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The Compleat Olympus Stylus 1s: A Guide To The Olympus Stylus 1s & Olympus Stylus 1 Cameras



Synopsis

The Olympus Stylus 1s, and last year's model, the Olympus Stylus 1, are the only cameras on the market today to combine the following features:

- 14 oz. weight -- including the lens
- 28-300 mm f2.8 constant aperture lens
- Huge, bright EVF eye-level viewfinder
- Touch-sensitive 3" LCD monitor
- Split-second focusing and exposure control

Some might say this combination of features approaches the ideal travel and street-shooting camera. I bought my Stylus 1s as a back up for my \$5,000+ interchangeable lens camera the day the camera was released. This happened a few days before I left on a cruise that included three ports in Japan, one in Siberia and five in Alaska. I was looking for a very light, relatively inexpensive camera with a fast lens and good telephoto capabilities that I could use if anything went wrong with my more expensive and heavier camera. However, after shooting more than 300 photos the first day in Tokyo, I found myself using the Stylus 1s nearly all of the time. It was lightweight, versatile and completely reliable. Unfortunately, I was really disappointed with the Olympus Stylus 1s Instruction Manual. I found myself losing valuable vacation time searching through the manual for the controls and settings I needed. Worse, the manual had neither a detailed table of contents nor an index. These issues led me to write this book. This book does not replace the manual, but makes it much easier to use. Within this book, you will find suggestions related to the settings you may try and why I am recommending them. These suggestions are based on taking more than 1,600 photos with the Stylus 1s and having it as my constant companion for the past three months. All the photos included in this book were taken by me with the Stylus 1s.

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Customer Reviews

I give this 4 stars mainly because of the high cost of this self-published book. I will add that the useful tips on SD cards and batteries alone could potentially recoup the cost of the paperback! The Stylus 1s is a great camera but is infamous for its frustratingly complex menu system. Despite reading every page of the 100+ page manual and practicing for weeks, I decided it would probably be worth getting this book. Overall, I've been pleased with it. The main things I wanted from the book were: Explanation of many of the functions, when to use them, and how to access them with least effort (there are often multiple ways to do things in the menu system). The author covers these to a large degree and I appreciate his sharing his personal settings choices and the logic behind them. It is also nice to have someone confirm when something can't be done or has to be done in an irrational manner (such as having to use the zoom button to completely un-zoom (reset) a displayed photo before moving to the next pic in the gallery- this should be a one-button operation!). I have not downloaded the digital bonus chapters yet but from their titles they should be both interesting and useful (especially the one on firmware updates - hopefully we will someday be able to stitch together panoramas in-camera plus take HDR pics the same as a smartphone). I was a little disappointed in the instructions for connecting to a smartphone - they were helpful but it still seems far more difficult than it should be. I did not see any discussion on how using the touchscreen to select and delete pictures can result in blood pressure spikes. There is a comment that jpg images will degrade if opened and closed - this is not true (if it were pictures on the Internet would have short lives!). The book could have been cheaper and longer if printed in grayscale and without many of the photos, which feel a bit like an unnecessary indulgence. The book often references pages in the manual (which is useful!) but I don't want to have to carry both around. Reprinting some of the more pertinent parts of the manual would have been more convenient for the reader. (Much) more discussion of the Scene & Art Filter modes would have been appreciated and enjoyed. Also, is there anyway to get a good-old Rule of Thirds grid for framing shots? Still, given the enormous functionality of the camera, there are limits on what can be covered and the book is definitely a good

supplement to the manual and I don't regret spending the \$30.

I'm not big on writing reviews but I need to make an exception when praise is due. I searched high and low to find a tutorial for my new Stylus 1s. I read on another website that this publication was due out in August and I checked daily waiting for the Kindle version to be released. The technical information is logically presented which makes it quick to absorb the detail presented cover to cover. Play around with the camera first in auto mode to get familiar with the dials. This kindle book was worth waiting for and the price is a bargain. Frankel's "handy pointers" will make for much better pictures. I've read this cover to cover twice all ready and I've gained much more clarity on how to better use the Custom Mode functions for facilitating my shooting with key feature changes(like from a moving vehicle or a moving target). I learned how important it is to make sure that the manual control lever in the front of the camera is in the correct position when I am unable to auto focus. The author even explains in detail what camera straps and safety features he personally uses. Maybe now the Olympus Stylus 1s user manual will make a bit more sense. Great find!

I've had my Stylus 1s camera about 3 months or so and I like it very much. I liked the book because it offers some guidance on why I would use some of the camera's settings. I think the book is very useful. There is a mention towards the end of the book about three free chapters. An email sent a few weeks ago using the form on the web site about this has so far been unanswered. UPDATE- (5/11/2016) - This morning I received the three free chapters via email as a PDF file, including an apology from the author, he was on a cruise to Europe.

Very useful book. Easy to follow. Does pay for itself if you have not purchased the spare battery by providing much more economical alternative. Am disappointed that the referenced website and its promises did not work. There is no way to communicate with the author that I could find.

Great companion to the Olympus manual.

This book is very basic and really doesn't give a lot of new insight into the workings of the Olympus Stylus 1s. Most of the information contained in the book is also in the manual. I can't say that I would recommend it, especially to anyone with even a basic understanding of digital cameras.

The Olympus manual has lots of information, but is often very hard to follow. This guide is well written and refers to sections in the Oly guide as it explains them in clear concise language. A must have for your Stylus 1 or 1s.

While this tends to be a very basic guide, in fact I discovered several features on my Stylus1 of which I was previously unaware. Therefore, the book paid for itself several times over in usefulness.

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