



## NOVEMBER LENSBABY SALE

The good people at Lensbaby have allowed us to lower our lensbaby prices for the month of November. So for a short time a good deal is a lot better!

In case you don't know what a Lensbaby is, it's a selective focus lens (camera accessory) that allows you to choose where the plane of focus is going to fall on your film or image sensor. Simply put, it is a fun way to play with the focus of the picture you are taking, making some parts of the image sharp while the others soft. You will be amazed with the great photos you will get playing with these babies. With a lensbaby your photographs are a little different and maybe just a little bit better than the competition. I could go on and on but it's better to show you, so to see some fantastic results go to [www.lensbaby.com](http://www.lensbaby.com)

<b>Lensbaby G3</b>	Reg. \$ 286.95	<b>Sale \$239.49</b>
<b>Lensbaby 2.0</b>	Reg. \$ 142.95	<b>Sale \$95.49</b>
<b>Lensbaby Original</b>	Reg. \$ 96.95	<b>Sale \$89.49</b>
<b>Lensbaby G3 for Medium format (Pentax 6x7 or Mamiya 645)</b>	Reg. \$ 390.95	<b>Sale \$360</b>
<b>Lensbaby PL mount</b>	Reg. \$489.95	<b>Sale \$455.49</b>

*See inside for details on Lensbaby Workshop*

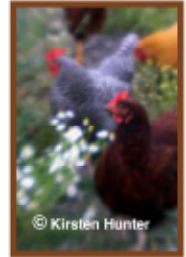
## LENSBABY WORKSHOP

Join us on **November 7th and 8th** for an informative workshop on Lensbaby products.

**Friday November 7th: 5PM to 7PM** Come in for an informal "Meet and Greet" with Kirsten Hunter from Lensbaby. Enjoy some snacks and refreshments and bring in a couple of your baby photos (Lensbaby photos that is ) to break the ice.

**Saturday November 8th: 11AM till 3PM** Join us for the **Workshop** part of the event. We will start off with a **slide & Video presentation** of various styles and effects you can achieve in both **Still photography and Video/Film production**. Then we will move into the **instructional segment** where you will learn how to use a Lensbaby to achieve these great effects and some tricks of the trade as well. Next is the **"Free Range Runaround"** Sign-out a Lensbaby, " Muse", " Composer", "3G or 3GPL". Mount it on your camera and run around the block or the city taking pictures (we won't keep you penned-in). Come back and exchange it for another Lensbaby or "Optic", and run around again. We will have Canon, Nikon, LPL, some Pentax and Sony mounts. So bring in your Video /Digital or Film camera that takes these mounts and have a lot of fun. Finally the **"Show and Tell"** event. Show your work, or not it's up to you. This is a great time to talk about what worked for you and what didn't. We will even print up a couple prints on Hahnemühle paper for you to take home.

This event is cosponsored by Beau Photo & Lensbaby and is free of charge, but you must RSVP to Ken at [prosules@beauphoto.com](mailto:prosules@beauphoto.com) or call 604 734 7771 and reserve a spot and let me know if you are video, film, or digital still based and what camera you will be bringing.



## FIELD REPORT: CANON EOS-50D

*Mike*

In late September, I went on a one week trip to central Washington state. I decided to delay my leaving by a day since Canon had promised that I would have my new Canon EOS-50D air-shipped to arrive Monday. It did, so I picked it up and headed south. Following are some condensed comments on how this camera performed... and you can find the full text of this 4 page review on the digital page of our website at [www.photophoto.com/digital/](http://www.photophoto.com/digital/)

**First Impressions:** Camera is very similar to my "old" 40D with a slightly more textured body which seems to offer a more secure grip. Silver mode dial is a little distracting but after a day I did not notice it any more. When I received my 40D, it had 20 plus dust specks on the sensor, right out of the box from Canon. When I opened and checked the 50D for dust, I am happy to report that there was just two very faint specks, not at all bothersome, so I did not need to clean it. Excellent! Generally the camera feels more or less exactly like the 40D, which is, in my opinion, a good thing. I remembered to swap out the grid focusing-screen from my 40D before leaving and luckily it is compatible with the 50D as well.

