

Wrap up Video for the FZ80/82 revisited

Last week I concluded the latest video series where I was taking another look at the Panasonic Lumix FZ80/82.

I'm grateful to all of you who have followed this series and commented on the videos.

[latest YouTube Video](#)



In this particular video I show what image quality you can achieve with this camera provided that you stay within the ISO 80-125 range and keep the zoom setting below 900mm EFL.



An image from the video

Fujifilm X-T3 & X-T4 Firmware updates

Fuji has recently made available a few new updates for their line of cameras and lenses. No information other than fixes some minor bugs is given for the X-T3 and for the X-T4 it reports that it resolves an issue with battery charging in-camera. You can see the latest updates for cameras and lenses here on the [Global support page](#) Later Cameras can be upgraded via your smartphone/Fuji connect app, however lenses still need to be updated by downloading the file to an SD card.

Trying to remain positive during lockdown

I don't know about you but I have really struggled with motivation during this Covid-19 lockdown and especially so in the last month. The weather has been really good (for once) here in the north of England and I have managed to go out for a few walks in a nearby woodland. It's really annoying though to see the number of people who are out and about and are openly disobeying the government guidelines on social distancing. In a local arboretum, planted by a support group in the 1970's, is a memorial tree to my late step-father-in-law. When I walked by there last week just a few feet away from it there was evidence that somebody had had a mini-party in the grass adjacent to it. They had discarded their tent, two barbeques (one charcoal and one gas), all the food wrappers and beer bottles, underwear! and other rubbish. Where has all the respect gone in society these days!



I'm not really into politics etc., but I do understand peoples rights to protest etc. What I do not understand is why some elements of our society use this as an excuse to go and target these peaceful protests with a view to attacking the police and media reporters. Statues have had to be boarded up to prevent damage to them.

What happened in the USA was disgraceful but I feel this has now been used as a catalyst for other protests and outpouring of pent up aggression that have nothing to do with the murder of George Floyd.

Uplifting walk with the Pentax Q7

In my display case sits my diminutive Pentax Q7. Whenever I'm lacking the inspiration to go out and take pictures I reach for this camera as it is such a joy to use. It's an interchangeable lens camera and there were 8 lenses in this system. I only have the beautifully sharp 48mm EFL F1.9 prime lens and the Standard zoom 23-69mm EFL F2.8 lens now as I had previously sold my other Q10 and other lenses. The whole system has now been discontinued but these cameras are still sought after and still bring good prices on auction sites.

It was a wet and dismal day so I took this out on my daily walk through the woodland and captured a few images with it. For a 1/1.7 inch sensor 12MP it does capture some great images if you keep to ISO 100/125.



It doesn't have a very high resolution LCD screen but I do use a small magnifying loupe to help me check focus accuracy.

It's a great little interchangeable lens camera and it can shoot in RAW format (DNG) as well as JPEG's. Ahead of its time it also has "blur control" – now called computational photography so that you can simulate shallow DOF with the camera even though it natively has a large DOF due to the optics/sensor combination.

It's not perfect (nor is the iPhone portrait implementation) but does show the level of intelligence built into the camera.



Foxgloves with the Q7 and standard zoom lens.



Enchanted forest walk

It's a real pity that Ricoh decided to end development and production of this range of cameras. Add a convertor tube and it can be used with all kinds of legacy glassware. With a 5X crop factor it can give some very big focal length equivalent images. Providing you use a

tripod (although it does have sensor shift image stabilisation) you can achieve excellent images with the right lenses.



Smartphones for close-up photography?



With the later smartphones having multiple lenses including some short telephoto options is it possible to capture close up images such as plants and insects?

