of the black and white version augmented by the full colour PDF seems popular and, if I continue to with the manuals, is probably the way that I would publish any more.

Game Of Thrones – was the Long Night episode graded too dark?

Following the latest episode there was a lot of complains on just about every social media platform about the darkness of the grading of the whole episode.

Some of the scenes were so dark it was almost impossible to make out what was happening. Even viewing in a darkened room didn't do much to help as there was also a lot of macro block compression (viewed on sky satellite) which made the experience even worse.

The shows producers were quick to defend the grading blaming incorrectly set up TV's and monitors for the poor visualisation.

Tv's purchased within the last two years have superb contrast ratios and with OLED displays very capable of some very high quality screenings.

This begs a question – how do users know if they have there television set up correctly? With our computer monitors or laptop screens there is usually some way of adjusting white set point and contrast so we can see these high dynamic scenes correctly. But what about televisions.

In the UK you may remember that, particularly the BBC, a test card was transmitted before normal daytime television started. This allowed TV engineers to set up the televisions to

some standard setting. Probably as soon as he walked out the door the user would boost the colour and make it too vivid!



So maybe we need another “calibration” standard so that everyone viewing content on their television can be assured that they are seeing what the director wanted them to see. But that opens up a whole new argument about what light level to view the screen at etc.

Maybe a test image loaded onto a USB drive plugged into the TV would be an option. I’ll do some tests on this.