

olympus omd em1 vs em5 mark ii

olympus omd em1 vs em5 mark ii are two prominent models in Olympus's Micro Four Thirds camera lineup, each offering unique features tailored for different photography needs. This comparison delves into the technical specifications, design, performance, and usability of both cameras to help users decide which model best suits their requirements. The Olympus OM-D EM1 is known for its robust build and advanced capabilities aimed at professional photographers, whereas the EM5 Mark II balances performance and portability with innovative features. By examining aspects such as image quality, autofocus systems, stabilization, and battery life, this article provides a comprehensive overview. Additionally, the article will address the differences in video capabilities, lens compatibility, and user interface. The detailed comparison aims to clarify the distinctions between these two cameras to facilitate an informed purchase decision. Below is the table of contents to guide the discussion.

- Design and Build Quality
- Sensor and Image Quality
- Autofocus and Performance
- Image Stabilization and Video Capabilities
- Battery Life and Usability
- Lens Compatibility and Accessories
- Price and Value Considerations

Design and Build Quality

The design and build quality of the Olympus OM-D EM1 and EM5 Mark II reflect their targeted user base and intended usage scenarios. Both cameras exhibit the classic Olympus Micro Four Thirds aesthetic but differ significantly in size, weight, and durability features.

Body Construction and Durability

The Olympus OM-D EM1 is constructed with a magnesium alloy body that offers professional-grade durability and weather sealing. It is designed to withstand harsh shooting conditions, including dust, splash, and freeze resistance, making it suitable for outdoor and adventure photography. In contrast, the EM5 Mark II also features a weather-sealed magnesium alloy body but is lighter and more compact, emphasizing portability without sacrificing ruggedness.

Ergonomics and Handling

Ergonomically, the EM1 provides a more substantial grip, accommodating larger hands and allowing for better stability during extended shoots. Its button layout is more extensive, providing quick access to customizable controls favored by professional users. The EM5 Mark II offers a smaller grip but maintains comfortable handling, suitable for travel photographers or enthusiasts who prioritize portability. Both cameras feature tilting OLED electronic viewfinders and vari-angle LCD screens, though the EM5 Mark II's articulating screen offers slightly more flexibility for creative angles.

Sensor and Image Quality

Image quality is a critical factor in the Olympus OM-D EM1 vs EM5 Mark II comparison. Both cameras utilize Micro Four Thirds sensors but differ in resolution, processing power, and image output characteristics.

Sensor Specifications

The Olympus OM-D EM1 is equipped with a 16.3-megapixel Live MOS sensor paired with the TruePic VII image processor. This combination yields excellent image quality with impressive dynamic range and low noise performance up to moderate ISO levels. The EM5 Mark II shares the same 16.1-megapixel Live MOS sensor and TruePic VII processor, ensuring similar baseline image quality between the two models.

Image Quality and Performance

While both cameras produce sharp and vibrant images, the EM1 benefits from advanced noise reduction algorithms and better high ISO performance, delivering cleaner images in challenging lighting conditions. The EM5 Mark II performs admirably in good light but shows slightly more noise at higher ISO settings. Color reproduction and detail retention are comparable, making both cameras suitable for a wide range of photographic genres.

Autofocus and Performance

Autofocus speed and accuracy are vital in comparing the Olympus OM-D EM1 vs EM5 Mark II, especially for action and wildlife photography.

Autofocus Systems

The Olympus OM-D EM1 utilizes a 37-point all-cross-type phase-detection autofocus system integrated on the sensor, complemented by contrast-detection AF. This hybrid system delivers fast, accurate focusing and excellent subject tracking capabilities, suitable for fast-moving subjects. The EM5 Mark II uses a contrast-detection autofocus system with 81 selectable points. While it provides precise focus in most scenarios, it is generally slower and less reliable for tracking compared to the EM1.

Shooting Speed and Buffer

The EM1 offers a continuous shooting speed of up to 10 frames per second (fps) with autofocus tracking, making it ideal for capturing action sequences. Its buffer can handle a substantial number of RAW files before slowing down. The EM5 Mark II shoots at up to 9 fps but with a smaller buffer, limiting burst shooting duration. Both cameras support silent shooting modes, benefiting discreet photography.

Image Stabilization and Video Capabilities

Stabilization and video features are important considerations in the Olympus OM-D EM1 vs EM5 Mark II debate, especially for hybrid shooters.

