

AP Testbench

Over the next few pages we present this week's **equipment tests**, **reader questions** and **technique pointers**



Custom SLR M-Plate Pro £59.99

www.cliftoncameras.co.uk

CUSTOM SLR's M-Plate is a system designed for rapid switching between camera supports. It is a sizeable aluminium plate that is ideal for DSLRs and is designed to work with most Manfrotto RC2 and Arca-Swiss connections, with five extra 1/4in threads to attach other plates. The product is therefore more expensive than most single-purpose plate system, and as few photographers own multiple head systems this universal facility will be largely unnecessary. However, those who own a shoulder strap that attaches to a camera's tripod bush, such as the company's own C-Loop system and BlackRapid straps, will see the benefit of the M-Plate, because it can be used alongside a tripod. This means the strap and plate can remain in place when switching between supports.

The plate is attached using a supplied Allen key. I would like to see the key stored within the plate so it is close to hand. A hand-strap (£9.99) can be added to the plate, and the company plans to release a flash bracket and video rig. **Tim Coleman**

Amateur Photographer
A well-designed tripod plate system for switching between supports
★★★★☆

The AP guarantee to you

All our tests are conducted by people who understand the product area, as well as photography. We aim to discover any shortcomings, as well as finding those aspects that deserve praise. All our tests are thorough, honest and independent

BlackRapid LensBling \$8.50 (around £6.70)

www.blackrapid.com

FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS who pack several lenses into their kit bag and cannot afford those precious moments rooting around to find the right lens, BlackRapid's LensBling offers a simple solution. This range of rear lens caps is clearly labelled with popular focal lengths, so each lens can be easily and quickly located.

Made from solid plastic, the lens caps are most useful for bags that store lenses upright, such as a messenger bag, but otherwise the extra usefulness over regular lens caps is limited. Currently, the LensBling caps are available in Canon and Nikon fit. For this product to be truly useful, though, the limited number of focal lengths must be added to. At the time of writing there are too many focal lengths not included, with just five versions – 24mm, 50mm, 85mm, 24-70mm and 70-200mm – available for each brand.

Tim Coleman

Amateur Photographer
A simple idea for locating the right lens in a kit bag
★★★★☆



FORTHCOMING TESTS In the next few weeks AP hopes to run the following equipment through the most rigorous testing procedures in the industry...

Panasonic Lumix DMC-LX7

We test Panasonic's top-of-the-range LX7 with a 24-90mm f/1.4 lens and 10.1-million-pixel CMOS sensor.

AP 15 September

Sigma 180mm f/2.8 EX DG OS HSM

With a 1:1 magnification at 47cm, this latest macro lens from Sigma is designed for sensitive subjects, such as insects.

AP 15 September

Making prints

We find the best photobooks, prints and canvases on the market in our *Making the Most of your Pictures* special issue.

AP 22 September

Nikon 1 J2

A year after its launch, the J2 is the first follow-up to Nikon's 1 system featuring a 10.1-million-pixel CMOS sensor and improved LCD screen.

AP 29 September

Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ200

A 600mm f/2.8 lens costs tens of thousands of pounds, but this setting is available on Panasonic's flagship superzoom camera.

AP 29 September