Knowing how big the images were going to be from this camera (raw CR2 files are roughly twice the size as those from the 40D) I had already purchased a few Lexar Pro UDMA 4GB

300x CF cards for it, and I'm glad I did – it really is noticeable when using fast cards on this camera. When using fast cards, the 50D's responsiveness is extremely impressive: despite the 50% greater pixel count than the 40D, it does not feel any slower... indeed if anything, it generally gives the impression of speedier performance, at least as far as playback scrolling and zooming in on images. When it comes to shooting, the fractional drop in fps certainly is not noticeable although the slightly smaller raw buffer (16 frames, instead of 17 on the 40D) is somewhat disappointing – with memory prices what they are today, I was hoping for a slight improvement and not a drop in buffer size. However I suppose I can forgive a one frame drop in the raw buffer: a 15.1 megapixel camera that can shoot at over 6fps, with a 16-shot raw buffer (or 90+ large-fine JPEG frames with a UDMA card!), priced at around \$1400, really is a tremendously good deal!

Playing back the first test images I took on the big 3” LCD was a revelation! I am not so much talking about the new 920,000-pixel 3” LCD screen itself (yes, it is very nice and sharp, the UI looks great, the colour balance is excellent and so on) but rather the biggest improvement I feel is that one can now accurately judge the sharpness of a raw file on playback - hallelujah! What has Canon done? Well the 50D is the first Canon xxD series camera that embeds a full-resolution JPEG preview into the raw file, so when one plays back a raw and zooms in, one is seeing true pixel-level detail, rather than a scaled-up and fuzzy looking low-resolution image like all its predecessors. Finally!

If you want to read about how much of a nose-print magnet this new screen is though, see the expanded article on our website!

**RAW Image quality:** I'm sure this is what everyone wants to know so I will make an attempt at describing it as best I can in this section. Note that these comments apply to shooting raw files, however I will add a few comments on in-camera JPEGs at the end also. In addition, at the end of this review, I will provide links to some full-resolution “zoomify” images that you can look at, just to get a better idea of image quality for yourselves. Before I go any further, let me mention that my EOS-50D came with the earliest known production firmware, version 1.01. Some currently shipping 50D bodies have 1.02 and even 1.03 installed, although as of this writing, Canon has not yet provided any downloadable firmware updates. According to several tests I have read, the newer firmware noticeably improves high ISO image quality, so I am eagerly awaiting an update!

First, let me talk about low to moderate ISO images, say from 100 to 800 ISO: in this range the pixel level image quality of the 50D is very similar to the 40D, all in all a very good thing. Tremendous dynamic range, gorgeous colour, minimal noise with lots and lots of room to push, pull and stretch the contrast and colour of a raw file. When I started shooting with my 40D, there was something very hard to quantify about the raw files when compared to the 30D and 20D I shot before it – somehow I felt I simply had more room to work the files and the results were somehow just better looking. Maybe it was the 14-bit raws, versus the older 12 bit? I don't know, but happily the same versatility seems to be there with the 50D. The much higher resolution sensor, with its necessarily smaller pixels, does not seem to have lost this useful trait to any great extent.

Speaking of higher resolution, is it really noticeable over the 40D? Well clearly having 50% more pixels ought to be better, right? Well yes, absolutely... with a few caveats however. When you take a “technically perfect” shot -low ISO, high enough shutter speed or tripod, sharp lens at its sweet spot, good exposure, good raw converter at optimal settings (more on that later)- then indeed the resolution improvement of the 15.1 MP sensor is quite noticeable from the 10.1 MP of the 40D. Detail is truly amazing and photos have excellent “crop-ability” if needed. So, in order to reap the resolution benefits of this new sensor, you really have to know what you are doing. Forget about cheap zooms and crappy “kit” lenses! You

are going to need 'L' glass, or at the very least, a bag full of primes. Even some inexpensive primes, which perform well on all other Canon bodies, start to show their limitations on the 50D. For example, I have a cheap yet generally excellent EF 35mm f/2 lens. For the first time, I can really see that there is a quality improvement when you close it down a couple of stops from wide open – my 40D did not have enough resolution to show that clearly. My beloved EF-S 10-22mm zoom, an overall brilliant lens, is starting to look long-in-the-tooth as far as corner sharpness at some focal lengths and wider open f-stops although I did get some very sharp shots with it too.

Luckily my EF-S 60mm f/2.8 Macro, EF 70-200 f/4L IS and EF 400mm f/5.6L are all up to the task and gave stunningly sharp results across the board. Canon seems to have a fairly light anti-aliasing sensor on the camera and/or the images can take a lot of small-radius sharpening without breaking down. So in a nutshell, with proper technique, yes one can really take advantage of all those megapixels, even though the 50D is not a full-frame camera.

**Diffraction:** What about diffraction, you might ask – is it worse than the 40D and does it not limit your resolution in many cases? Well, for the full (very detailed) explanation, see the article on our site, but suffice to say for now that yes, diffraction effects can be more visible when a lens is stopped down to f/16 or higher than on the 40D, but if you make the same size print from both cameras, the effect will be exactly the same – the 50D will not look any worse.

