

My Equipment

As you have seen from the images I'm an amatorial photographer who wants to improve his own technique.

I know that there's still a lot of work in this direction!

My idea is to equip myself with more performace lenses to realise good shots in whatever condition of light.

My photographic equipment is therefore composed: Reflex Canon EOS 30D + Canon Powershot G5.

I've purchased the 30D in the second half of May 2006 with the complete purpose lens Sigma 18-200 F3.5-6.3.

Impressed from the enormous developments of digital photography I have decided to change the good G5 for a performance system with interchanging optical like the reflex.

The photos of the year 2006 are therefore fairly uniformed between Canon G5 and 30D, which first use was in Modena in occasion of the "1000 Miglia".

These are other lens in my possession:

- Canon EF-S 18-55 F3.5-5.6

- Fish-eye Zenitar 16mm F2.8

Finally in December 2006 I have bought the Sigma 20-40 F2.8-2.8 EX and flash Canon 580 EX for "Indoor Show".

The first important use of 30D+Sigma 20-40+580EX has been at the "Bologna Motor Show 2006". Personally I'm very happy of images quality!

Canon EOS 30D + Sigma 20-40 F2.8 EX + Flash Canon 580 EX

A great update equipment came during 2007

In the month of January I finally found, after a long search, a rare and old lens of Canon L series. The model is a push-pull telezoom Canon EF 50-200 F3.5-4.5 L. I immediately loved the quality of this old lens

Unfortunately AF is not as fast as the latest USM engines, but apart from that, I have nothing to say. The quality of shots is fantastic with sharp images and vivid colors. Dispite the age, this lens is constructed in a very robust plastic body. After 20 years still works perfectly!

Canon EF 50-200 F3.5-4.5 L

Another lens has become part of my photographic equipment, this time in the month of September.

I decided to buy a professional F2.8 lens that could be fine for all occasions, so I had the opportunity to take a wonderful Canon EF 28-70 F2.8 L, used but in really good condition incurring the hood, caps and bag for transport. All for a reasonable price!

Regarding this lens I'm fully satisfied. The construction is accurate and precise, AF is moved by USM engine so is fast and silent. Shots quality is spectacular and also at F2.8 pics are sharp, bright and with natural colors...It's a joy to use!

Canon EF 28-70 F2.8 L

The last entry this year came in December. To substantially increase the shutter autonomy and get a better-hand body

camera, I took the original Canon battery grip called BG-E2N. Now, take vertically shots become much easier with a second shutter button.

Canon Eos 30D + Battery Grip BG-E2N

Finally here two shots that brings together all lenses currently in my Line-Up:

Canon Eos 30D + BG-E2N + All lenses

December 2008, it's time to update this page!

This year has seen the expansion of my photographic equipment. I must admit that I try to constantly add and improve the quality of lenses in my possession...

Before moving to the "new entry", here's a strange combination, my compact Canon G5 with the big 580 EX pulled over! I did some experiments and I must say that the coverage of flash has improved dramatically in the amount of light! The problem is that the flash is too heavy on the G5 and the system is not balanced. It appears very difficult to hold the camera steady...Ok, ok, only a test, but nice to see that old compact Canon work perfectly with this professional flash.

Canon Powershot G5 + Canon Flash 580 EX

Well, it's time to return into the world of DSLR photography with the latest lenses in my line-up In February, I found the older brother of Canon 50-200 F3.5-4.5 L which already have, that is the mythical 100-300 F5.6 L These two lenses are very similar and therefore the 100-300 F5.6 L use a push-pull zoom system, that personally I really love! The sample that I found has remained unused for a long time and fortunately is under wonderful condition, especially the front glass is clean and free of signs. There is no mold, the motor-focus works well and the zoom is fluid. Why this lens? First because is relatively small and light. I can have always with me a zoom up to 300 mm with L quality. Second, sharpness and resolution are very good, better than his younger brother and the impressive thing is that even at 300 mm shots don't suffer a loss of quality. If we add to all that, on used market are available with a reasonable prices, I think is really a lens with high value for money. Canon EF 100-300 F5.6 L

Now I talk about the last lens arrived, always Canon, always L...are you ready? I'm happy to tell you that in July 2008, after several months switched to save money I have bought a brand new Canon EF 16-35 F2.8 L type II This has been for a long time one of the lenses of my dreams. I had planned to take the best Canon wide-angle zoom and at the end I made the big step! I think this lens will stay with me for many years and I hope to be able to use in the future when I decide to leave APS-C DSLR camera for the world of Full Frame DSLR....hey guys, not soon...How is this lens? Fantastic, really fantastic! Even if it has been optimized for Full Frame reflex, I must say that on 30D works beautifully and I can't do without it! I like everything about this lens. It's compact and relatively lightweight, built like a tank with two good fluide rings is tropicalized and USM engine is still faster than that used on canon 28-70 L !!! Really impressive. From July, I used a lot and this wide L is becoming one of my inseparable lens especially for indoor events. Together with 28-70 L I can take always shots that leave me amazed even in low light condition. Without doubt are two really good tools of work!

