



The Charlevoix Photography Club takes a look at the latest Canon EOS 5DS R: the camera that packs a 50MP Punch. Is that reason enough to buy one?

Canon EOS 5DS R Review: Excerpts from an article written by Lee Frost, one of UK's leading landscape and travel photographers, published in the Autumn edition of the UK's 'Outdoor Photography Magazine'.

Canon 5D S R Review

Likes

Excellent image quality
Great dynamic range at low ISO More limited ISO range
Brilliant Metering compared to the EOS 5D Mk III
Fast and versatile autofocus
Mirror lock-up delay options

Dislikes

Slow processing on some settings

According to Frost, the most impressive aspect of this camera and top of the list of 'likes' is the 50.6 MP full-frame sensor, which is more than double the pixels in the current 5D Mk III.

After taking some comparison images, using the 5DS R and the 5D Mk III side by side, with the same Canon EF 24-70 f/4 L lens, when viewing the results at 100% on a large computer screen, Frost states: "although not earth shatteringly different, there is a visible improvement...". He goes on to say: "the 5DS R images are sharper with an obvious difference in image size between the two comparisons, due to increased resolution, and quality is on par with medium-format digital cameras costing at least twice the price with wonderful crispness and clarity and fantastic resolution of fine detail". He points out though, that the payback for having over 50 million pixels is that noise is more of an issue as ISO increases, because those pixels are smaller and have to work harder. To that end, Canon has capped the ISO of the 5DS & 5DS R at 6400, expandable to ISO 12800 via the High setting, but compared to the 5D Mk III the results are every bit as good.

Dynamic range also tends to suffer when pixels are smaller. Skeptics

are saying that the dynamic range of the 5DS R is lower than the Nikon D810 and the Sony A7r. But in tests, the dynamic range of the 5DS R in normal use is fantastic, showing a small improvement over the 5D Mk III. And according to Frost, you'd really have to push the camera to its absolute limits to find weakness.

You do need to use the 5DS R (and 5DS) with great care though, because with such high resolution there is no room for camera shake, focus error or lens softness. So as Mike Schlitt, of the Charlevoix Photography Club is always urging Club members: use a tripod! As far as lenses, Canon recommends using its own EF lenses launched in the last four years, as they boast the latest optical technology. By using older/less expensive lenses, any flaws are likely to reveal themselves, which means you won't be getting the best from the camera's amazing resolution.

Same applies if focusing is out or there's any camera shake, so impeccable technique is vital. And again, use of a tripod with this camera is almost a must.

Other features of note include the dual DIGIC 6 processors to handle the huge files – though with cheaper, slower memory cards, it still takes a while when shooting several frames in rapid succession. There are also two crop modes: 30 MP PAS-H and 19.6 MP APS-C if you don't need the full resolution.

LEE FROST'S VERDICT

With over 50 million pixels crammed into its sensor, image quality from the 5DR is superb, especially at lower ISOs. The camera also handles really well and offers fantastic metering. For landscape, architecture, travel and general creative photography, it's a winner. Downside? Raw files can be 80 MP, which means the buffer fills quickly when shooting sequences and you need big cards, plus a fast computer to handle those files.

To get the best from the camera you need to use it with great care and only with the best lenses.

Does Outdoor Photography magazine recommend upgrading to this camera: Absolutely, but hang on to your 5d Mk III for low/high ISO work!