STREAMING STEAL TH!

The Marshall CV380-CS is an unobtrusive camera that can live broadcast events in glorious 4K.

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I f all you dream of is a large cinema camera with fast prime lenses to create a wonderfully cinematic wafer-thin depth-of-field, then look away now. The new Marshall CV380-CS will unashamedly offer none of those things. But if you are plunging headfirst into the kind of livestreaming that’s being increasingly asked for by clients with marketing budgets to spend, then a camera like this may well be your next purchase.

The Marshall CV380-CS is a compact, true 4K camera built around an 8.5-megapixel, 1/2.5-inch sensor that delivers crisp footage in 4K/60p. It takes interchangeable lenses thanks to its CS/C lens mount, and there are plenty of inexpensive options available in this fitting. It might not be a lens mount that the vast majority of independent filmmakers will own a whole arsenal of compatible glass for, as the screw–threaded CS/C lens mount is more commonly found on 8mm and 16mm movie cameras in the 1/3–inch, 1/2.3–inch, 1-inch, and 4/3-inch video formats. It’s also used for CCTV security cameras and scientific cameras.

We tested the camera with a fixed 3.9mm f/2.0 optic, which is a basic lens where you just set the focus manually then check all is sharp. Marshall offers a whole range of lenses, from a 3.9mm fish-eye glass at £48/$65 to a 15–50mm f/1.5 auto-iris Fujinon zoom at a still very reasonable £205/$275. The body of the CV380-CS is solidly made from metal, rather than plastic.

As the camera shoots in 4K, it’s good to have functional I/O and iris control, it would be easy to knock one of the connections out. This new design helps prevent this.

The camera outputs its signal through a single 6G BNC output with 6G/3G/HD-SDI capability, and also outputs simultaneously via a full-size HDMI cable. Matching the camera to a PC, laptop or using a cable plugged into a monitor, it’s pretty easy to use and can be rigged in many different ways. There are plenty of lenses and accessories available for the camera at inexpensive prices, too. Essentially it’s a professional TV–style mini camera that shoots in 4K and would be a great addition to any livestreamed event. And at the price, there is very little competition.

And there are vents to stop it overheating, which means there is no weatherproofing. You’d need a cover for external use. Compared to other similar–style Marshall cameras, the body has been redesigned to make it even more durable, the rear now has two protruding wings to help you grip the camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action camera, or a GoPro-style action car...