

TESTED

Digital Photography Course

As we progressed into the second week of our digital photography course, the realisation that there was far more to good pictures than just understanding the dials and buttons began to sink in. Where we'd explored the finer points of aperture in the previous session, the focus moved on to shutter speed. While the rate at which the camera opens and closes to let light in is largely regulated by the other settings that you opt for, tweaking the speed can have a dramatic effect on the kind of shots you take. A picture taken in a fraction of a second can capture fast moving objects, making it perfect for sports or wildlife photography. Forcing the shutter to stay open for longer allows more light to flood in, but makes the camera susceptible to blurriness from any motion. This can be desirable, however, and setting your camera to capture an image for several seconds – or even indefinitely in some extreme cases – can yield some remarkable results. As you can see here (middle right), the relatively simple use of a tripod and a long shutter speed can give shots of crowds an edge of ghostly motion, and can capture light trails on Dubai's busy roads. Sometimes, you'll also find that shutter speeds of up to 30 seconds can allow you to shoot at night time without the harshness of a flash. In this shot of the marina (top right), the camera instinctively tries to fire the flash in the dark conditions, leaving you with black pictures of no value at all. Setting a wide aperture (with a low f-stop number) and positioning the camera on a tripod to remove any motion blur means that the sensor stays open for a long time, allowing light to flood in and create the image. It's another reminder of how every tweak you make to the camera has a knock-on effect to the other settings. But knowing how one will affect the other allows you to take some impressive pictures.

*Continued in the next issue.
For more details, visit www.ductac.org
and www.tiffanyschultz.com*



Canon

Ekotribe Generator Bag

There doesn't seem to be much to worry about in terms of protecting the environment from the threat of modern industry and general international messiness. Especially since companies such as Ekotribe continue to come up with ingenious ideas like the Generator Bag. With three solar panels on the outside, the bag can recharge your portable devices as you strut around. And in the UAE, where there's hardly a lack of sunshine, you'll find you can squeeze 17 watts of juice for your laptop out of the warming rays. With several different adaptors, you can easily connect your computer, so by the time you get to that important meeting your laptop will be ready to go.

The Generator Bag costs Dhs2,550 and can be bought from the Ekotribe office on Sheikh Zayed Road (04 332 7693)

