

OLYMPUS MJU 700

7 mega pixels 3x zoom

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back view

The large screen dominates the back of the camera, with small but easy to use controls spaced down the right side



top view

The wedge shape is evident; only the shutter release and power button spoil the Mju's smooth, swooping lines



side view

The thick end of the wedge houses a cover that hides the mains power/USB socket, the wrist strap lug and on the base, the flip-out cover of the battery/memory card compartment



quick specs

- **SENSOR** 1/2.3in CCD, 7.07MP Effective
- **LENS** 6.5-19.5mm (37-111mm equiv) f3.4-5.7
- **SHUTTER SPEEDS** 1/2 – 1/1000th sec
- **EXPOSURE MODES** Auto, P, 23 scene modes
- **ISO** Auto, 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600
- **FLASH** GN 7
- **VIEWFINDER** None
- **MONITOR** 2.5in 115,000-pixel TFT LCD
- **OTHER** xD Picture Card, 19.1MB internal storage, 640x480 video @ 30fps, Pictbridge, Histogram, Framing lines, Guide Mode
- **POWER** LI-42B Li-ion battery pack with charger included
- **DIMENSIONS/WEIGHT** 94.8 x 56 x 20.4mm/103g

what we think

WHAT WE LIKE:

Compact, price, lightweight and compact, weatherproofing, large LCD screen, excellent exposures, anti-shake mode, good colour rendition, many scene modes

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE:

No optical finder, image shadow noise, slight lens softness, over compression in lower quality settings

the scores

FEATURES Specifications, controls	19
DESIGN Build, handling, ease of use	18
PERFORMANCE Metering, focus etc	17
IMAGE QUALITY Sharpness, colour etc	17
VALUE Based on RRP	17

88%

up against

SONY POWERSHOT W7

TURN TO OUR BUYING GUIDE ON PAGE 130 FOR INDIVIDUAL CAMERA SPECIFICATIONS

Olympus Mju 700

Stylish, ultra-compact 7.1MP weatherproofed camera

Tested by **Doug Harman** **£230** www.olympus.com

Built just like a small wedge-shaped slice of metallic pie, this new Mju is stylish and resplendent with its subtly curved metal face and it has weather proofing to withstand splashes.

FEATURES

The Mju 700's 7.1MP sensor will probably be top here, providing JPEG files of up to 20.3Mb, from 'as-shot' image files. The 23 scene modes provide comprehensive settings including three Underwater modes (though the camera is NOT immersible, this is for underwater housings) and a Behind-glass setting. Some of the scene modes use Olympus' proprietary BrightCapture Technology: neat processing tricks to improve snaps. Blocks of nine pixels are treated as 'super pixels' with the values averaged out, in theory reducing noise and improving colours. There are two metering modes: ESP (matrix) and spot, plus the usual run of white balance presets. Focusing is accomplished with Olympus's iESP TTL contrast detection AF system.

DESIGN

The wedge-shaped body is attractive and lends itself to one-handed operation, but that gives it the propensity for camera shake. However, the 700 does boast an anti-shake setting. Menus are comprehensive and can be accessed in various ways depending on the mode in use; there's a neat 'guide' mode that sets the camera for you depending on the chosen setting. All the camera's controls, while small, are easy to use, as is the 2.5in LCD. It's very

image quality

Issues with softness and slight barrel distortion aside, images look fantastic. But once you get a little closer things become less pleasing. There's distinct edge and corner softening; too much noise in shadow areas (even at low ISOs) and slight over compression in the HQ or lower settings.

bright, usable in brighter conditions to boot, but could be improved with an anti-reflection coating.

PERFORMANCE

The metering really struts its stuff, even in complex lighting situations. Colour rendition is natural and focusing, while a tad awkward in macro or super-macro settings and in low lighting, works well in brighter conditions. The lens is a tad soft for my liking however. There's also some barrel distortion at the wide end of the zoom.

VALUE

I looked twice at the price, given the high-resolution sensor and sheer level of techno-sophistication. Given the overall performance and its specification, the Mju 700 is certainly good value.

VERDICT

*SHQ mode is essential for larger prints. If you want to be really critical, image softness and slight lens performance problems reduce captured detail. However, 6x4in prints won't show most of the problems, and all the other great features of the camera outweigh the drawbacks. **WDC***



Colour and white balance are hard to criticise
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