Okay, so that was resolution and diffraction. So now how about Canon's claim of 1-1.5 stops less noise at high ISOs than the 40D? Well... now there's a very good question. Let me put it this way: if you are shooting JPEGs with the default settings on the camera then yes, a 40D at its default settings will appear just a little noisier. However, this improvement does not appear to come from an inherently less noisy sensor, rather Canon is using some very sophisticated noise processing to clean up those high ISO JPEG files. Again for the full scoop, see our website as mentioned earlier. Suffice to say that the image quality from the 50D is still extremely good, and if you stay under ISO 3200, you'll likely be very happy with it. Just don't expect to make a decent looking print larger than a 4"x6" from images shot at ISO 6400 or 12800 since beyond ISO 1600, the noise levels increase very quickly.

**UPDATE!** Canon has released firmware version 1.03 just as this article was about to "go to press" and I have done some limited testing. Unfortunately there appears to be very little change in high ISO image quality. After a few dozen careful test shots comparing the new firmware to the old, all I can see is perhaps a slight reduction in banding artifacts at 6400 and 12800 ISO. No real difference in noise levels or hot pixel speckling in 30 second dark-frame test shots. That does not bode well for my long-duration night shots unfortunately. This seems to be the case not only for raw files but JPEGs also: no major changes in noise-reduction algorithms it seems. The main reason for this firmware update seems to be to address certain rare cases of "Error 99" lockups, something I have not experienced at all on my own 50D.

**Software:** In short, I am extremely impressed with Canon's latest version of Digital Photo Professional (DPP), their bundled workflow and raw-conversion software. Without going into huge detail here (again, see our website article for the full scoop), let me just say that DPP is as capable (if not more so) than any other raw conversion program out there. Apart from speed issues (it is sluggish), the quality of DPP's raw conversions is truly top-notch!

**Miscellany:** The formerly near useless Direct-Print button has been given a second task – it now activates Live-View also, taking that function away from the Set button in the rear control-dial – hurray! I always found it too easy to activate Live-View by accident on my 40D, so this is a very welcome change.

Lens-AF-micro-adjustment, formerly limited to the 1-series pro bodies, has now found its way into the 50D. I have not yet seen a need for it, but it's nice to know it's there just in case.

So there you have it: my first impressions of Canon's latest prosumer camera, the EOS-50D. For some example images and zoomify links, please see my own website at [www.sublimephoto.com/50D/](http://www.sublimephoto.com/50D/) and again, for the full review, see our website as mentioned at the top of this article.

## HASSELBLAD *Mike*

There is a blowout special on the **16 megapixel original CFV Digital Back** that works with any older Hasselblad V-series camera. How does \$7500 grab ya? The new CFV II, with a slightly improved rear display, is selling for \$12,700, so you can see significant savings on the last model!

Also, mark your calendars! **On Tuesday, December 9th we will be having another Hasselblad open house.** On display for demonstration will (hopefully) be the new 50 megapixel H3DII-50 and the much anticipated HTS Tilt/Shift adapter. Details to follow - watch your email inbox for more!

**Join us on Saturday November 22nd from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Langara College for a Profoto Lighting Event.**

Beau Photo Supplies and Blazes Photographic are presenting a Profoto Lighting **"Info-Afternoon"**. Come on down to Langara College and see what's new and exciting from Profoto. Check out the new Pro-8a Pack, and see what improvements have been made. Have a look at your portable options with the 7b, B2 and the AcuteB 600. Try out the D4, the Ultimate in studio lighting control. The D4 is a fully adjustable pack where you can even adjust your lighting output from your computer. Try out the compact line of monoblocks for those who prefer to shoot pack free. A must see will be the new line of Profoto Giants.

The Giant reflectors 180, 240 and 300 all feature a deep parabolic shape for even parallel light output. These reflectors give off a bright, even light and offer the photographer greater control in shaping the light. We will demo a giant reflector and a variety of other Profoto products. As well, we will have promotional pricing on all Profoto products and accessories. So come on down and be a part of this event.



**Profoto**  
The Light Shaping Company



**Educators:** Please note that special **Educational Pricing** will be in place for this event. So invite your decision making counterparts.

Please RSVP to Ken at [prosales@beauphoto.com](mailto:prosales@beauphoto.com) or call 604 734 7771 and let us know your coming.

