



Hopefully by the time you're reading this issue summer is in full swing and you're out enjoying this fleeting season, getting some great images. Here are a few photography products that you may find useful to help you capture some great photographs.

Black Rapid SNAPR

Some compact point-and-shoot digital cameras, like the Canon G12 or the Olympus PEN, aren't that compact and as a result are too big to fit in most pockets. There are lots of camera bags available to hold these large, compact cameras, but most really don't allow you quick access to the camera, nor do they keep the camera secure once it's out of the bag. However, the innovative Black Rapid SNAPR camera bag solves these problems.

The SNAPR is really a three-in-one product that includes a padded case, sling strap and wrist strap that can be used all together or each on its own. The padded case fits most popular compact point-and-shoot cameras and compact video cameras up to 13.3 cm x 8.3 cm x 5 cm in size. What's interesting about its design is that it's a horizontal case that opens at one end, instead of the more common vertical-designed compact camera cases. This means you're

pulling the camera out from the end rather than the top, which would appear to be not as convenient. However, when combined with the sling strap it actually works really easily. The strap is based on the sling design found on Black Rapid DSLR camera straps. One end of a small strap is a metal swivel that attaches to the camera's tripod socket and the other end to the sling strap. The camera goes into the bag upside down and when you pull it out it quickly glides up the sling strap into shooting position while still being securely connected, so there's no worry about dropping your camera.

If you want you can disconnect the small strap from the sling strap and attach it to the included wrist strap. Some photographers may like this feature, but I found I didn't use it. However, I keep the wrist strap in one

of the two side pockets of the bag so I can use it if the situation arises. The two zippered side pockets run the entire length of the bag, one on each side. They are handy to store extra memory cards, a spare camera battery and other small accessories like a lens cloth. I wish that the pockets were a bit deeper or more expandable so that larger items could be stored in them.

Overall the Black Rapid SNAPR is well made and durable. It allows me to carry my not-so-conveniently sized point-and-shoot camera so that it's easily accessible while still keeping it safe and secure. With a suggested retail price of \$59.99, it's not inexpensive, but for what it offers I feel that it's a very good value. I now have no excuse for not taking my point-and-shoot camera everywhere I go.

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