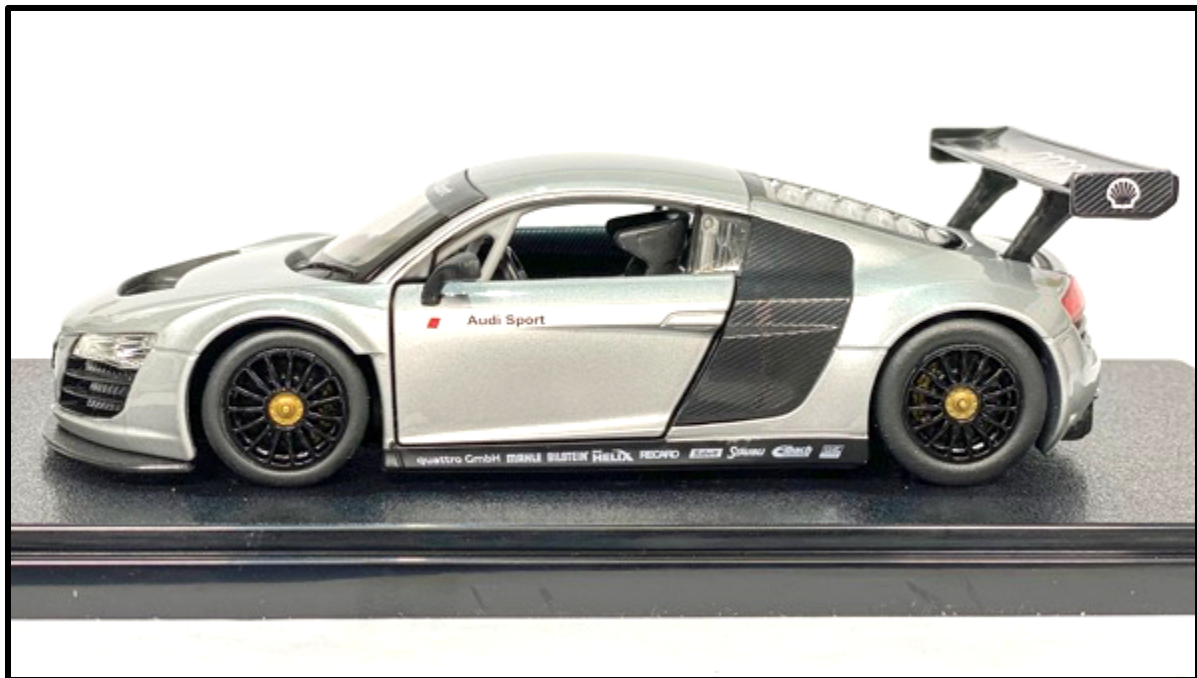
The adjacent image was captured with my iPhone 11 using the x2 lens. This little bee was quite bedraggled after a previous downpour and was quite happy to sit and pose whilst drying out! I'm constantly amazed at what these devices can achieve.

It's incredible with the optical image stabilised lenses combined with good optical design it is possible to go from close up to landscape in seconds!

The new Huawei P40 Pro + looks to even further close the gap between smartphones and compact cameras with the addition of the fifth optically stabilised lens giving x10 optical zoom at 240mm EFL with the 8Mp sensor. Pity the phone is Android and doesn't support any of the Google apps. Maybe the Samsung Galaxy S20 PRO is the better option?



So what's the iPhone 11Pro like for capturing close-ups.
I photographed a couple of my model cars to see how it handled the contrast and ability to capture detail.



I had to stack 3 images for the Ferrari (could have done with probably one more at the rear) but overall the results were very pleasing.

Third Party versus OEM Extension Tubes for Fuji Film X-Mount Cameras

When you look at the prices for extension tubes from Fuji for the X mount cameras they do seem very expensive. In the UK the price for the 16mm was £60 and for £25 I could get the 11mm and the 16mm tubes from a third party manufacturer. But what about the quality?



The FujiFilm are all metal construction whereas the JJC ones were plastic except for the lens and body mating surfaces. The contacts in both units were easy to push back so no unnecessary wear on the camera when inserting and unmounting them. The internal light baffles in each unit were grooved to prevent reflections



The machined finish on the Fujifilm lens flanges was very smooth. On the JJC flanges although they were smooth there was a little pitting and discolouration. On fitting both tubes to the camera body the Fujifilm was definitely a tighter fit with very little rotation when locked. The JJC was a little less precise with a very slight rotational

movement when turning the lens. This was not enough to cause electrical disconnect of the lens.

