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Venice

Flying Home

Photo Tours: Flying Lessons

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A Week Around Flying Lessons

Photo Tours: Venice

Around Venice: Wine, Coffee, Cicchetti

Photo Tours: Venice Biennale

Photo Tours: Lucca Biennale

Photo Tours: Venice Biennale Preliminary Notes

Venice Journal: The Unfamiliar Beauty

CATEGORIES

Photo Tours

Photo Tours: Venice Biennale

Photo Tours: Lucca Biennale

Photo Tours: Venice Biennale Preliminary Notes

Photographers

Photographers: Chinese Photographers

Photographers: Eric Kim

Photographers: Gabriel Biancotti

Photographers: Gabriel Biancotti's Venice

Photographers: Gabriel Biancotti's Venice Journal

Photographers: Hiromichi Ishizuka

Photographers: Jeff Ascough

Photographers: Jeff Ascough's Venice Journal

Photographers: Mary Ellen Mark

Photographers: Mary Ellen Mark's Venice Journal

Photographers: Nicholas Nixon

Photographers: Nicholas Nixon's Venice Journal

Photographers: Paul Strand

Photographers: Paul Strand's Venice Journal

Photographers: Robert Adams

Photographers: Robert Adams's Venice Journal

Photographers: Robert Frank

Photographers: Robert Frank's Venice Journal

Photographers: Robert Kadar

Photographers: Robert Kadar's Venice Journal

Photographers: Robert Mapplethorpe

Photographers: Robert Mapplethorpe's Venice Journal

Photographers: Robert Polidori

Photographers: Robert Polidori's Venice Journal

Photographers: Sergio Larrain

Photographers: Sergio Larrain's Venice Journal

Photographers: Stephen Shore

Photographers: Stephen Shore's Venice Journal

Photographers: Steve McCurry

Photographers: Steve McCurry's Venice Journal

Photographers: Tina Modotti

Photographers: Tina Modotti's Venice Journal

Photographers: Vivian Maier

Photographers: Vivian Maier's Venice Journal

Photographers: Zhang Kechun

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: The Unfamiliar Beauty

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Wine, Coffee, Cicchetti

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Flying Home

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Flying Lessons

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Around Flying Lessons

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: A Week Around Flying Lessons

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Venice

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Venice Biennale

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Lucca Biennale

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Venice Biennale Preliminary Notes

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: The Unfamiliar Beauty

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Wine, Coffee, Cicchetti

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Flying Home

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Flying Lessons

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Around Flying Lessons

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: A Week Around Flying Lessons

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Venice

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Venice Biennale

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Lucca Biennale

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Venice Biennale Preliminary Notes

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: The Unfamiliar Beauty

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Wine, Coffee, Cicchetti

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Flying Home

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Flying Lessons

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Around Flying Lessons

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: A Week Around Flying Lessons

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Venice

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Venice Biennale

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Lucca Biennale

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Venice Biennale Preliminary Notes

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: The Unfamiliar Beauty

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Wine, Coffee, Cicchetti

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Flying Home

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Flying Lessons

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Around Flying Lessons

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: A Week Around Flying Lessons

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Venice

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Venice Biennale

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Lucca Biennale

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Venice Biennale Preliminary Notes

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: The Unfamiliar Beauty

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Wine, Coffee, Cicchetti

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Flying Home

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Flying Lessons

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Around Flying Lessons

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: A Week Around Flying Lessons

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Venice

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Venice Biennale

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Venice Journal: Photo Tours: Lucca Biennale

Photographers: Zhang Kechun's Venice Journal:

perfect with the IS built in. It's one of those things where the extra stop would be nice, but the lack of IS is an issue for what I most want that camera for anyway. If only it was black, then it would be irresistible.

Posted by: Mike Peters | Thursday, 17 November 2011 at 07:47 AM

Aftermath and Atget, great shelf!

Posted by: Gary | Thursday, 17 November 2011 at 10:02 AM

'Pocketability' can be overrated, but there's a good bit of truth to it for some uses. With one kid, I can use just about anything - I take my Pentax 67 to the playground, or the Linhof Tech 70 w/ instant back to a birthday party. A DLSR or Leica is no big deal. But two kids, or on vacation? If it has to be carried on a strap, and can't be slipped into a cargo pocket or such, it's too big, too cumbersome. Which was my result with M4/3 - the Pen with 14mm was tiny, but add another lens, and taking into account the menu-itis that most M4/3rds cameras have....cumbersome. Better results with same effective encumbrance using my D7000.

