

SIZE

MATTERS



EDMOND TERA KOPIAN

Photojournalist EDMOND TERA KOPIAN reviews the new Olympus M.Zuiko Digital ED 40-150mm f/2.8 PRO lens

If you speak to any of my established Fleet Street colleagues, almost all will tell you that they have shoulder and neck problems from carrying heavy camera gear. Any photographer who does press work, events, weddings, landscapes and wildlife will tell you that after every hour passes, the equipment feels heavier and heavier, causing fatigue and a sense of wanting to call it a day. Not so good for the career.

At the Olympus launch of the OM-D E-M1 (which has quickly become one of my favourite cameras of all time), Olympus teased us with a life-size mock-up of the 40-150mm f/2.8 PRO. Now that the lens is an absolute reality and I've had a chance to test, I can say without a doubt that this is one of the most important lenses ever launched.

The Olympus 40-150mm f/2.8 PRO is 16cm long (without a hood) and weighs 880g (including the removable tripod collar). This gives that range of 80-300mm (equivalent), all at a constant f/2.8, making it extremely capable in low light. To put this into context, my Canon EF 70-200mm f/2.8L IS II is 19.9cm long (without hood) and weighs 1490g. To reach the longer end of the focal length of the Olympus, I'd also need a Canon EF 300mm f/2.8L IS II, which is 24.8cm long (without hood) and weighs in at 2400g.

Optically, the Olympus is pin sharp, focusing is smooth, fast and



Edmond says this lens will "revolutionise the way you work."

quiet and the build quality appears excellent. In fact, on my first outing with the lens, it endured several hours of rain and performed faultlessly throughout. The handling is perfectly balanced too – I tried it on my OM-D E-M1, with and without grip, and both setups were comfortable to work with.

Being a Micro 4/3 lens, naturally this lens will work with Olympus OM-D and PEN cameras, but also Panasonic and Black Magic's Micro 4/3 mount cameras. It brings a reach and aperture previously not available to Micro 4/3. Crucially, it also brings the Olympus OM-D E-M1 fully into the professional arena. The E-M1 is Olympus' first Micro 4/3 professional camera and, along with the PRO designated 12-40mm f/2.8 and some impressive prime lenses,

olympus 40-150mm f/2.8 lens



Edmond Terakopian puts the Olympus 40-150mm f/2.8 through its paces at the product launch.



makes a great setup. However, the platform simply didn't have anything with a fast aperture and a reach longer than the 75mm f/1.8 (giving an equivalent of a 150mm in full-frame terms). Now, the E-M1 has a perfectly matched lens, giving it a reach of a 300mm f/2.8 (equivalent), professional grade construction and professional service. It's a match which works exceptionally well; I even found I was shooting portraits at the 300mm (equivalent) end at 1/80th of a second and getting sharp results thanks to the camera's built in stabiliser. With its new and tiny 15mm long, dedicated MC-14 x1.4 converter, the reach of the lens extends to 112mm-420mm (equivalent) at an aperture of f/4. Given its size and weight, this is great news for any photographer.

I'm of the opinion that the 40-150mm f/2.8 PRO now opens up the OM-D E-M1 to many professional photographers as a very viable tool. It's not perfect for all applications, but I'd say that it will easily

"[This lens] will revolutionise the way you work, the bank balance, and be so much better for your musculoskeletal health."

work for around 80 per cent of the photographers I meet. If you often find yourself working above ISO 4000, then a full-frame camera will be a better choice. Also, I wouldn't use it on professional sports; whilst the combination works well and great pictures can be had, the hit rate of pin sharp pictures on continuous focus just won't compare to something like a Canon EOS-1D X. Outside of these specialities though, it works beautifully and to top it all off, an entire OM-D outfit can be had for less than a top-of-the range, full-frame DSLR. I can't recommend this lens highly enough. An Olympus OM-D E-M1, a few wide M.Zuiko lenses and this amazing 40-150mm f/2.8 PRO will revolutionise the way you work, the bank balance, and be so much better for your musculoskeletal health. It's available for £1300. Give it a try. 📷

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