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Cell Phone Cameras

By Jakob Jelling

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by: **Jakob Jelling**

A lot of myths exist regarding as to whether the cell phone cameras are any good or not. The fact that people require to admit that these cameras are also digital cameras and they exhibit the same facilities irrespective of the fact that their sizes are much smaller and their functionalities are curtailed due to this particular reason. Hence some introspection needs to be done regarding the digital cameras and cell phones in their joint venture together in the technological world!

Looking back into the initial stages of development the availability of low-cost, low-power CMOS imaging modules helped to charge up the popular craze camera enabled cell phones in today's world that primitively began in Japan. That proved to be contagious for the rest of the world. From young students to even busy business people avidly annals photos of colleagues and whatever else passes in front of their phones. The popularity has touched sky high and the reason being the good quality that people seek at grass root level endeavors of photography. Americans have the urge to seek betterment in these areas also. They go about to seek cool new digital camera phones that all have VGA resolution 640 x 480 pixels. This is considered a safe bet that this phone is the most expensive model.

Much of a kind of ignorance exists apart from all this regarding the cell phones cameras and it crops from the fact that no benchmarks exist for objectively comparing picture quality in image sensors, camera modules, or end products. The helpless consumers thus have to rely upon advertisements to tell them much. Yet this is not a correct way to knowing a technical device. Considering the technological portion it can be said here that in the cell phone cameras some of the VGA handsets offer fairly good image quality. When you consider that the resolution comes from an imaging module that measures only 6 mm square, its actually pretty amazing quality. That square includes an imaging chip, a digital signal processor (DSP) that supports the VGA format, and a double lens that's packaged in a light-tight module. Finding room for this module is easy. Plus, power consumption is low because the imaging chip is CMOS.

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Considering the further improvements in the cell phone camera technology it can be stated here that some cell phones have incorporated conventional CCD imaging units that are still used in most digital cameras today. These devices require high voltage and a bigger battery. As a result, CMOS has taken over in VGA-resolution applications. It provides increasingly good image quality. All this discussion shows the various achievements in the technology. However it must be stated here that the cell phone cameras are really good but they are nothing compared to the actual digital cameras. The sole reason being that they are much larger and contain far more features. It must be admitted here that such comparison is irrelevant because they are definitely two separate areas of work in spite of the fact that they are both digital cameras. Yet they are diverse in 100% of all their aspects. Hence the comparison is irrelevant.

Considering all the important points discussed in the above lines regarding the various areas of the cell phone digital cameras it comes out to be something that is worth appreciation. Leaving aside all comparisons they cell phone cameras are digital cameras that are certainly good in their areas of

applications and mass acceptance and popularity would some day make them as advanced as their pioneer professional digital cameras.

Jakob Jelling is the founder of

. Visit his digital camera guide and learn how

to take better pictures with your digicam.

Camera Phone VS Digital Camera

By Robert Thomson

Cell phones with cameras are everywhere nowadays. It really makes us thinking whether we now have a mobile phone with camera or a camera with telephone capability.

What's up with mobiles?

The Sharp 903 cell phone now comes with a 3.2MP camera, the Sony Ericsson W800i and the N90 from Nokia Nseries both pitch in with 2.0MP (N90 has also got a Carl Zeiss lens and the autofocus). These phones have good enough quality for everyday pictures. And given the pace of development it is likely that the standard will only raise. Who would have thought that we would be talking of the music capabilities of the iPod phone, or anticipating the launch of the N91 from the Nokia Nseries with a 4 GB hard disc?

Why camera cell phone?

There are digital cameras capable of 10MP or more resolution, but who really needs pictures with such resolution? 2MP is enough for day to day usage and general printing purpose, and it ensures that images are not too large to be transferred to other devices. The picture quality of N90 from Nokia Nseries can match that of some lower end digital cameras. Cell phones can have files transferred the

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same way as digital cameras (cable, memory card and Bluetooth). The inclusion of MMS function in camera phones means that the images can also be directly sent to other phones and emails, which is not achievable with digital cameras. The major advantage of the camera cell phone over the digital camera is its immediate availability, the ability to capture that fleeting image without having to unzip a camera bag and fumble with settings. So you will not miss that precious moment again.

Professionals are up for the challenge

Five of the world's leading photographers (Juergen Teller, Jiancheng Dong, Nick Waplington, Philip Lorca-DiCorcia and Raghu Rai) have taken up the challenge of camera cell phones. They have produced a stunning selection of professional images using the N90 from Nokia Nseries, see it yourself at seenew.com

Are you up for the challenge?

If you think you're pretty good with a camera, take a look at the competition that can also be found on the site. Submit your shots taken with camera phone, and you could be assisting one of the photographers on a commercial photo shoot. Other prizes include the N90 from Nokia Nseries, two return tickets to be flown anywhere in the world and your winning images to be pre-loaded to future Nokia Nseries handsets.

Robert Thomson is a librarian interested in developments in phone technology and small device information retrieval. Born and brought up in South Oxfordshire. Worked in libraries in England, Scotland and the United States and is at present a freelancer researcher.

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