

> TESTED INTERCHANGEABLE LENS CAMERA

Olympus Pen E-PM1 Mini

Elias Plastiras inspects Olympus's smallest multi-lens camera

Olympus Pen cameras are lovely little things that combine the benefits of digital SLRs with the portability of a compact camera – and boast striking good looks. The PEN E-PM1 Mini is a 12.3-megapixel, Micro Four Thirds camera with a wide choice of lenses – and proof that wonderful things can come in small packages.

In our tests we used the 14-42mm standard kit lens, which is retractable and lockable. The camera captured

clear, vibrant images with it and was reasonably easy to carry around. For ultimate portability, you might want to use the 17mm pancake lens (equivalent to a 34mm in 35mm speak).

The E-PM1 Mini is fast when it comes to shot-to-shot performance and rapid burst mode (it can perform around 12 shots in quick succession before the write rate slows down) and saves images in *jpg* or RAW format.

The menu system takes a little time to get used to. The camera has no mode dial, so you have to press the menu button for the mode options. If you've settled for a non-automatic mode, you can press the OK button to change settings on the fly, includes white balance, ISO speed and exposure; you have to learn when to use the buttons and when to use the control dial on the back. Once you've got the hang of this,



Above The body of the E-PM1 mini is solid and smooth, and it feels like it can easily slip out of your hands. We managed to scratch it in a couple of places through not being super-careful with it

however, the camera becomes dead easy to use.

Focusing is one of this little camera's strong points – it's fast and mostly accurate. The image quality is top-notch; there's some muddiness at the pixel level, but overall it's in the upper echelon for mainstream cameras and on a par with that of its bigger brother, the retro-styled PEN E-P3. ■

INFO

★★★★★

CONTACT

- Olympus, olympus.co.uk

PRICE

- £375 with kit lens, excluding VAT

SUMMARY

- Pros: Excellent image quality; good high ISO performance; fast shooting
- Cons: No built-in flash

> TESTED NETWORK-ATTACHED STORAGE

Synology DiskStation 2411+

A quietly efficient file server solution impresses Trevor Middleton

Synology's DiskStation 2411+ is aimed at small to medium-sized studios that need a file server which isn't rack-mounted and doesn't require the services of an IT bod to manage it.

The unit is one of the largest 'desktop' NAS servers we've seen, its 12 drive bays sitting within a stocky metal cuboid about the same size as a large bread bin. The drive bays are locked in place using a key-operated mechanism, with two keys provided.

Each bay hold one 3.5-inch or 2.5-

inch SATA II hard disc up to 3TB in capacity, giving a total capacity of 36TB before RAID formatting. Should your storage needs increase beyond that, you can shell out for a 12-bay expansion unit, the DX1211 (£749, not including drives).

Closer inspection of the cabinet and drive bays revealed a high standard of finish, with most edges and corners nicely rounded: anyone who has sliced up one of their fingers during a rushed drive swap-out will appreciate this otherwise inconspicuous feature.

The rear of the DiskStation 2411+ bristles with ports and connectors. As well as sockets for the switched power supply and a port for the DX1211 expansion unit, there are four USB 2.0 ports, two RJ-45 gigabit Ethernet connectors (with link aggregation and failover support), a male COM port and a VGA connector (though for some reason it was blanked out



DigitalArts
EDITOR'S
CHOICE

Above The DiskStation DS2411+ eschews the fad for blue LEDs in favour of traditional green

on the unit provided for review).

We found the DiskStation 2411+ simple to set up using the Synology Assistant configuration tool. Even with both fans in operation, the unit was quiet in use.

All in all, we'd have no hesitation in recommending the DS2411+ to studios looking for a flexible, versatile NAS solution. ■

INFO

★★★★★

CONTACT

- Synology, synology.com

PRICE

- £935 plus VAT (without drives)

SUMMARY

- Pros: Excellent build quality; easy to set up; quiet; lots of ports
- Cons: Relatively bulky