
Photography — Guidelines for reliable testing of digital still cameras

*Photographie — Lignes directrices pour des essais fiables des caméras
numériques*

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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Tests based on visual analysis	1
2.1 General.....	1
2.2 Tests under conditions which are not replicable	2
2.3 Simple tests under conditions which are replicable (with few test persons)	2
3 Tests based on technical measurements	3
3.1 Catalogue of individual technical aspects and suggestions.....	3
3.1.1 General.....	3
3.2 Test criteria.....	4
3.2.1 General.....	4
3.3 Test conditions	4
3.4 Software and samples.....	5
3.4.1 Test charts	5
3.4.2 Evaluation of images.....	5
3.5 Archiving and documentation	6
3.6 Minimization of deviations.....	6
3.7 Preparation of personnel for reliable testing	6
Bibliography	8

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 42, *Photography*.

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Introduction

The motivation for producing these guidelines for testing digital still cameras (DSCs) is the increasing use of tests by industries and the press. On one hand, the booming DSC market attracts published evaluations and comparisons of its products. On the other hand, complex and, more importantly, reliable testing needs expensive test equipment and experienced and knowledgeable testing technicians. This guide provides direction and procedures for reliable testing of DSCs for those people with neither a photographic nor a scientific background.

The growing commercial development of DSC test methods and equipment is additional motivation for producing these guidelines as it is often difficult to make specific assessments about the usability of new test equipment and methods and about the reliability of their results. For the credibility of test methods and equipment the disclosure of the measurement methods and the mathematical analysis used by the manufacturer of the test equipment is important.

These suggestions follow two goals in order to improve the current situation for the parties involved:

a) Technical guidelines for the testing process

This guide gives an overview of the important, useful and useable test criteria, procedures and basic evaluation for the users and producers of test methods. It will help to avoid typical mistakes and will improve and secure the validity and reliability of the used methods.

b) Guidelines for the interpretation of test results

At the moment, there are no guidelines by which the receiver and user of test results, especially magazine readers and digital camera producers, can estimate the reliability and practicability, or in extreme cases the credibility, of test results. This guide will provide support in securing a basis for the assessment, analysis and even discussion with the testers. Therefore, this guide will provide more transparency in this complex area.

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