I hope in the future to make the best use of these 2 beautiful lenses! Canon EF 16-35 F2.8 L II + Canon EF 100-300 F5.6 L

And finally here my Canon equipment with all L lenses, from 16 mm to 300 mm

January 2010, foto & video, come in! As you noticed, I can update this section only in the winter months, when the motoring season is off and still awaiting the warm weather to restart.

During 2008 I've followed many events and of course I always had with me a couple of zoom, mainly the Canon EF 16-35 L II like a wide angle shots and Canon EF 100-300 F5.6 L like tele. The problem however was that I often found to having change lens to engage the ones I needed. The worst thing was losing some shots for not have immediately available the necessary zoom...

So after repeatedly photographic session with my friend Simone (www.caldicarphoto.com) already equipped with 2 cameras I could appreciate the big advantage of having 2 reflex always ready to work. Not wanting to spend too much I decided to search an used second body, as good as the 30D. At the end of January 2009, after checking the prices of Canon 20D on used market, I found one with about 20,000 shots, in good condition at the same price of a new compact digicam. Well, after all, technological progress has also its advantages!

After a year of use and over 10,000 shots taken only with this body, I can say that the unit is fine, as much as the 30D. I found some small and annoying shortcomings compared to 30D (apart the rear smaller display, but this isn't so important, at least for me ...). The first is the lack of ISO display in the viewfinder that forces to pull the eye away from the

camera and select it, checking on the small screen placed at the top of the camera. Even here, however, I must say that after many hours of use you can change ISO settings using your memory and turning the dial, but surely you have not the certainty on viewfinder of what you are doing...

The second and perhaps more limiting problem is the limited usable ISO scale, via the classic 100-200-400-800-1600 steps where you lost profits intermediate passages that are present on the 30D. For the rest I find the 20D very similar to the 30D, also with virtually identical image quality. They also have the same sensor, the same resolution and the same high build quality. Even the keys are located in the same position in both bodies. This proves to be good to change settings quickly.

I decided to keep the Canon 16-35 II L always installed on this reflex, so all wide pictures that you saw on the website in 2009, were made by 20D, sometimes in addition with Speedlight 580 EX flash.

Canon 20D Body

Here you can see the 2 reflex together. In terms of aesthetics are identical and only in the back you can notice the larger display of 30D. Same logic layout of controls. Canon 20D + 30D with BG-E2N

As many of you have noticed, 2009 has been for Italiansupercar.net team the year of our entry on YouTube with a dedicated video channel called Italiansupercarvideo .

We looked forward to this moment and during all the years we worked on this idea and makes sense. To create a video section of the website we wanted it to be equal to the corresponding photos in high resolution. And then the way we have undertaken has been to make available, whenever possible, coverage of an event whether photographic or through in HD. Yeah, just the high definition was the starting key point. Each visitor can view the contents in the best quality that we currently offer. To do this, during 2008 we have bought a small HD camcorder, the Canon HF100 and we started to try and experiment

Despite being a product for consumer-market, we quickly realized the excellent quality of video, favored by the small size that make it lighter and an inevitable part of our equipment during the most important events.

As far as I'm concerned I still have much to learn about the proper use of camcorder, especially in how to compose videos and how best to manage movies in postproduction. The year 2010 will be focused even more on the "photo & video" combination for better coverage events. The strong signals of interest shown On newborn Italiansupercarvideo channel can only spur us to try and make available for all visitors as much material as possible. We chose YouTube because believe it's the most important widespread video reality now available on the Net. During all 2009, YouTube has implemented HD functions and this presents for us a big chance to be an active part in this huge video community.

Canon HF100

In November I purchased an additional 0.5x super wide angle conversion lens for Canon Hf100 (HD-5050pro).I chose a product made by Raynox , one of the best brands for additional optical components with headquarters and production in Japan.

Throughout 2009 I've felt, often, the lack of having a better wide-angle lens for make videos in indoor cars expo where often there's very little space to move. I noticed that the image quality degrades at the edges of the frame, but I think it's perfectly acceptable. Is the price to pay for a much wider coverage. For almost the whole framed scene sharpness seemed to me still very high level. Of course if you decide to use HF100 + Raynox for all 12x possibility of original optic Canon zoom degradation of the edges will be increased in proportion with the length of the zoom used.During 2010 I will have to perform many other tests but it's clear that the best results are obtained by leaving the original camera zoom in his wide zone. Canon HF100 + Raynox HD-5050pro

May 2010, something new ...

