

Olympus set to introduce E-1 first all-digital interchangeable SLR

Olympus has announced that it will soon release its initial entry in what it describes as the world's first 100% all-digital interchangeable lens SLR system.



Olympus' new Digital SLR System is based on the Four Thirds open standard. The system's interchangeable Zuiko Digital Specific Lenses perfectly match the imager so light strikes the sensor directly, which, according to Olympus, ensures rich, accurate colors, sharp contrasts and bright images even at the edges.

The first camera being introduced in the Digital SLR System is the professional E-1, which will sell for US\$2,199 (~CDN\$3,079). It features a new, high performance Super Latitude Full Frame Transfer 5-megapixel CCD from Kodak, the KAF-5101CE.

Initially, Olympus will introduce five Zuiko Digital Specific Lenses, one flash system, and a power grip set for the E-1. The E-1 and this first round of Zuiko Digital Specific Lenses and E-Accessories will be available in October, 2003. For full details, see www.olympusamerica.com.

Extensis to acquire DiamondSoft and Font Reserve font manager

Extensis Inc. has announced that it has reached a definitive agreement to acquire DiamondSoft, Inc., developer of font management software solution Font Reserve.

DiamondSoft will retain its office based in Mill Valley, California and operate as the Bay Area office for Extensis. Brian Berson, president and founder of DiamondSoft, will become general manager of font solutions for Extensis.

Extensis will continue to market and support both Suitcase and Font Reserve products and will be working with development teams in Portland and the Bay Area to integrate and extend technologies from both font management products.

Timeline-based track editing and direct MPEG-2 in DVD Studio Pro 2

Apple has released DVD Studio Pro 2, featuring a new user interface and a new timeline-based track editing feature which provides a linear view of clips, audio and other assets. In addition to arranging up to nine video angles, eight audio streams and 32 subtitle streams, DVD Studio Pro 2 users can do basic trimming, merge clips and manage chapter markers in one location.



DVD Studio Pro 2 also offers an integrated MPEG-2 encoder that delivers pristine video at low bit rates. Compressor, a batch transcoding tool that comes bundled with both DVD Studio Pro 2 and Final Cut Pro 4, lets users export directly to multiple formats, including MPEG-2 for DVD and MPEG-4 for streaming media.

The English language version of DVD Studio Pro 2 sells for CDN\$679. Localized versions in German, French and Japanese are available in September. Get more details at www.apple.com/dvdstudiopro.

LaCie introduces DVD+/-RW Drive with both FireWire and USB 2.0

LaCie's new Dual DVD+/-RW Drive supports both DVD-RW and DVD+RW formats, and can be used to burn both CD-R and CD-RW. The dual compatible drive features FireWire or USB 2.0 interfaces for connectivity to either a Mac or Windows PC, and can store up to 4.7GB of data. It features the d2 metal alloy design and includes a power supply with an external AC adapter to keep the drive cool.

The LaCie Dual DVD+/-RW Drive is available beginning at CDN\$459. Get full details at www.lacie.com.



Macromedia Contribute 2 now includes Mac OS X support

Macromedia has introduced Contribute 2, a new version of its website content updating software which now works on Mac OS X. Contribute allows users to browse to a page they want to modify, make necessary changes, and then publish the updated page back to the server.

Contribute 2 also contains new features that address both Windows and Mac users, including high performance site connections, support for SFTP, and drag-and-drop integration for PayPal. Macromedia Flash-Paper technology, a new low-bandwidth way to display documents online as an intrinsic part of web pages, is also available (for Windows users only).

Macromedia is piloting product activation with Contribute 2. End users will be able to install the product on two machines as part of their license.

Macromedia Contribute 2 is priced at \$99. For more details, visit www.macromedia.com/go/contribute.

Nikon announces high-speed D2H professional digital SLR

Nikon has announced the new D2H SLR, a professional digital camera capable of continuously shooting eight frames per second and buffering up to 40 JPEG images. It incorporates a new 11-sensor autofocus system with nine cross type sensors, a new DX format 4.1 effective megapixel JFET imaging sensor called 'LBCAST' (Lateral Buried Charge Accumulator and Sensing Transistor Array) and Wi-Fi capabilities.



The D2H, available by Q4 2003, is the hub of a new imaging system that includes new Nikon Capture 4.0 software, new NikonView 6.1 software, new i-TTL speed-light technology, new WT-1 Wi-Fi transmitter accessory, and three new lenses. See www.nikonusa.com for details.