In-Body Image Stabilization (IBIS)

Both models feature 5-axis in-body image stabilization systems that compensate for camera shake across multiple axes. The EM1's stabilization system is rated up to 5 stops of compensation, providing excellent handheld shooting performance. The EM5 Mark II also offers 5-axis IBIS with similar

effectiveness, though some users report slightly better stabilization results with the EM1, particularly with longer lenses or video recording.

Video Recording Features

The Olympus OM-D EM1 supports Full HD 1080p video recording at up to 60 frames per second, delivering smooth and detailed footage. It includes features such as focus peaking, zebra patterning, and microphone input for enhanced video control. The EM5 Mark II matches these video specs but adds a slow-motion mode and higher-quality audio recording options. Neither camera offers 4K video recording, reflecting their release era but still providing solid video performance for enthusiasts.

Battery Life and Usability

Battery performance and overall usability contribute significantly to user experience in the Olympus OM-D EM1 vs EM5 Mark II comparison.

Battery Performance

The Olympus OM-D EM1 uses the BLN-1 battery, providing approximately 350 shots per charge under standard conditions. The EM5 Mark II also uses the BLN-1 battery but typically achieves around 310 shots per charge. Both cameras support USB charging and external battery grips for extended shooting sessions.

User Interface and Controls

The user interface on both cameras is intuitive, featuring customizable buttons and dials that enhance operational efficiency. The EM1 offers more extensive customization options and a higher-resolution electronic viewfinder, aiding in critical focus and exposure assessment. The EM5 Mark II provides a streamlined menu system and touchscreen capabilities, making it accessible for beginners and enthusiasts alike.

Lens Compatibility and Accessories

Lens options and accessory support are essential factors when choosing between the Olympus OM-D EM1 vs EM5 Mark II.

Lens Mount and Compatibility

Both cameras employ the Micro Four Thirds lens mount, offering compatibility with a vast array of lenses from Olympus, Panasonic, and third-party manufacturers. This system provides versatility for photographers seeking wide-angle, telephoto, or prime lenses. The availability of high-quality Olympus PRO lenses enhances the capabilities of both cameras.

Additional Accessories

Accessory support includes external flashes, battery grips, remote controls, and underwater housings. The EM1 supports more advanced accessories due to its professional orientation, including a dedicated battery grip that doubles shooting capacity and adds vertical controls. The EM5 Mark II supports many of the same accessories but with fewer options for professional-grade add-ons.

Price and Value Considerations

Pricing is a decisive factor in the Olympus OM-D EM1 vs EM5 Mark II comparison, influencing buyer decisions based on budget and intended use.

Market Pricing and Availability

The Olympus OM-D EM1, being a higher-tier model, generally commands a higher price point than the EM5 Mark II. Its advanced features and robust build justify the premium for professional users. The EM5 Mark II is positioned as a mid-range model, offering excellent value for enthusiasts seeking a capable yet more affordable option.

Value Proposition

- **Olympus OM-D EM1:** Best suited for professionals requiring top-tier performance, durability, and fast autofocus.
- **Olympus OM-D EM5 Mark II:** Ideal for enthusiasts wanting a compact, feature-rich camera with strong image stabilization and good image quality at a lower cost.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the main differences between the Olympus OMD EM1 and EM5 Mark II?

The Olympus OMD EM1 offers a more robust build, better autofocus system, and higher continuous shooting speed compared to the EM5 Mark II. The EM5 Mark II, on the other hand, is more compact and lightweight with a fully articulating screen, making it more portable and versatile for video shooting.

Which camera has better image stabilization, the Olympus EM1 or EM5 Mark II?

The Olympus EM5 Mark II features 5-axis image stabilization that can provide up to 5 stops of correction, while the EM1 offers a similar 5-axis stabilization but generally performs better in combination with certain lenses. Both cameras have excellent stabilization, but EM5 Mark II is often praised for its effectiveness in handheld macro and video shooting.

Is the autofocus system on the Olympus EM1 superior to the EM5 Mark II?

Yes, the Olympus EM1 has a more advanced autofocus system with 37 focus points compared to the EM5 Mark II's 81 contrast-detect points. The EM1 uses a combination of phase and contrast detection, providing faster and more accurate autofocus, especially in challenging lighting conditions.

Which camera is better for video recording, the Olympus EM1 or EM5 Mark II?

The EM5 Mark II is often preferred for video due to its fully articulating touchscreen which aids in vlogging and creative angles. Both cameras shoot 1080p video, but the EM5 Mark II offers additional features like focus peaking and higher bit rates, making it more versatile for videographers.