I must be honest, I'm quite happy with the lenses in my possession. And I had no intention of buying others in the short time. I prefer to save money for take, in the future, a camera body to replace the 30D and also (but not so soon) the 20D. I'm very precise, I archive all pictures always, since I used the Canon G5 and then I moved to the 30D. In recent years, both for cars or for travels, the 30D has produced an impressive numbers of shot, something like 35.000/40.000 every year (!) , reduced in recent times with the arrival of the 20D, which has effectively halved the number of pictures taken to the 30D. As you can see I made extensive use of 30D and although I always scrupulously carried out maintenance on this unit, which I never had problems. But it's undeniable that exceeded the number of 150,000 shots. Much more of the number guaranteed for the shutter. Despite some recent electronics problem (Is not difficult to take also 3000 photos when I'm on racetrack), the 30D works perfectly and the quality of his pics still satisfies me very well. But it's inevitable, sooner or later 30D come to the end of his working life and I'll replace it. Indeed, it would be nice if Canon would let me a camera body to test it for a long-term period...I would be happy to act as testers...

A new lens was not in a prediction. But, as often happens, something interrupts the plans and unrepeatable occasion happen. Cause wrong purchase, a guy was selling his brand new Sigma 100-300 F4 EX mistakenly taken for Canon when he had instead Nikon mount. Incredibly, the seller has decided to not replace the product because it was exactly what the guy requested. It wasn't a question of defective product. So the objective was new, never used, complete with everything...the boy decided to sell it by auctioning on internet where I attended. The price was too good to have it escape, so...now it's here with my others lenses and is my new entry 2010! Sigma 100-300 F4 HSM EX + Canon 30D

Along with the Sigma 100-300 F4 EX I decided to take a very good polarizing filter. I thought that a lens of this level deserved one. Unfortunately, like the Canon 16-35 L II, also Sigma has a very large diameter of 82mm and consequently the prices of the filters start to become significant. So I made an effort and I bought Kenko Pro1 slim zero-

reflection. The problem is now to move it inside when you have a lens hood so big... Kenko Pro1 Zero Reflection (82 mm)

I tried the Sigma 100-300 F4 EX, for the first time, at the "1000 Miglia" 2010, and with about 2000 shots I can say that I did a big important test...Some consideration about the lens: it's huge and weight a lot!

I'm wont to the weight, especially since I use 2 bodies together, but I must say that the Sigma is now my maximum weight. The single lens is almost 1.5 kg! During all hours of the race I placed the lens on monopod and I finally concluded that the only way, at least for me, for not too tired. Using by hand is certainly possible, the lens is well balanced, but if you use it for several hours Sigma start to be tiring. With the monopod there's no problems. I must say that the hood is really huge but works perfectly. I think it's essential to keep it mounted to prevent unwanted lights. The lens seems to suffer of this effect and backlight much more of my Canon 100-300 F5.6 L.

The focus ring is fantastic. Even the focal distance ring is very good, the movement is a bit hard but this makes the perfect small adjustments you need. I noticed however that the transition from 100mm to 300mm is slower than the Canon push-pull system. The disadvantage, however, at least for my old 100-300 F5.6 L is to draw the dust into the camera, which doesn't happen with the Sigma. The speed of ultrasonic motor called HSM is very good, very similar to the 28-70 L in my possession, while it's a bit slower than the 16-35 L II (my fastest AF lens). However I would say that it's a really good performance, knowing the number of inside lenses to moving. Considerations about image quality used in combination with Canon 30D.

The first thing to say is that I have bought the lens recently and I haven't used much. Certainly I will have time to use it properly in the future.

That said, the image quality seems very good, but not exceeding respect the old Canon 100-300 F5.6 L. From Canon I like a lot the colors that come from images, certainly due to the use of fluorite lenses. Personally a bit better than the Sigma.

The sigma 100-300 F4 EX has an extraordinary lovely blur, due to having 9 blades and is superb when you are in the situation of 300mm and F4 together. I must say that even at F4 images are very sharp throughout the focal length. If you stop down to F5.6 or F.8 the sharpness is amazing, and the edges of the image look good as much as the center. The construction of this object is very good, it's solid, rubber rings are big and is nice to touch external finish. Although support for the tripod is great.

I took this lens with the intent of use it much for trackdays and races on circuit. I'm sure that HSM speed, the variable focal length (zoom's typical) and usable F4 from 100 to 300 mm may help me to catch better shots

More shots about my brand new Sigma 100-300 F4 HSM EX: Sigma 100-300 F4 HSM EX

My last purchase was a Lowepro backpack model "Toploader Pro 75 AW" that allows the transport of Sigma 100-300 F4 with the 30D mounted. I must say that everything is very compressed and very close to, but this backpack is great with many pockets. Perfect for the combo!

Lowepro Toploader Pro 75 AW I make often use of polarizer filters for outside shots. I have some of them in various dimensions following the lens that I use. I think they are really important to delete undesired light effects on cars.

The images are realized in JPG and reduced with the program "The Gimp". If necessary color and contrast can be improved in some parameters.

The published photos are in the biggest resolution available. Please do not contact me to ask to send bigger images in your private e-mail.

Do you have a great supercar and do you want to see it on Italiansupercar.net with a private photo session? Contact me, I will estimate if the thing is possible.