I went through 2 of the beasties before deciding this, sadly, and I still miss the size, but realized that what I really want is an M9 or digital Contax G series, so...um, I'll just be sad.

Posted by: Rob L | Thursday, 17 November 2011 at 10:13 AM

I bought an Olympus E-PL1 body just to use with my Summicron 40mm f/2 lens. It's softer in the corners on a 4/3 sensor but has a lot of the other attributes that Ctein admires about this 45mm. Without of course auto-everything. Interestingly, I used to be that 35-40mm user that Ctein describes, but have now find that it's this 80-90mm range that I most use. I recently sold several prints made at this length - with a 165mm f/2.8 on a Pentax 67. The more I read Ctein, the more I find I have in common with him. Mike, should this be of concern to me or my family? ;-)

Posted by: Jim Simmons | Thursday, 17 November 2011 at 01:15 PM

Mike,
Could you post a link to your "pocketability rant"?

There are lots of cameras (and photo-capable cellphones) that fit nicely in a pocket; in fact, I own one.

But if I'm going out to take pictures, I don't mind carrying a camera.

I'm a little mystified by the complaints that every new camera that comes out is "too big".

Posted by: Paris | Thursday, 17 November 2011 at 02:41 PM

In your future review of the 12mm, can you compare it to the 9-18 I'm thinking of?

Posted by: Alf | Thursday, 17 November 2011 at 04:27 PM

Re: Windy... just I noticed that the foliage had moved considerably between images.

I've been caught out before using trees to assess lenses.....

Posted by: richard | Friday, 18 November 2011 at 01:07 AM

Try a GX680 for pocketability. If you can pocket that behemoth you can truly be said to have deep pockets. Yet Luminous Landscape takes it out in wilderness. A GF1 with pancake is pocketable and a GX680 can live on my back in a bagpack. Both have their use.

Greet, Ed

Posted by: Ed | Friday, 18 November 2011 at 01:53 AM

Someone should compare this against the G. Zuiko Auto-S 40/1.4 I currently use. That is quite a peach.

Posted by: robin | Friday, 18 November 2011 at 08:06 AM

Dear Richard,

Illustrations exist to illustrate the points of an article, not to prove them. If the tree photos hadn't been representative of the lens' actual performance, I'd have found different illos to use.

If you pixel-peep the comparison photos, you'll see that most of the leave and branches don't move from frame to frame.

pax / Ctein

Posted by: ctein | Friday, 18 November 2011 at 12:01 PM

On the lightness of this lens. I ordered the lens through Amazon (I think/hope I used the TOP link) so I could have it for a trip up to Vashon Island this weekend. It was due on Tuesday, so I was really excited when there was an Amazon box waiting for me at home. Imagine my disappointment when I picked it up and it didn't weigh anything at all. All I could think of was that I'd not gotten my full order of memory cards in my last order. Bit of a jaw-dropper when I saw the lens box inside once I'd opened it.

For me this is the main point on the m4/3 format. Cameras are a bit smaller (ok a lot smaller than my 1dmk3 :-), but that isn't were the big gain is. When you compare the size of this lense on the G3 to some other APSC camera, don't forget to put a 90mm f/1.8 lens on the front. Now that's a big piece of kit! I now carry the the 20mm f/1.7, the 45-200, the 45 f/1.8 and for the rare times I use it (I don't see wide either) the 9-18. Perhaps a slight exaggeration, but I think the entire kit weighs less than my Canon 24-70 f/2.8.

Posted by: Joe Sawicki | Wednesday, 23 November 2011 at 12:43 PM

Yup, nice lens and just what I've been waiting for so long. Only one thing annoyed -once upon a time Olympus used to provide a hood (shade) with all its digital lenses. This arrived without one. I am a firm believer that a hood is the one simple accessory likely to improve an image. I could buy one online for between $50-70! I ended up buying a cheap Chinese knock-off.
This is annoying cheapskating of the same category as the tendency of makers to supply a cheap push on rear lens cap in consumer kits, rather than a proper rear cap. How much do they actually save by these daft strategies? The rectangular hood for the mFT 9-18mm is essential but was almost impossible to find when i got mine and not cheap either. Infuriating.

Posted by: Andrew Fildes | Friday, 25 November 2011 at 05:18 PM

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