

A big compact

Sony's new camera takes 3D pictures, but as **MATT SUN** reports, that's by no means the main reason to consider the NEX-3

The NEX-3 is an unusual looking camera. Sony's new line combines the compact form of the Cybershot range with the better quality lenses used by SLR cameras. The 14.2 megapixel camera shoots sharp pictures, can record HD video and has a port for a plug-in flash. There are two lenses in the box, a fixed 16mm and an 18-55mm zoom lens, but Sony product owners should note these lenses cannot be used with Alpha SLRs. These lenses produce sharper photographs than you would expect from a camera body of this size. The flat 16mm lens reduces the bulk of the camera considerably for times when carrying items is an annoyance.

However, the most interesting feature of the NEX-3 is its ability to take 3D photographs which can be viewed on a 3D TV. The camera records depth information by taking a series of pictures as the photographer pans the camera from left to right. These can be displayed as a panorama or a 16:9 3D photograph. A 3D television connected to the camera with a type-C HDMI cable is needed to view the pictures, the USB cable is not sufficient. While the software compensates for jerky movement, the quality of the 3D effect is determined by the competency of the operator – several attempts may be

needed to create a great shot. The 3D mode will not work with fast moving scenes and moving people produces mutated faces in the final product. A series of test shots produced some fun 3D images but almost all suffered from a fisheye lens effect. A tripod, or even better a side sliding apparatus, produced better images. At this stage 3D photography remains a novelty – it works but enthusiasts should not expect to create eye-popping images. But like 3D TV, the format is not the main reason to buy the NEX-3 – it's a bonus in a camera that has many excellent features. The NEX-3 with single lens cost \$849 while the twin lens option costs \$999.

BITS & BYTES

The PlayStation 2 was the first video game system to use DVD technology.

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APP REVIEW

R-Type

\$2.49 ★★★★★

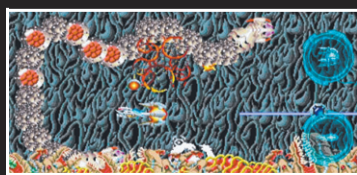
Retro gamers rejoice. What used to cost so many dollars at an arcade parlour is yours to play on your iPhone.

This side-scrolling shooter is a straight port of the arcade classic with a few iPhone extras thrown in, such as level select and saved games.

You control the R-Type by touching or tilting the screen and destroy the Bydo bad guys with your charge-up cannon.

An indestructible pod can also be attached to the front or rear of the craft or left to float, destroying what it touches (why didn't they make the ship out of the indestructible material?)

Controlling with your thumb means you might not see some enemies sneaking up from behind but this is not as much of a problem on the iPad screen with 2x zoom.



On the plus side, the easy controls have made the R-Type zippier than ever.

There are only eight levels, but they are all examples of clever 2D and boss fight design.

Nokia's Space Impact game was never this good.

— MS

TEXTIME

Google Android is now the No.1 challenger to the established mobile market. This open source software will shake up the industry because it gives all vendors a free operating system to put on to any mobile device.

Millennius is a local Aussie technology company that has seized upon this opportunity to launch its own range of touch screen smartphones. The Apana A60 mobile is a 16GB 3G phone that has all the bells and whistles to duke it out with the other players.

The OS is Vanilla Android 2.1 Eclair and is powered by the Qualcomm 7227 600MHz CPU.

Bluetooth, wireless 802.11b/g, 5.0-megapixel camera and a LCD Display of 8cm is standard.



The Millennius Apana A60 is unlocked, meaning you can put any SIM into it.

To connect the device to your PC simply plug the phone into your PC and it should auto-install drivers and allow you to tether your internet connection over USB or add media.

It is integrated with the Google marketplace so you can continue to download applications and software updates.

This phone is a little smaller than some other devices on the market and it runs the Vanilla version of Android – besides that the phone will perform as any other smartphone on the market. \$459

— ASH
www.TekTime.com.au

ASK GIZMO

I'd like to convert some old slides to CD. How do I make them digital?

— PHIL

The easiest way to convert old slides and negatives to digital photos is to scan them.

A lot of new scanners and multi-function printers come with negative and slide cartridges to help make the process easier.

The other way is to take the slides to a photo shop and get them to convert them for you. Depending on how many slides you have, this method could be quite costly.

Once you've finished, sit back, load up the slide show and reminisce or create a photo book from your newly digitised photos.

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