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Article

D-30 Dreams

by **Graeme GUY**

Category: Camera

There are TWO things (at least) that I have wanted improved about how we currently shoot in the field. One is that we often have to wait hours, days or even weeks to see the results of our efforts. If you were on an overseas (expensive) trip it would be nice to have some feedback on your results before you get back home. The second thing that bugs me is that good transparency films are NEVER fast enough.



You always seem to be shooting on the margins of the system. There is one other thing that needs to improve but that is generally my fault. That is recording what you have taken. However I hear the cavalry coming over the hill to the rescue. In the last eighteen months there have been three high-end digital cameras come on the market. Being a Canon shooter (some say loose cannon) I was pleased to get my hands on a D-30 and put it through its paces. There have been quite a few articles written already about this camera (do a Google search) and practically all of them are very positive.

Lets go back through the above wish list. The recording of data is amazing. Not only exposure, date etc but also if you are using a zoom lens, such as the Canon 100-400, it records the very exact extension (e.g. 335mm) you used. The mode and compensation of the flash is also recorded. It is a marvelous teaching/learning device because you can go around shooting under different modes and then go inside to your computer and five minutes later assess the exact mode of shooting that suits the subject or answers your query. You can straightaway dump the unwanted shots. If you want greater ASA rating just make a quick adjustment and there you are. Change back again for the next shot if you like. You can't do that with film.



OK what about the first item on the wish list. At the present time digital cannot displace colour transparencies so you cannot replace your EOS1N, EOS3 or EOS1V. It is a matter of pixels v grains of silver, which are linked to colour dyes. The time will come when technology can "Pack the Pixels" and it will be goodbye to silver halide-based film. At the present time a D-30 would be a very useful adjunct to test the lighting, flash arrangement etc before you quickly switch camera bodies and blaze away with your film whirring through the back of the camera. The D-30 is also GREAT for shooting the kids (and taking passport photos).

Image Text:

Mandai Gardens, Plain throated sunbird. 400mm, 1/80, f8.
Red Ants suturing their nest. 180mm, f22.1/250
Baya weaver nest. 400mm, f8,1/80

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