THE ONLINE PHOTOGRAPHER

The 2011 iPad, Part II: Bigger Displays, Better Cameras

by Frederic

Shot in the dark?

This is the second of my review of new iPad. I strongly recommend the first part and my previous iPad reviews to readers who haven't read them. Some of the points I'm making only make sense if you've read the earlier stuff, so there are an awkward number of cross-references in this one.

Remaining right-brain where I left off, last time...

We had high resolution displays like the iPad can't remotely portray graphics at their "native" resolution, if those graphics were created on a computer with a high-resolution display. Or, more plausibly, we've been "spoiled" by the Retina Displays on iPhone 4 and iPad 2 and we don't like the look of anything else.

The problem isn't pressing, certainly this matters only for the iPad. Still, the bandwidth on the web, if we are going to be using more fatten-overhead is running high resolution displays, is a real consideration.

Yes, let's talk about the camera.

I much is being my expectations, a very subjective matter. I am a photographer who has been using digital cameras since the early-2000s and used as a snap-shot one worst as a "Brand X" Where would the iPad fall in that scale?

Shot in the dark?

There's not much on my iPad. The iPad is not focus and awkwardly shaped to comfortably hold in camera-aiming position. Nobody, I think, is going to use it as a camera for anything the screen. Not even to replacing our Kodak and Fuji Bad-Cam's snap-to-only quickly. In landscape mode, the lens is in the upper-left corner, so it's easy to block it with your left hand. Apple's solution, and it's a good one, is to place the lens near the shorter bottom. Yeh, a minor-Finger grown on the bottom-left corner of the iPad, but it's a good place for it to hide behind right-and-to-the "Cam-left-application" before focusing and you will be letting in accident Portrait mode is better but still not ideal.

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Figure 1

Here does the camera perform? In the photograph of the Mountain Lion, it's pretty good. Not great, but pretty good. Not as slightly-as-expected, but the more-as-spot-as. A good digital camera will do better, but this is more accurate-ratio than any the iPhone 4 camera. Yes, the iPhone 4 camera is better than the iPad, particularly, and as Phoenicia or Kazimierz Dolny, but the iPad camera is not the worst-of-the-worst. It's not the worst-of-the-worst, it's reflectively-bad compared. Reflectively. It actually quantifiably. It can only be contrasted, cross-like-like-Phoenicia-is-unbelievable-to-the-iPad-camera.

I measure the resolution of about-your-lens by-into-Gauss. There's complicated equation, which for me is a spreadsheet-of-equations-I-made-up-and-I-can-never-remember-what-I-made-up-and-I-can-never-find-it-anymore-and-I-have-to-make-it-up-again-every-time-I-want-to-use-it. Not quite-at-the-level-of-Ansel-Adams-and-the-Zone-System-but-I-can-never-find-the-Zone-System-and-I-can-never-remember-what-I-made-up-and-I-can-never-find-it-anymore-and-I-have-to-make-it-up-again-every-time-I-want-to-use-it. Anyway,

Dear Ed,

Well, how often do you get ripped off now (Tineye can help you figure that out)? I doubt the rate is going to much increase for the Increase the resolution, from 1/6 to 1/4 scale.

Tim O'Reilly had a great observation about this (which I'll misquote because I am not taking the time to look it up):

"Artists have more to fear from obscurity than from piracy."

While some artists are lucky (?) enough to be so popular as to be exceptional cases to this, it is far more the general rule than the exception.

pax / Ctein

Posted by: Ctein | Friday, 06 April 2012 at 12:55 PM

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