

Bitesized Review

By
John Hallett Photography



Bitesized Review: Camera Cleaning Kit

For some years I have been using a lens cleaning pen (the one with the brush at one end and a felt pad at the other) but noticed the other day that the felt had worn away and I was just wiping the lens with the underlying rubber pad. Not ideal.

Therefore I decided to buy a new one. I looked on Amazon (Oct 2017) and was just about to add one to the basket when I noticed a camera cleaning kit. Reduced from a Recommended Retail Price (RRP) of £39.99 to £7.39 it was only a pound more than a lens cleaning pen on its own (and the kit comes with a pen) and so it seemed worth a chance to see how good it was (coupled with the fact that it was free next-day delivery).

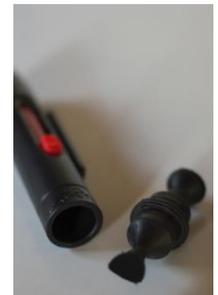
I should make clear that this is not a branded product and comes from an unknown manufacturer in China (I know this because it has “Made in China” emblazoned across its side). It is sold through Amazon by a retailer called Togetherone.

So what do you get for your money?

The whole kit comes in a handy lidded cardboard tube which is big enough to hold the kit comfortably without having to squeeze it in. The tube is conveniently a similar size to a small lens and so sits nicely & neatly in a camera bag and saves the individual parts of the kit from getting dirty.



The lens pen has the usual retractable brush at one end and a cap-covered felt pad at the other. Actually it has two pads which can be alternated by removing the end and turning it around – one pad is round for cleaning the centre of an optic and the other is triangular for those awkward nooks & crannies.



There is a small rocket blower for removing surface contamination (and even for blowing dust off a sensor). I was pleasantly surprised to find that it had a rear inlet valve to allow fresh, clean air in rather than air from just being sucked in at the front and then blown back out again. The only downside is that the nozzle is quite short which may negate its



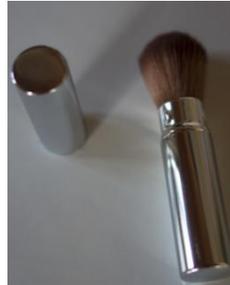
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use for cleaning some sensors.

There is a secondary, larger, brush in what looks like a lipstick tube. On removing the cap a large brush appears and, at first glance, you wonder how you are going to get the cap back on. But then you notice a small collar which slides up around the bristles allowing the cap to be applied and then slid back down. Genius.



There is also a small spray bottle for lens cleaning fluid. *It should be noted that this is supplied empty and you have to add your own liquid.* It's very handy when there is a stubborn mark on a lens optic.



Included in the tube is a small pack of lens cleaning paper which can be handy for adding a final polish after blowing or brushing off dust.



And finally – a microfibre cloth which can be used either wet or dry.



So that's all well and good – but does it work? After a long season of motorsport photography when I've been out nearly every weekend in all weathers it was time to give my kit a good clean ready for the Winter months. How did I get on?

Well it worked just fine. In no time at all my lenses and camera bodies were spruced up ready for some macro and landscape photography. And the tube is sitting in my camera bag ready in case I need it whilst I'm out.

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In summary it's a good piece of kit which is handy to have in the field. The fact that it comes in a storage tube that fits nicely in a camera bag is a bonus. To be honest it isn't worth £39.99 but at £7.39 it's an absolute bargain. How long it will be available at this price (or at all) is not certain so grab one now.

Pro's

- Good discounted price
- Handy storage tube
- Dual-ended felt pen
- Blower has rear air inlet

Con's

- May not be available for long
- Blower has a short nozzle

Similar products from other manufacturers are also available.

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