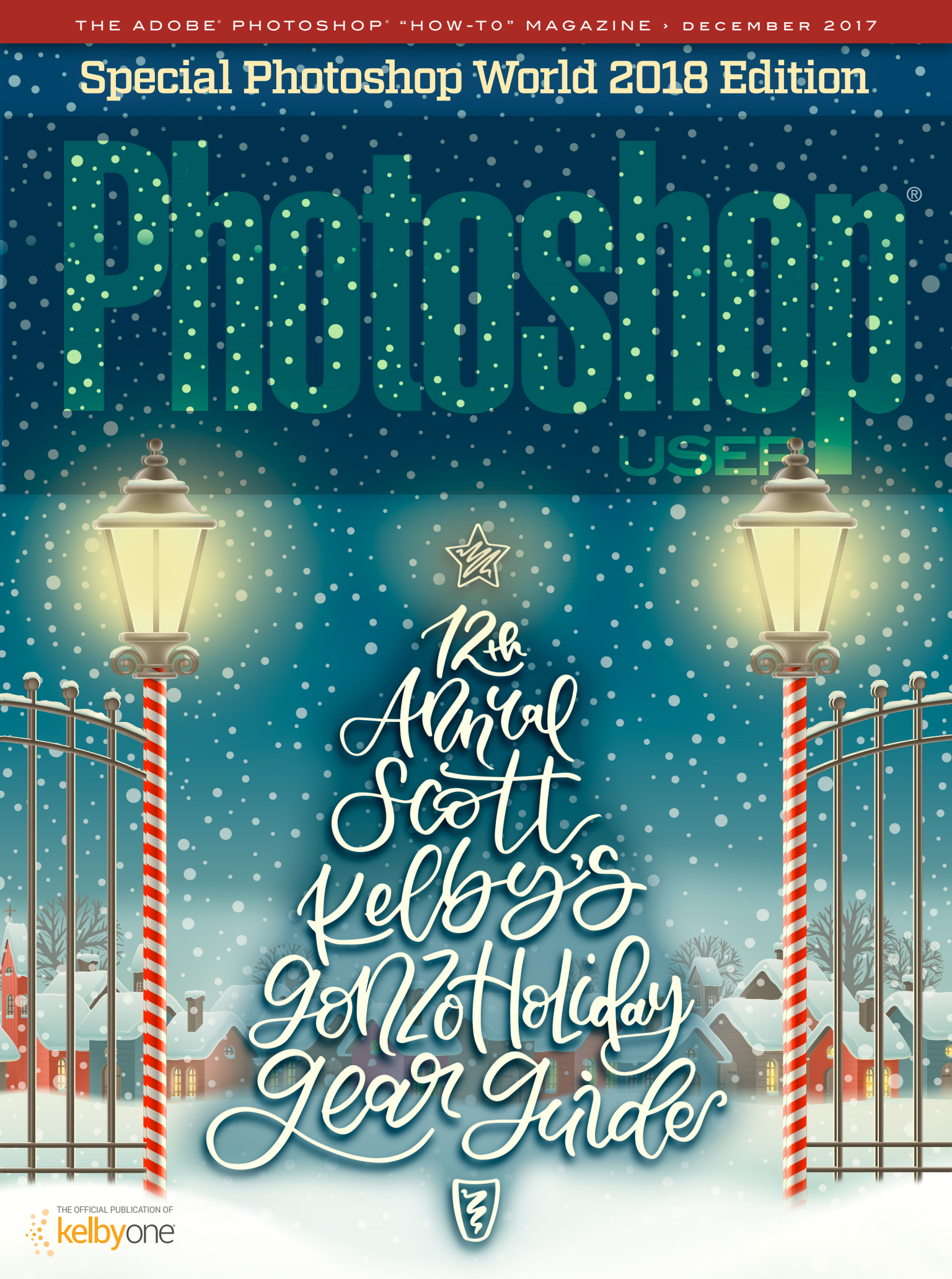


Special Photoshop World 2018 Edition

Photoshop® USER



★
12th
Annual
Scott
Kelby's
Go No! Holiday
Gear Guide



12th Annual
Scott
Kelby's
Get Not Holiday
Gear Guide

giving & receive gifts
decorate happily
Exchange Together Sprawl gifts
Joy

ISO
depth of field
Photo filter
Flash
aperture
zoom
white lens
camera
Exposure
fish

Welcome to my “12th Annual Gonzo Holiday Gear Guide” here in *Photoshop User* magazine. Believe it or not, when I first started this gear guide, Gerald Ford was still President, we were watching *Happy Days* on TV, and we were all driving around in AMC Pacers. Although many things have changed since then (now we’re watching *Little House on the Prairie*), the wholesome goodness of a carefully selected piece of holiday gear still glistens in the crisp morning air (I have no idea what that actually means).

I know it’s easy to get caught up in the joy of giving, and the warmth and magic of the holidays, but the real message behind of all this is simple. It’s to make others feel less adequate by taking cell phone pictures of all the stuff you get and quickly share it on social media to make everyone feel less special than you (and they are, by the way, quite a bit less special. If they have any doubt, they have but to gaze upon your Facebook feed, and they should feel tremendously less cool than you. If for some reason they don’t, you did it wrong).

Anyway, lets refocus on this year’s list, which is compiled from my own gear, and it’s stuff that I can’t possibly live without, even for a single moment, and I’m hoping to pass that uncomfortable dependence on to you and your loved ones this holiday season.