Dynamic range of photos expanded with Photomatix 1.2

MultimediaPhoto has released Photomatix 1.2 for Windows and Mac OS X which, according to its developers, solves the problem of blown out highlights and loss of shadow contrast. This post-production software blends images of the same scene taken under multiple exposures, producing a High Dynamic Range image that can be displayed on monitors or printers while details of the original scene are preserved in highlights and shadows.



Photomatix combines any number of bracketed shots automatically, and the computed image is created as a new document. Photomatix also offers a comparison feature that displays the histograms of two images on the same panel.

Photomatix Pro offers six different methods to blend exposures, all based on different algorithms. The latest version includes the option to adjust the weighting given to each exposure.

Photomatix 1.2 is available in two editions — Photomatix Pro, priced at US\$99 (~CDN\$140), and Photomatix Light, at US\$28 (~CDN\$39). To download a demo, visit www.multimediamphoto.com/photomatix.

Graphics Canada show returns to International Centre in November

DMG World Media has announced that the twentieth edition of Graphics Canada (formerly the Graphic Trade show) is set for November 13th to 15th at the International Centre in Mississauga, Ontario. More than 10,000 graphic arts industry professionals are expected to visit and view exhibits by approximately 250 companies.

Exhibitors will include Adobe, Agfa, Canon, Hewlett-Packard, Xerox, Komori and Heidelberg. The show will be open from 10 am to 5 pm each day. Go to www.graphicscanada.com for more info.

ShinnType, Bergsland, JY&A fonts now featured on Fonts.com

Agfa Monotype has added three new font collections to Fonts.com, representing over 300 fonts and font packages. These latest additions are the complete product lines from Bergsland Design, JY&A Fonts and Toronto-based ShinnType, operated by well-known Canadian art director and font designer Nick Shinn.

ShinnType's offerings are comprised of 21 families, including Beaufort, a popular design that Shinn describes as "a kind of grotesque with small serifs and a no-nonsense, orthodox appearance."

JY&A Fonts is part of communications firm Jack Yan & Associates and features 29 typefaces, including the Integrity family, while Bergsland's 18 typefaces include the sizable Avenue family.

Go to www.fonts.com to see more.

New MasterJuggler 3 for OS X supports Unicode and AppleScript

Alsoft, Inc. has released a new native Mac OS X version of MasterJuggler 3.0, its venerable font management software.



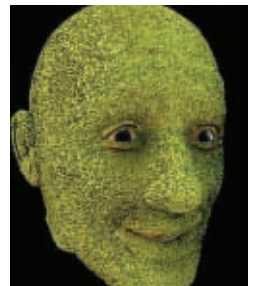
MasterJuggler 3.0 offers a new interface which supports drag and drop font additions and organization. It also supports all OS X compatible font formats, as well as having full Unicode support. In addition, the new version offers integration with both OS X and Classic environment, the ability to preview multiple fonts and sizes from within the MasterJuggler interface, and AppleScript support.

The new version still allows fonts to be stored wherever a user wishes, be activated when needed, and collect screen and printer fonts for any job. Font Guardian now has the ability to examine any OS X compatible font format.

Retail pricing for MasterJuggler Pro is US\$89.95 (~CDN\$125). Check www.alsoft.com for more information.

Curious Labs beefs up Poser rendering features in v5 for OS X

Curious Labs has announced the release of Poser 5 for Mac OS X. Key new features include FireFly Renderer, a hybrid micro-polygon and Ray Trace render engine; Shader Trees with material nodes; Ray Traced refraction and reflection; Dynamic Hair with growth, styling and physics controls; Dynamic Cloth with physics and parameter-controlled attributes; photo-based facial mapping, with a database of scanned 3D human heads and textures; a Morph Putty tool for interactive sculpting



and direct manipulation of facial expressions; a Hierarchical Parameters Palette with parameter grouping functionality; Hierarchical Libraries with support for multiple Runtime folders; all-new 3D human figures with fully articulated hands and feet, featuring photorealistic texture maps and facial morphs from Runtime DNA; collision detection; and a Content Paradise portal for access to online content resources.

Suggested list price for Poser 5 is US\$349 (~CDN\$489). Find out more at www.curiouslabs.com.

QuarkXPress 6 automatic font activation now in FontAgent Pro

Insider Software has released a new version of its font management and repair software, FontAgent Pro, which includes an XTension for QuarkXPress 6 that automatically activates the correct fonts.