How does the build quality compare between Olympus EM1 and EM5 Mark II?

The Olympus EM1 has a more rugged, weather-sealed magnesium alloy body designed for professional use, whereas the EM5 Mark II also has weather sealing but is slightly less robust and lighter, targeting enthusiast photographers who prioritize portability.

Are there significant differences in battery life between the EM1 and EM5 Mark II?

The Olympus EM1 generally offers better battery life, capable of capturing approximately 350 shots per charge, compared to the EM5 Mark II's approximate 310 shots. However, actual battery performance varies with usage and settings.

Which camera is more suitable for travel photography, Olympus EM1 or EM5 Mark II?

The EM5 Mark II is more suitable for travel photography due to its compact size, lighter weight, and fully articulating screen, making it easier to carry and use in various shooting situations on the go.

Does the Olympus EM1 offer better connectivity options than the EM5 Mark II?

Both cameras offer Wi-Fi connectivity for remote control and image transfer, but the EM1 supports a more advanced Bluetooth connection for quicker pairing and better remote operation, giving it a slight edge in connectivity features.

Which camera provides better image quality, Olympus EM1 or EM5 Mark II?

Both cameras use the same 16MP Micro Four Thirds sensor and produce similar image quality.

However, the EM1's advanced processor and better image stabilization can result in slightly cleaner images at higher ISO settings and improved overall performance.

Additional Resources

1. *Mastering the Olympus OM-D E-M1: Professional Techniques and Tips*

This book dives deep into the features and capabilities of the Olympus OM-D E-M1. It covers advanced shooting modes, autofocus systems, and customization options. Photographers will find practical advice on getting the most out of this powerful camera for various genres, including landscape, portrait, and wildlife photography.

2. *Olympus OM-D E-M5 Mark II: A Comprehensive User Guide*

Designed for both beginners and enthusiasts, this guide explains the Olympus OM-D E-M5 Mark II's functionality in detail. It includes step-by-step tutorials on settings, menu navigation, and creative shooting techniques. Readers will benefit from tips on video recording, image stabilization, and post-processing.

3. *Olympus OM-D E-M1 vs E-M5 Mark II: Which Camera is Right for You?*

This comparative book analyzes the strengths and weaknesses of the Olympus OM-D E-M1 and E-M5 Mark II models. It discusses differences in build quality, sensor performance, autofocus speed, and usability. The book helps readers make an informed decision based on their photographic needs and budget.

4. *Creative Photography with Olympus OM-D Cameras*

Focusing on the creative potential of Olympus OM-D cameras, this book explores artistic techniques using the E-M1 and E-M5 Mark II. It covers long exposures, multiple exposure modes, and creative filters available in these models. The author also shares inspiring project ideas to push your photography skills further.

5. *Olympus OM-D E-M1 and E-M5 Mark II Accessories and Lenses Guide*

This guide provides an overview of the best accessories and lenses compatible with the Olympus OM-

D E-M1 and E-M5 Mark II. It helps photographers choose the right gear to enhance their shooting experience. Topics include external flashes, microphones, tripods, and prime vs zoom lenses.

6. *Getting Started with Olympus OM-D E-M5 Mark II: A Beginner's Handbook*

Ideal for new Olympus users, this book simplifies the basics of using the E-M5 Mark II. It explains camera settings, shooting modes, and tips for capturing sharp images. The handbook also includes troubleshooting advice and recommendations for essential accessories.

7. *Advanced Autofocus Techniques for Olympus OM-D E-M1 and E-M5 Mark II*

Explore the sophisticated autofocus systems of the Olympus OM-D E-M1 and E-M5 Mark II with this specialized book. It details how to optimize focus tracking, face detection, and manual focus assist features. Photographers working with fast-moving subjects will find this information invaluable.

8. *Olympus OM-D E-M1 and E-M5 Mark II in Action: Real-World Photography Projects*

This book presents practical photography projects using the Olympus OM-D E-M1 and E-M5 Mark II. Each project is designed to challenge and improve your skills, from street photography to macro and astrophotography. It includes detailed instructions and example images to guide readers.

9. *Post-Processing Olympus OM-D E-M1 and E-M5 Mark II RAW Files*

Learn how to enhance your images taken with Olympus OM-D E-M1 and E-M5 Mark II cameras through post-processing. This book covers software options like Adobe Lightroom and Olympus Workspace, focusing on techniques to bring out detail, color, and dynamic range. It is perfect for photographers looking to polish their photos professionally.

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