## RENTALS

*Kathy*

Cameras cameras everywhere! The new cameras are (almost) all here! To review the full line-up: In Nikon, we have the **Nikon D3, D700, D300, and the D90**. In our Canon lineup there is the **Canon 1Ds MkIII** (not brand new but still great!) the **1D MkIII, 1Ds MkII, 5D, 50D, 40D, and a Rebel Xti**. Missing from this list is the new Canon 5D MkII which we hope to have by the end of November or early December. This seems like a lot of cameras, but they are quite busy as renting is the perfect way to try one of these fresh out of the box bodies before you invest in one of your own.

And, just back from **New York**, I had a chance to see the new **Hensel porty pack**. It uses a lithium-ion battery instead of the usual lead-acid batteries that have weighed us down for so long. The new battery is a lot lighter, and the pack has quite a different design than its' previous models. We will be replacing our current packs with the new ones as soon as we are able to order them. This could be a great battery powered alternative that won't break your back! The Profoto booth had about 7 or 8 of the new Pr0 8 air packs on display. They are nice looking packs, featuring a super fast recycle time that allows you to shoot up to 20 flashes per second! They can be fully controlled from your computer so if you are shooting with a tethered camera, you could potentially do a whole shoot without leaving your chair! With an estimated retail price of \$14,000.00, it may be a bit before we get one in rentals. But if you want to see one for yourself, come by our *Profoto evening on Saturday November 22nd at Langara College*. The Profoto rep will be there with some new gear for you to try out. Call Ken to RSVP so we know how many people to expect.

## OMNI BOUNCE OM 900

*Jason*

**For the Nikon SB-900 flash From STO-FEN products.** The Omni-Bounce creates a "Diffused Bare Bulb Effect". Giving even coverage across the entire frame, with lenses from 15mm to 200mm in the 35mm format - and equal in other formats as well. The Omni-Bounce is easy to use and goes onto and off of your flash in seconds with a custom fitting. Designed for years of service without the bulk of some other diffusers, it is small enough to fit easily into your gadget bag or pocket. The Omni-Bounce, often called the "Softie", is an almost perfect product for the powerhouse flashguns of today. It weighs in at just 15g and simply clips onto the head of the flashgun. It softens the light in general use, as well as eliminates red-eye and reflections off windows and spectacles. In more specific use it gives the delightful softness of an umbrella and all the directional coverage of a bare bulb. Very clever and now very famous as it is frequently seen on news programmes as the Omni-Bounce is used by press photographers world-wide.

**November sale price:**  
**\$24.95**

## RENAISSANCE ALBUMS *Timshell*

*First comes Love, then comes Marriage, then comes the Loonie dropping like a pigeon turd from the Bridal Arch!?!? What?*

Alright people, we've all been hearing about it for a few weeks now. Our dollar is dropping, prices are rising and people are complaining.

For good reason too! Especially in the field of Photography prices are high enough as it is without some two bit recession threatening to muck things up even more. In any case, here at Beau we are doing all that we can to normalize, stabilize, and visualize a world without stress, for all of us, and in this case that means avoiding price increases as long as we can.

To put that in the context of Renaissance Album's, we are eating it. For now, but with a big friendly Beau grin on our faces. So, get out there, buy property, invest in Yukon Gold and just generally do whatever it is that makes the dollar grow (Do I look like an economics major?), so that we can beat the pants off the US dollar again!

Remember those days? Weren't they nice? Well, lets hope we get a reminder soon, cause if we don't prices are going up.

## PHOTO FOLDERS *Barb*

We're coming down to the wire. Any supplies needed for your clients for Christmas delivery must be ordered by **November 21**, latest. (If your clients are out-of-towners, remember to factor in enough time for shipping to their location, too.)

If you're placing orders for your clients' Christmas gifting, please get them to me as early as possible? I'll do my best to keep in touch with the manufacturers in case of any sudden changes in shipping schedules, etc.

Please see Timshel's Renaissance update for further information on that system.

If you're contemplating making changes to your product line(s) for next year and need information, please don't hesitate to contact us for brochures, pricing, or advice. Please be aware that we may need to increase our prices on U.S. manufactured goods if the Canadian dollar doesn't recover from recent losses.

## EVENTS

### **JULIET AND FRIENDS**

Presentation House Galery  
Opening Receptions  
Friday, November 21 8pm  
[www.presentationhousegall.com](http://www.presentationhousegall.com)

### **JEFF WALL**

Vancouver Art Gallery  
October 25 - January 25, 2009  
[www.vanartgallery.bc.ca](http://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca)

## **PLASTIC PHOTOGRAPHER LOW TECH PHOTO SHOW**



**November 7-23, 2008**  
221A Artist Run Centre



221A E. Georgia St.  
Vancouver BC, Canada  
Opening reception Nov. 6, 7-10pm