

Digital Capture

Jonathan Keenan has been working with digital images for many years but until recently relied on scanning of film stock for capture. The release of Canon's 1Ds camera meant that for the first time digital capture was possible at high enough resolution and quality to replace his medium format and 135mm format kit. This was without compromise in terms of quality or flexibility in working; in fact, both have been enhanced.

Consistent research into colour management and digital workflow has meant the swap to digital capture has been seamless and provided great benefits to clients, with faster workflow and greater ease of previewing.

Jonathan Keenan Photography practices a fully colour managed workflow to ensure consistent, perfect results. In most instances images will be supplied on CD as Tiff files in Adobe (98) RGB. This will be a file converted from its original RAW capture format and optimised for colour balance and any dust blemishes removed. Other creative post production is charged hourly by prior agreement.

RAW explained

In most circumstances Jonathan Keenan Photography works with RAW format image capture. RAW is best thought of as the digital equivalent of a negative but one having the ability to be processed many times to achieve different and the best results.

RAW is simply the raw data as it comes directly off the camera sensor, with no in-camera processing performed. It contains all of the information that the camera's chip was able to record. Typically this data is 8, 10 or 12 bits per pixel. Until the release of *Photoshop CS* it was not possible to open these image files with a normal photo package without using an "acquire module" (a plugin, typically TWAIN, which can open / process such images). Jonathan Keenan Photography currently works with *Capture One Pro* software as this has proved to provide the smoothest digital workflow and best quality processing.

During processing of RAW files, white balance, sharpness, colour temperature and minor adjustment of exposure curve can be made to optimise the finished result. Any of these adjustments made in *Photoshop* to a Jpeg or Tiff capture result in loss and degradation of the image data.

Flexibility and the control over final image quality is the overriding reason for the use of RAW despite the additional time, effort and therefore expense required.

If shooting for editorial purposes where deadlines are tight and images need to be transmitted, then Jpeg files may be shot. This makes sense for snapshots as well. Shooting Jpeg files with pre-set colour balance does not extract maximum image quality from the camera.

For information from another source see;

http://www.dpreview.com/learn/Glossary/Digital_Imaging/RAW_Image_Format_01.htm