

Movie menus



CONTINUING OUR LOOK AT MENUS, PERRY LEWIS EXAMINES THE OPTIONS FOR TAKING MOVIES WITH ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST DURABLE CAMERAS, THE OLYMPUS μ[MJU:] 1030 SW. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU CONSIDERED TAKING A MOVIE CAMERA FOR A SWIM?

MOST COMPACT DIGITAL cameras these days have some form of built-in movie mode, and with just a quick turn of a dial you can have a whole new aspect of photography at your fingertips. When the camera is an Olympus μ[mju:] 1030SW, it opens up a whole new area of possibilities for taking movies in places that, up to now, you never considered possible. Being drop-proof to 2m¹, waterproof to 10m², crush-proof to 100kg³ and freeze-proof

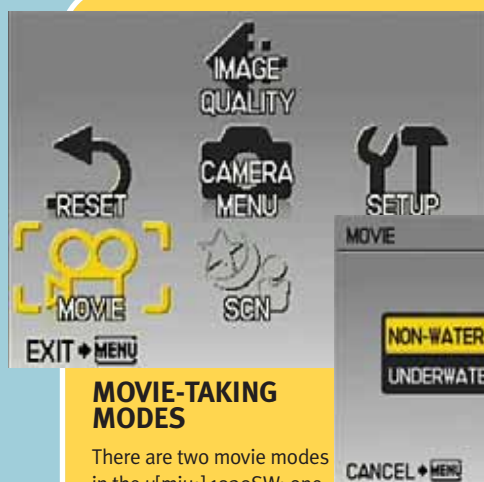
to -10°, it is the ideal 'go-anywhere' adventure camera. And if you are active enough to test this camera to the limit, what better way to record the event than with a movie? With the boom in popularity of websites such as YouTube and Facebook, this camera is a great source of good-quality, compact-file-size videos that are ideal for emailing or uploading to the internet, so why not keep your friends and family up to date while on your travels?

and settings that apply to each mode, as described below. To select the movie mode, set the mode dial to and press MENU, use the ⁴ buttons to select MOVIE and press OK. Press to select either NON-WATER MOVIE or UNDERWATER MOVIE and press OK. You can now start shooting your movie by pressing the release button once to start recording, and again to stop. While recording, a red 'REC' icon appears on the LCD and the orange memory-writing LED blinks.

NON-WATER MOVIE – This mode allows a white balance choice from those available for normal photography. It also enables the built-in microphone so that

you can record sound during your movie. This does, however, have one small drawback – because the microphone will pick up the sound of the optical zoom and focus motors during filming, these functions do not operate once you start shooting your movie, so you will need to zoom and focus first. However the digital zoom does operate while filming and it will zoom in from the point that you set the optical zoom to. Digital zoom can be switched on/off by pressing MENU, then select CAMERA MENU, press OK, select DIGITAL ZOOM, press OK, select ON/OFF, press OK.

UNDERWATER MOVIE – In underwater movie mode, the white balance choice is limited to three underwater WB modes, which can be selected according to the depth of water you are filming in. The microphone is switched off, so optical zoom and focus can operate normally. Digital zoom is also possible.



MOVIE-TAKING MODES

There are two movie modes in the μ[mju:] 1030SW; one for normal use and one for underwater movies, but just to confuse matters they can both be used underwater – the mode does not affect the waterproof properties of the camera. The difference is in the functions

SHOOTING SETTINGS

Press OK and use to select either WB, Metering Mode, Image Size or Frame Rate, then press to select the setting and OK to set. The options for each setting are:



WB – The choice of settings depends on the movie mode. For Non-Water Movie, the choices are . For Underwater Movie, the choices are ; as a rule of thumb, set a higher number the deeper you go, though some experimenting



may be necessary. It is better to judge the white balance of the results when you are out of the water.

Metering mode – The light-metering mode can be set to either ESP or Spot metering.



Image size – There are two movie quality settings, VGA, which gives a movie resolution of 640 x 480 pixels, and QVGA, which is 320 x

240 pixels. VGA is around normal TV quality and QVGA is ideal for sending via email.

Frame rate – This sets the number of video frames captured each second. The faster frame rate of (30 frames per second) makes movement appear smoother, better suited to TV playback, whereas (15 fps) takes up less memory and is better for email or internet use. The available recording time changes on the LCD monitor according to the image size, frame rate and remaining card capacity.