As there is no glass elements there was no loss of image detail nor could I perceive any flair from the sidewalls of the tubes.

It's really hard not to like the JJC product but it is easy to criticise Fuji for not supplying front and rear caps for the tubes nor a pouch to keep the tube safe.

Both were provided by JJC!

Identity Theft, Again!



I suppose that I should be flattered that someone thinks that my profile picture and name is worth stealing and using to set up accounts on other social media sites such as Google hangouts, Twitter and a couple of gay websites! Some of the sites also include images taken from my YouTube videos to make them even more realistic.

The truth of the matter is that some people have responded to these and in some cases been duped into paying money to assist with medical bills and travel costs.

In one case this turned out to be several thousand dollars!

This is serious and the websites don't appear to be that concerned.

I tried to have one account taken down on Twitter but they make you jump through hoops to prove that it is your identity that has been stolen.

You have to provide a government issued photo ID to them so they know that it is you.

Even then it isn't guaranteed that they will remove the account as they state that simply copying a name and image does not contravene their protocols!

Provided it is not used for criminal use seems to be the only reason that they will take down the account.

In all cases so far the image used has been from my Facebook page so I have changed that to a less flattering one bit I might even change that to a flower or something else if this keeps happening.

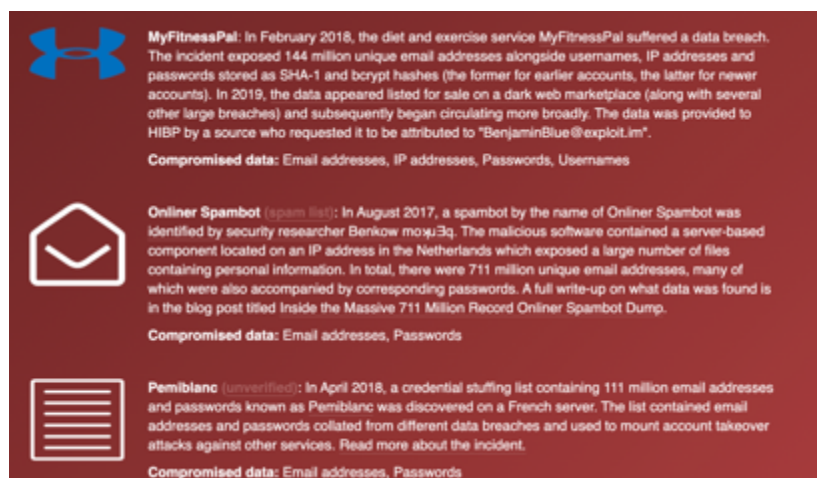
I have co-operated as much as I could with the two ladies who were "conned" by the person(s) in respect that I have assured them that it was not me that they were communicating with and that they should pursue the matter with their local authorities to try and reclaim their money etc.

In this digitally connected world it is so easy to pick up bits of information from more than one site to construct a full profile from these various sources.

There are a number of search engine sites that allow you to search for information on people even down to financial statements, county court judgements, prison records, health records and on-line transactions!

Some of these are paid for services but a lot of them provide basic information free of charge. Armed with this relatively cheap information it would be really easy to create an account and begin to target those people who are genuinely looking for friendship etc.

