

Bitesized Review

By
John Hallett Photography



Bitesized Review: JYC Timer Remote Controller

If you have an interest in low-light, delayed release or time-lapse photography then you really need a timer remote controller - basically a remote shutter release that has an in-built timer.

This particular model is a Chinese manufactured unit badged as JYC (any similarity to the Japanese electronics company JVC is, I'm sure, totally coincidental). I bought it off e-bay for about £30 but there are cheaper, and much dearer models available. What you have to remember is that this is basically a stopwatch attached to a switch in a plastic case - and so I think that £20-£30 is about the right ball-park figure.

Of particular note is the cable - I have had personal experiences of poor cables on remote releases leading to an early demise but this seems to be a sturdy, rubber-coated one which looks as if it should stand the test of time.



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Batteries required?

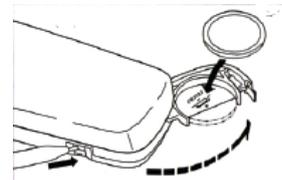
You may think that this is just another addition to the camera bag - but actually, even without a battery, this will work as a basic remote cable release. Therefore this will actually *replace* something you should already have in your camera bag.

Of course, if you want to use all of the timer functions then a battery is required - and this unit takes a small CR2032 lithium cell - with a claimed life of 3 years. Only time will tell but I do know that these batteries are readily available for about £2.50. A low-battery icon displays when the battery is getting to the end of its life.



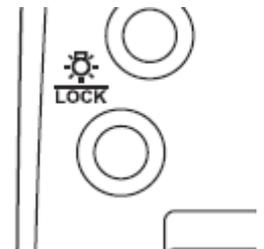
With any remote cable release, if the camera is set to bulb setting then the release button can be locked - very useful for long-exposure shots when the shutter release time is critical (when using a 9-or-10 stop neutral density filter, for example). This unit goes one better - as soon as the shutter release is locked down it starts the timer so you can see exactly how long the exposure has been. Beats a separate watch or timer, for sure.

The battery is simply placed in a compartment at its base.



Light

Now you may be thinking that this is great news if it is daylight, but what if it's dark. Well they've thought of that too and provided a handy back-light that illuminates for 6 seconds if you press the button. This same button activates LOCK, effectively disabling all other buttons if pressed for 3 seconds - useful to prevent accidental pressing of keys after a timed mode has been set. Pressing it again for 3 seconds turns LOCK off.



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Modes

The mode being adjusted at any particular time is shown by a black bar beneath that mode. The timer has four basic modes - which can be combined if required. This can get quite complicated to understand - and the instruction book is next to useless - so hopefully I can simplify things by using a colour-coded system:



The four basic modes are:

DELAY	A self-timer mode that delays the actuation of the shutter by a defined amount of time. e.g. to allow you to get yourself in the shot.
LONG	A long exposure mode that opens the shutter for a defined amount of time. e.g. to capture silk-like waves with a 10-stop ND filter.
INTVL	An interval timer mode that takes separate shots at defined time intervals. e.g. for time-lapse photography.
N	A dual mode, dependant on the combination of other modes - either sets a 1 second interval between shots or defines the number of shots in total.

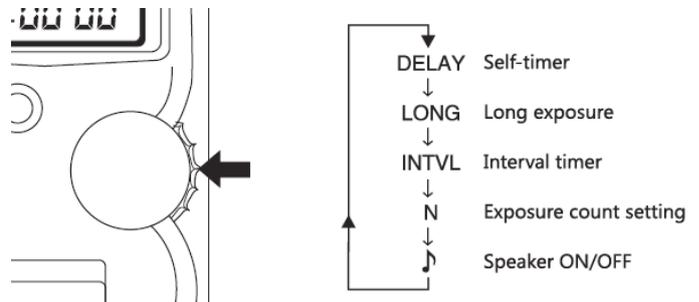
When we describe each mode in turn we will now use the colour codes to help clarify what we are doing.

Speaker

	But first we need to identify the fifth 'extra' mode - speaker. We can set the unit to bleep (or not) when in this mode. But more of this later. First we need to understand the Jog Dial.
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Jog Dial

To change between modes requires just a simple press of the jog dial on the right-hand side of the unit. The chosen mode changes in a cyclic manner.



Now some of the following may become repetitive, but I think that it makes more sense than the instruction manual - which (as previously stated) is somewhat confusing. So let's look at each mode one-by-one:

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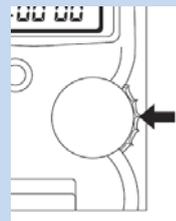
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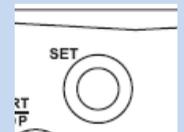
DELAY:

This sets the camera to trigger the shutter at some pre-determined time in the future, for example, to allow yourself to get into the shot.

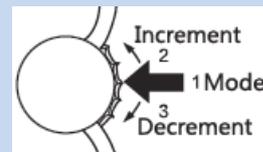
Press the Jog Dial repeatedly until the black bar is beneath DELAY.