Note that flash and LED-assist light functions do not work in movie mode, but Shadow Adjustment () can be switched on to help lighten shadows and for better results in dim conditions.

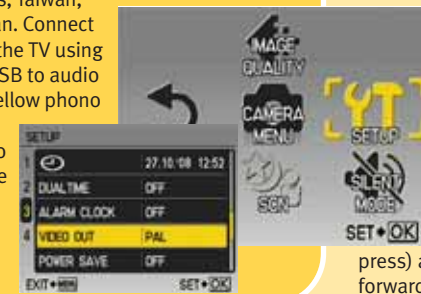
¹ Equivalent to MIL Standard (MIL-STD 810F)
² According to IEC standard publication 529 IPX8
³ According to Olympus test conditions
⁴ The symbols are not marked on the jog dial of the camera; the marked symbols are and respectively.

MENU OPTIONS

You can also access the shooting settings mentioned left via the MENU button. The IMAGE QUALITY icon gives access to the IMAGE SIZE and FRAME RATE options, while the CAMERA MENU icon covers the WB, DIGITAL ZOOM and metering modes.



Under the SETUP icon, on the third page of options, is the function for setting the VIDEO OUT standard. This will allow you to view your movies on either a UK television using the PAL setting, or an American TV using the NTSC setting. PAL is used in most of Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia, while NTSC is used in most of the Americas, Taiwan, Korea and Japan. Connect the camera to the TV using the supplied USB to audio visual lead – yellow phono plug to the yellow TV video input and white plug to the white TV audio input.



PRE-CAPTURE MOVIE

This is the only scene mode designed specifically for shooting movies. The camera continuously records two seconds of action before the shutter release is pressed, which allows you to capture the lead-up to an event before you know it is going to happen. To set the mode, turn the mode dial to SCN and use the buttons to select PRE-CAPTURE MOVIE and press OK. To use, simply keep the camera aimed at the action, and when something interesting happens, press the shutter release; the camera then stores the previous two seconds of action and continues shooting for a further five seconds, or until the shutter release is pressed a second time (maximum total record time is seven seconds). Take care not to move the camera as you press the release, as any movement will show as a jolt two seconds into your movie.

MOVIE PLAYBACK MODE

This operates like normal picture playback. Press the button or set the mode dial to and move through the image thumbnails with ; movies have a film-like border to the thumbnail. To play a movie, press OK.

During playback press to increase the playback speed to 2x and again for 20x fast forward; a third press returns to normal playback speed. Pressing gives reverse playback at 1x speed, a second press gives 2x reverse speed, and a third, 20x fast rewind. In normal playback the buttons control the sound playback volume (remember sound is not recorded in the Underwater Movie mode).

To pause the movie, press OK while it is playing; press OK again to resume playback. With the movie paused, use (brief press) and scroll (press and hold) backwards and forwards through the movie. When a movie is paused, pressing the or button will take you to the beginning or end of the movie respectively.

To stop the playback of a movie at any point, press MENU.

SOFTWARE

While not strictly menu options, there are a few software considerations to help you get the most from your movie mode.

FIRMWARE – Firmware is the camera's internal operating software. Updating the firmware can improve functions and features.

Firmware version 1.0 – The original firmware used in early Olympus μ[mju:] 1030 SWs. This restricted the VGA 30fps movie mode to a maximum 10 seconds record time.

Firmware version 1.1 – Olympus launched this firmware in April 2008 to allow the VGA 30fps movie mode to record more than 10 seconds at a time. It allows continuous movie recording up to the capacity of the card when using Type M+ or Type H xD-Picture Cards.

Firmware version 1.2 – Launched September 2008. This improves the quality of the sound recording in movies.

To check your camera and to update to the latest firmware you will need a computer with an internet connection and the Olympus Master 2 software installed (Master 2 is included with the camera, but can be downloaded for free via the Olympus UK website). First, make sure that the camera battery is fully charged, then connect the camera to the computer via the USB cable; the camera will switch on automatically. Select PC on the camera LCD and press OK. Start Olympus Master 2. Select CAMERA on the drop-down tool bar and click on 'Update Camera/Add Display Language', then carefully follow the on-screen instructions.

YOUTUBE – Any version of Olympus Master later than version 2.05 (current versions are 2.06 for Windows and 2.07 for Mac) will allow you to directly upload your videos to YouTube by using the YouTube Upload icon on the tool bar.