FontAgent Pro repairs or eliminates corrupt fonts, partial and unmatched fonts, duplicate fonts, or unnecessary point sizes. It enables users to build font libraries and font sets, activate and deactivate fonts, and preview fonts in various typefaces.

Priced at US\$99.95 (~CDN\$140), FontAgent Pro can be downloaded from www.insidersoftware.com.

The Shadow Knows



You have to wonder how Quark's 3 million users interpreted owner, CEO and chairman Fred Ebrahimi firing himself as company president at the end of July, just weeks after a major product release, and installing former vice president of R&D Kamar Aulakh in the position...Breaking with tradition, Adobe has been showing off pre-alpha versions of Adobe Forms Designer, a new application due for release early next year that will automate XML-based forms creation...Word has also leaked out that Adobe will likely announce an October release date for its new "Creative Suite", in two editions: Standard (InDesign 3, Photoshop 8 and Illustrator 11) or Premium (Standard plus Acrobat 6 Professional and GoLive 7)...Adobe also now has a free 7.01 Photoshop upgrade for the Power Mac G5...Iomega is working on a new 1.5-gigabyte digital capture technology for camcorders, video players, and handheld devices that uses a removable cartridge the size of a loonie -- projected to be on the market by Q2 2004... Users of AOL 9.0 for Windows, America Online's latest browser, will finally get a QuickTime installer with the program...Creo has released its first major upgrade to Synapse Prepare -- v2 includes expanded Quark and InDesign support...Quite Software's line of plug-ins is now compatible with Acrobat 6.0...The latest PostScript 3 release v3016 now supports JDF, PDF 1.5 and PDF/X... And gourmet chefs may be horrified to hear that Japanese scientists at the University of Tsukuba have finally duplicated the experience of taste, creating virtual reality food simulation through a combination of thin chewable lipid and polymer membranes, tiny chemical sweet and sour squirters, and the pre-recorded sound of a chewing jawbone...

Macromedia unveils Studio MX 2004 with new Flash MX Professional 2004

Macromedia has announced the September release of Studio MX 2004, which includes major new upgrades for Flash, Dreamweaver and Fireworks.

According to Macromedia, Dreamweaver MX 2004 simplifies website and application development, offering enhanced Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) support, cross-browser validation, built-in graphics editing, and updated support for ASP.NET, PHP, and ColdFusion server technologies. Flash MX 2004 adds new timeline effects, easy import of Adobe Illustrator and PDF content, and CSS support. Fireworks MX 2004 includes an array of new design tools and effects.

In addition, Macromedia is launching Flash MX Professional 2004, a new option for Studio MX 2004 that lets developers organize and build web applications using a forms-based development metaphor as an alternative to the traditional timeline interface.

Studio MX 2004 (available both for Mac OS X v10.2.6 and Windows XP) includes Dreamweaver MX 2004, Fireworks MX 2004, Flash MX 2004, FreeHand MX, and a developer edition of ColdFusion MX 6.1 (Windows only). Studio MX 2004 bundled with Flash MX Professional 2004 will also be available. Pricing is US\$899 (~CDN\$1,259), or US\$399 (~CDN\$559) for upgrades from Studio MX. Studio MX 2004 with Flash MX Professional 2004 is available for US\$999 (~CDN\$1,400), or US\$499 (~CDN\$700) for Studio MX upgrades. Go to www.macromedia.com/go/studiomx2004 to see complete details.

Adobe revamps Video Collection for Windows only

Adobe Systems has upgraded and expanded its digital video product family. Major upgrades to Premiere Pro and After Effects have been introduced, along with Adobe Audition, a re-branded version of recently acquired Cool Edit Pro, audio editing software that provides complete multi-track recording capabilities. Together with Encore DVD, announced in April, these products make up the full Adobe DV family.

A new text engine in After Effects 6.0 allows users to type, edit and format text directly in the Composition window, providing immediate results. Adobe Premiere Pro has been optimized for multiple processors and hyper-threading.

Adobe now offers two editions of the Adobe Video Collection for Windows: Professional and Standard. The Professional edition includes Audition, Encore DVD, Premiere Pro, After Effects (Professional edition) and Photoshop 7, while Standard comes with After Effects (Standard edition) instead of Photoshop.

The Standard edition of Adobe Video Collection for Windows XP is available for about CDN\$1,518.50, or CDN\$2,278.50 for the Professional collection. See www.adobe.com/videocollection to get more information.