

The iPad, iPhone and RAW Files

Introduction

Even though you may not shoot RAW images, this information should be very helpful. The Photos App on the iPad or iPhone is not very helpful. In fact, if you use that App you can't tell which photos were shot in the RAW format. There are ways to overcome this. Below are the results of a small test where both RAW and JPGs were shot and transferred to an iPad. An iPhone will provide similar results.

Photos taken for this test

For this test 5 photos were taken as follows:

1. RAW only (camera set to RAW only)
2. RAW + JPG pair (camera set to RAW + JPG)
3. B&W RAW
4. B&W RAW + JPG pair
5. B&W JPG

The photos were imported to an iPad using the camera connection kit. This resulted in a total of 7 photos, 4 RAW and 3 JPGs. However, the iPad only shows 5 photos since a RAW/JPG pair is shown as 1 photo.

Results

Here are various Apps and the results:

- iPad Photos App
 - Only shows JPGs. For RAW photos the embedded JPG is used.
 - This results in only 5 photos being shown
 - You can email a photo and if it is a RAW, you can send it. However, if the photo was a RAW/JPG pair, you can only send the JPG.
- Photogene see at <http://bit.ly/photogeneapp>
 - Can edit RAW photos
 - Shows only 5 photos. For a RAW.JPG pair, the RAW is shown
- Snapseed see at <http://bit.ly/snapseedapp>
 - Can edit RAW photos if you have a supported camera
 - For a list of Supported cameras see <http://bit.ly/snapseedRAW>
- Mylio see at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mylio/id908787435?mt=8>
 - Shows RAW and JPG photos
 - Shows only 5 photos but for a RAW/JPG pair, it shows that it is a pair
 - Wireless Photo Transfer available <http://www.phototransferapp.com/>
 - Can transfer RAW but not JPG if part of a RAW/JPG pair.
- ThisPC on Windows 10
 - Can download all RAW and JPG files

- Lightroom
 - Can import all RAW and JPG files
 - Imported all 7 photos
- Windows 10 Photos App
 - Can only import JPGs
- iCloud online account
 - For RAW/JPG pairs you can download full size JPG only
 - For RAW photo, can only download a very small JPG
- Windows iCloud Control Panel available at <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT204283>
 - The program, when installed on a Windows PC, will download all 7 of the original photos.

Notes about shooting black and white.

- When shooting in RAW mode, black and white will still retain all of the color and must be additionally processed via software to achieve the black and white.
- When shooting a RAW/JPG pair the JPG will be in black and white.

Here's a summary of the results

Program	No of files Displayed	Handles RAW	Notes
1. iPad Photos App	5	No	
2. Photogene	5	Yes	
3. Snapseed	5	Yes ¹	Only opens what the Photos App shows
4. Mylio	5	Yes	
5. Wireless Transfer App	5	Yes	
6. ThisPC	7 ²	Yes	
7. Lightroom	7	Yes	
8. Windows 10 Photo App	3	No	Only showed the JPG's
9. iCloud online	5	No	
10. iCloud Control Panel	7	Yes	

Notes:

1. Provided that the camera is supported.
2. You have to root through several folders to locate the photos you're looking for.

Conclusions

- You can't shoot black and white in RAW only mode
- Options 7 and 10 in the above table are the best ways to retrieve all of your photos from an iPad or iPhone. Option 6 will work although it's clumsy.