



Gorillapod review

Transcript 042

December 2007

Linda: Hi, I'm Linda.

Craig: And I'm Craig.

Linda: And this is the Indie Travel Podcast episode 42 at www.indietravelpodcast.com. This week we're reviewing a photography product: the Gorillapod from an American company called Joby.

Craig: We've spent the last week on the Maltese island of Gozo, relaxing, writing and learning to play chess. Chess is not an easy game.

Linda: Especially when I keep beating you.

Craig: Yeah. Thanks.

Linda: Anyway, the Gorillapod.

Craig: OK, it's a camera tripod with a difference. Instead of straight metal legs there are three legs made of interconnected spheres which allow you to twist them into different shapes. So, you can twist it around a tree branch, the back of a chair, a fence post, stuff like that.

Linda: Yeah, or even around the rungs of a swimming pool ladder.

Craig: Yeah, we got some of our best underwater photos from using that, didn't we?

Linda: Yeah, it's been great.

Craig: So, there are three different models of Gorillapod, an "original" for point and shoot cameras, an "SLR" and a bigger "SLR Zoom" for those of you using high-tech equipment. Today we're talking about the original model, since it's the one that we need - small, light and able to be used with point and shoot cameras. If

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you're taking pro or prosumer photos this review isn't for you — but if you're living on the road or travelling soon, then listen up.

Linda: We saw the Gorillapod in a camera shop around April this year, that's 2007, and thought it looked pretty cool. The price tag was OK, but the weight of another piece of equipment to carry around didn't really appeal.

Craig: Yeah, and then Mark emailed us. Mark and his wife listen to the show and we email backwards and forwards every now and again.

Linda: Hi Mark and Kelli!

Craig: They recommended we review it so I flicked off an email to Joby and they sent us one for review. But, we're not going to sell you out to the corporates - this is our review.

Linda: So we've had for almost seven weeks. How much have we used it, Craig? Well, iPhoto tells me we've taken around 400 photos and videos in that time, and I'd guess we've had it attached for about 300 of those - so, quite a lot. Yeah, one of the most useful things has been taking selfies - you know, self portrait photos. We can set up the Gorillapod, set a timer on the camera and go pose somewhere, no more arm shots.

Craig: Yeah, I'm always a bit worried someone will run up and then run off with it, but I'm paranoid that way. So far, so good.

Linda: It's also been great for night shots. Our camera, which is a Pentax Optio W30 doesn't have the best auto-focus in low light, but it does have great settings for museums and churches where you can't use a flash.

Craig: Yeah, because the tripod eliminates hand-shake the photos come out much clearer.

Linda: Of course, that's true of any tripod though.

Craig: Yeah, but this is so light, I carry it around inside my jacket pocket and I don't

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even notice it. I've even heard people say they sneak it into museums where tripods are forbidden!

Linda: That's terrible.

Craig: It's true. It's true. I started a thread on "Gorillapod love" — which is a flickr group — asking for other people's opinions. Low-light photography was a big winner for the Gorillapod.

Linda: Yeah, our camera also had trouble focusing the video in low light, so for a still shot it helps heaps.

Craig: So, onto some bad points. First of all, it can be really difficult to get a straight horizon. It's just nasty at times, you're bending this first couple of links backwards and forwards and backwards and forwards and the camera jerks one angle to the other.

Linda: You know that no one can see you when you're making all those gestures, eh Craig?

Craig: Yeah, I know, but it comes out in my voice.

Linda: So, the horizon problem - operator error, perhaps?

Craig: Yeah, perhaps, but one tends to blame these things on the tools, doesn't one?

Linda: Well, if one is you, yes.

Craig: Okay.

Linda: The bit that hacks me off is trying to get the camera onto and off the tripod. If you've never used a tripod, basically, well, what this one does is it has a little part that screws into the hole in the bottom of your camera and the attachment then slides into the tripod. And it's quite difficult to get in and out.

Craig: Operator error?

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- Linda: Shut up, don't be cheeky. You're having trouble with it too, it is quite tough. There's a sliding lock mechanism, which ensures you don't accidentally knock the camera off the tripod, which is very good, but it can get stuck or be difficult to align for release. Of course, when we were taking underwater shots it was even more difficult — with cold fingers and the force of the water. Any other cons?
- Craig: I guess height can be an issue, if you use it as a stand-alone tripod, It's about the same height as a postcard, but that does make it extremely portable.
- Linda: Right, on to the real deal: pricing. Internet pricing is pretty steady, around 25 US dollars. And in the States you get free shipping from www.joby.com.
- Craig: But it'll cost you another 20 US dollars to get it sent to New Zealand, for example. So, that's almost double the price, Mum. I don't think my mum listens to this.
- Linda: Or, somebody else's Mum. One thing I really like is that they offer to send it without packaging. They're quite environmentally conscious that way.
- Craig: Yeah, and it saves you a couple of bucks too.
- Linda: You can check our more stats at the [Joby website](http://www.joby.com), get another price at [amazon](http://amazon.com) and see some of the photos taken with a Gorillapod. All these links will be at www.indietravelpodcast.com - if it's slipped off the front page just search for gorilla.
- Craig: Our most important question then: who is an original Gorillapod for?
- Linda: Well, I'd say it's for someone who's into taking photos, but not really REALLY into taking photos. Y'know someone who takes heaps of casual photos and sometimes wishes they could do it better. But, for travelling anyway, it could supplement but never replace a professional toolkit.
- Craig: Yeah, to carry around another bit of equipment, you'd have to really be into

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taking photos.

Linda: If you're spending lots of time in the wilderness - hiking, walking, snorkelling or you want to take some timed action shots or video of yourself, it'd be great. We've used it in a swimming pool and I'm sure you could attach it to some underwater features if that's your thing.

Craig: Be careful down there though - don't damage any reefs, I got told off for even thinking about it.

Linda: I don't think you'd ever attach it to a reef though.

Craig: No. I'm just imagining attaching it to some medium-sized fish, though.

Linda: You're crazy. Absolutely crazy.

Craig: No, it'd be awesome. OK, back to reality; if you like buying heaps of travel accessories. Stop it! Don't waste money on a shrink - just stop buying rubbish. But, if you want some more options for your photos without carrying around heavy equipment, this is for you.

Linda: All right, well, we're wrapping up this show. Is there anything else you want to say?

Craig: Yeah, we're going to take a bit of a Christmas break over the next few weeks people, but — don't fear — there's more Indie Travel Podcast to go around. We've asked a couple of travel podcast friends to put together some guest posts for us, so you'll get a different perspective. Things'll be a bit different for the next few weeks, but it's going to be pretty exciting. If you listen to other independent travel podcasts, you'll hear some familiar voices and we also have a newbie to the scene, so, we'll keep that secret ... I won't tell you who yet. You'll just have to wait and see.

Linda: If, like Mark and Kelli, you've got something to add to the show, please get in touch. Our email address is mail@indietravelpodcast.com and there's also a contact form at www.indietravelpodcast.com/contact.

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Craig: And if you're too cool for email you can send us a facebook message from the Indie Travel Podcast group. Links for everything will, of course, be at www.indietravelpodcast.com

Linda: And, until next week — avoid Christmas madness and travel well.

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