Now press the SET button



The 'hours' will now flash. If you want an hour or more delay jog the wheel upwards in hourly increments (jog down to reduce). When you want to move to 'minutes' (or if you want less than an hour's delay), just press the jog wheel.



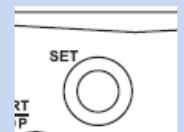
The 'minutes' will now flash. If you want a minute or more delay jog the wheel upwards in minute increments (jog down to reduce). When you want to move to 'seconds' (or if you want less than a minute's delay), just press the jog wheel.



The 'seconds' will now flash. If you want a second or more delay jog the wheel upwards in second increments (jog down to reduce).



Now press the SET button again.



Now press START/STOP to start the timer operation.



To stop the timer, press the button again. The settings will be saved.

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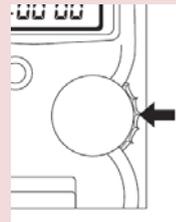
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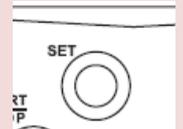
LONG:

This sets the camera to open the shutter for some pre-determined time, for example, to create that silky water effect with a 10-stop neutral density filter.

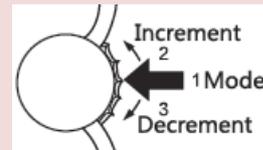
Press the Jog Dial repeatedly until the black bar is beneath LONG.



Now press the SET button



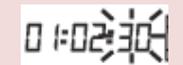
The 'hours' will now flash. If you want an hour or more exposure jog the wheel upwards in hourly increments (jog down to reduce). When you want to move to 'minutes' (or if you want less than an hour's delay), just press the jog wheel.



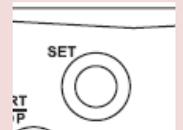
The 'minutes' will now flash. If you want a minute or more exposure jog the wheel upwards in minute increments (jog down to reduce). When you want to move to 'seconds' (or if you want less than a minute's delay), just press the jog wheel.



The 'seconds' will now flash. If you want a second or more exposure jog the wheel upwards in second increments (jog down to reduce).



Now press the SET button again.



Now press START/STOP to start the timer operation.

To stop the timer, press the button again. The settings will be saved.



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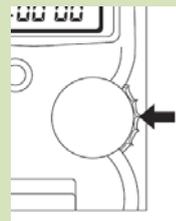
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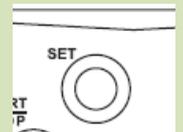
INTVL:

This sets the camera to repeatedly open the shutter at defined time intervals, for example, to create a time-lapse movie.

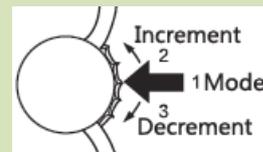
Press the Jog Dial repeatedly until the black bar is beneath INTVL.



Now press the SET button



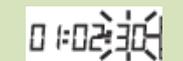
The 'hours' will now flash. If you want an hour or more interval between exposures jog the wheel upwards in hourly increments (jog down to reduce). When you want to move to 'minutes' (or if you want less than an hour's delay), just press the jog wheel.



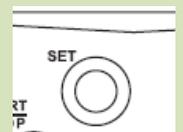
The 'minutes' will now flash. If you want a minute or more interval between exposures jog the wheel upwards in minute increments (jog down to reduce). When you want to move to 'seconds' (or if you want less than a minute's delay), just press the jog wheel.



The 'seconds' will now flash. If you want a second or more interval between exposures jog the wheel upwards in second increments (jog down to reduce).



Now press the SET button again.



Now press START/STOP to start the timer operation.



To stop the timer, press the button again. The settings will be saved.

Important note:

When choosing INTVL, make sure that the exposure time (and flash recharging time, if used) is taken into account when deciding on the interval between exposures.

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N:

N is a dual mode, dependant on the combination of other modes:

If no other mode has been previously set:	Pressing the START/STOP button means that the shutter will be activated every second.
If DELAY has been set:	Pressing the START/STOP button means that the shutter will be activated every second <i>after the delay time</i> .
If LONG has been set:	<i>Incompatible combination</i>
If INTVL has been set:	Press the SET button and use the Jog Wheel to enter the maximum number of exposures to be taken at the defined time interval. Press SET again once completed (max. no. 399)



Speaker

Press the SET button and use the Jog Wheel to cycle between 'sound' or 'no sound'. Press SET again once completed.

Conclusion:

This is a fantastic piece of kit for the price but unless you use it every day it can be a bit complicated in the field. Therefore I would suggest pre-setting it before a photoshoot - you don't want to be reading the instructions as the shot passes you by. Also, there is no global reset button so you have to revisit every setting and return it to zero otherwise you risk a combination setting taking place when you least need it.

Pro's

- Replaces an existing piece of kit
- Lightweight
- Has multiple useful functions
- Backlit display
- Good cable

Con's

- Needs batteries to be fully functional
- Complicated to use
- No reset button

Similar products from other manufacturers are also available.

If you found this review useful please let me know by leaving a comment on my Facebook page (or just 'Like' it) at <https://www.facebook.com/johnhallettphotographs/> . Thanks