So I guess the moral of this is to be very aware of what you are posting on social media. It's tempting to show your having a great holiday by uploading views of you in exotic places but to anyone who has your address it is an open invitation to perhaps engage directly, or indirectly, in some criminal activity at you home! It's hard, and often impossible, to hide all your personal details. A lot of websites (like the one through which I send out this newsletter) will not let you do so without giving your address. This is done under data protection rules – designed to protect the recipient from spam or unsolicited emails etc. I think there needs to be some change in the way data is shared. Even your mobile is giving data every second of every minute that it is turned on to your service provider. Your location is known, the calls you make and receive, the searches that you have made, the Whatsapp messages and other services that you have used are recorded. Even deleting your search history doesn't clear it from your service provider – they have a legal obligation to store all of your search history on their servers and for several years! Your PC is caching every website that you have been looking at and all the images that were on the webpages are extracted. This is done to provide speedier access in the future (or is it?) If you know how you can see every image that you have exposed on your pc browser windows. I spent a few hours just seeing what I could find hidden on my iMac and Windows 10 pc's using commonly available search tools. I was absolutely shocked at the amount of data that the devices were hiding away. If anyone had access through an unprotected, open, internet port on my router then they would presumably be able to mine all of this information. If I was a few years younger, when my mind was still able to assimilate the technology, I would have loved to investigate further into how to protect ourselves from "cyber-attack" but in view of the Australian government being attacked this week it is probably a futile gesture anyway. All we can do I suppose is to be more aware of what we are posting on-line and hope that whoever is holding our data is doing so securely.



MyFitnessPal: In February 2018, the diet and exercise service MyFitnessPal suffered a data breach. The incident exposed 144 million unique email addresses alongside usernames, IP addresses and passwords stored as SHA-1 and bcrypt hashes (the former for earlier accounts, the latter for newer accounts). In 2019, the data appeared listed for sale on a dark web marketplace (along with several other large breaches) and subsequently began circulating more broadly. The data was provided to HIBP by a source who requested it to be attributed to "BenjaminBlue@exploit.lm".
Compromised data: Email addresses, IP addresses, Passwords, Usernames

Onliner Spambot (spam list): In August 2017, a spambot by the name of Onliner Spambot was identified by security researcher Benkow moqu3q. The malicious software contained a server-based component located on an IP address in the Netherlands which exposed a large number of files containing personal information. In total, there were 711 million unique email addresses, many of which were also accompanied by corresponding passwords. A full write-up on what data was found is in the blog post titled Inside the Massive 711 Million Record Onliner Spambot Dump.
Compromised data: Email addresses, Passwords

Pemiblanc (unverified): In April 2018, a credential stuffing list containing 111 million email addresses and passwords known as Pemiblanc was discovered on a French server. The list contained email addresses and passwords collated from different data breaches and used to mount account takeover attacks against other services. Read more about the incident.
Compromised data: Email addresses, Passwords

To check if your email has ever been compromised you can do a [free check here](#)

I had 8 possible information leaks including passwords and user names when I used Yahoo as my main mailserver!

What's Next?

Well not has happened in my photographic world.

I have a couple of new products that have arrived for review and I have purchased a few new items for projects which I hope will come to fruition shortly.

I've also started to declutter and have a 4 Cubic yard skip currently on my driveway that is slowly filling with "stuff" that I have been saving – just in case – over many years.

If I haven't needed it then I'm unlikely to ever need it (famous last words) so I have thrown it out.

Though I must admit that this is one of the hardest undertakings as I know the replacement value of the stuff thrown out will be high if I ever need to want to build something in the future.

I have printers and scanners, power supplies, audio systems, pc monitors and a whole load of pcb's that I saved from previous occupations.

I tried to sell a few of the scanners and printers but they didn't attract any attention so they are now in the skip.

I look at all my woodworking and metal working machines in the garage but I just can't let go of these as I do like to try to build things from scratch as I find this great therapy for me. Even though the finished items may not look that professional at the end of it I have at least had the pleasure of designing and building them and hopefully this is enough to keep my brain cells occupied and keep me alert for a few more years – if my body holds out!

Our lockdown is gradually being reduced but once again there are those who think that it is too early and that more lives will be lost due to Covid-19.

It must be heart-breaking for anyone in tourist or hospitality that rely on the summer months to provide them with sufficient income or for the small, independent, shops that must now put in place methods to ensure both their and their customers health is not compromised.

It looks like the return to "normal" is a very long way off and the "new" normal may be totally different to what we have been previously used to.

Well that's it for this month.

I do hope you do stay safe and well and I hope to communicate with you again next month.

Graham