The Rules

These are my self-imposed guidelines for which products make it into the guide—it's just two rules actually. To be listed here, they have to be: (a) products that I use myself, and that I absolutely love, and now can't live without (well, I could live without them, but I just wouldn't want to); and (b) if a product makes the guide, it has to be one I'd recommend to a close friend without hesitation, especially if my friend was a Wall Street hedge fund manager or college football coach.

Also, to make things easy, we added direct links to all the products I picked so you don't have to wonder if you're getting the exact right one. (Note: Depending on the product, clicking on the product name below will take you to the manufacturer's website; if the product is available at B&H Photo or Amazon, then clicking on the price will take you to those websites.)

As is my sacred Gonzo tradition for more than a 10th of a century, I'm breaking things into three distinct categories:

Stocking Stuffers

But you can use these as actual holiday gifts if you're not that crazy about the person.

Great Value Gear

Stuff that's a really good deal for the money, and even though it's not a lot of money, they'll still totally dig it.

Cha-ching!

Stuff you buy for the NBA player on your holiday gift list. This is the stuff that makes them burst into spontaneous tears of joy.

Well, at least I would.

Stocking Stuffers



Neewer Professional Metal 360 Degree Rotating Panoramic Ballhead

Want to make 'em think you spent a bundle? Get 'em this awesome little ballhead, with a quick shoe plate and built-in bubble level. It supports a camera rig up to nearly 18 lbs., and if their camera rig weighs more than 18 lbs., it's possible they have an entirely different problem that holiday gifts won't fix. Anyway, believe it or not, it's just \$12.99, which is insanely cheap.

Price: \$12.99



The Joby Flash Clamp & Locking Arm

The Joby Flash Clamp & Locking Arm is kind of like a cheaper, lighter, simpler version of the Manfrotto Magic Arm, with two articulating ball joints so you can position it just how you want (it rotates a full 360° and can pivot 180° side-to-side). It comes with its own flash shoe mount, and you can attach it to all kinds of surfaces (like the back of a chair, a table, a railing, whatever—as long as it isn't thicker than 2"). At just \$39.95, it's cheaper than it oughta be.

Price: \$39.95



3 Legged Thing QR11-LC Universal L-Bracket

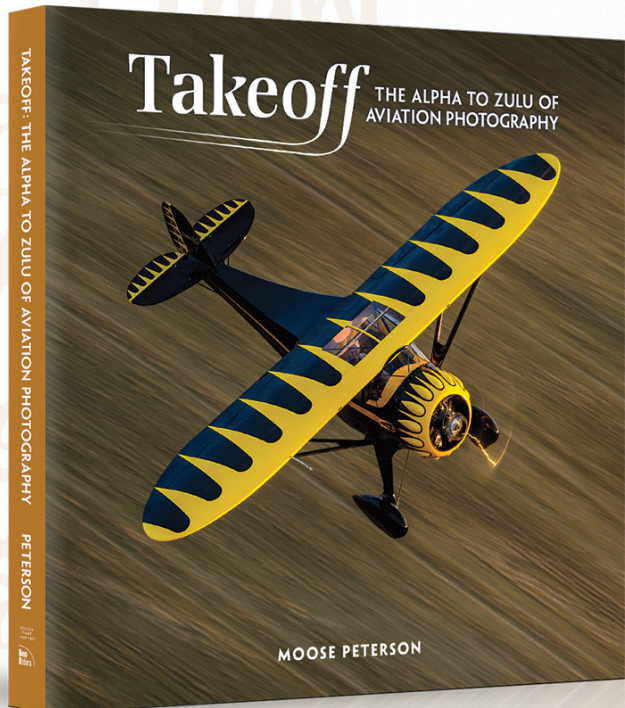
The 3 Legged Thing Universal L-Bracket is perfect for the landscape, nature, or outdoor photographer on your gift list who uses a tripod, because it lets them change from shooting wide to tall in two-seconds flat. The problem has been that L-Brackets have traditionally been ridiculously expensive—until now. It comes in gray or really bright orange.

Price: \$49.99

Moose Peterson's new book Takeoff: The Alpha to Zulu of Aviation Photography

How do I know this is the most awesome book ever on aviation photography? Well, (a) I read the reviews on Amazon, and (b) because we worked with Moose to produce this book and he absolutely knocked it out of the park (which is a baseball metaphor, and an aviation metaphor would have been better, but it's late at night, so we're going with this). Anyway, if the photographer on your list loves taking photos of planes, this will help him or her take way better pics from this moment on.

*Price: \$19.79 (Kindle.)
\$28.32 (Paperback)*



Great Value Gear

Platypod Ultra with Multi Accessory Set

This tripod alternative has taken the photography world by storm: It fits in your pocket, you can screw on a small bullhead, it holds your camera steady as a rock, and you can place it where tripods either aren't allowed (which sadly is pretty much everywhere these days) or where they can't fit. Everybody wants a Platypod Ultra. They'll love you for it. It's \$59, but splurge a little and also get them the Multi Accessory Set (it's awesome) for an extra \$20.

Price: \$59; \$79 w/Multi Accessory Set



Oben BE-117 Ballhead

If you want to get them a quality ballhead, but without paying \$300+, check out the Oben BE-117—I love mine, and it works great with a Platypod or a tripod (or anything with a -pod at the end). It's really well made and compact. They'll love it.

Price: \$84.95

TetherBlock Arca

If your photographer has a home or office studio, chances are they shoot tethered, and if they do, they'll love the new TetherBlock Arca from Tether Tools. It's a quick-release plate for their tripod that threads their tethering cable between it and their camera, keeping them from accidentally pulling out the tethering cable during the shoot. It's so darn clever! It's \$99.95 direct from Tether Tools.

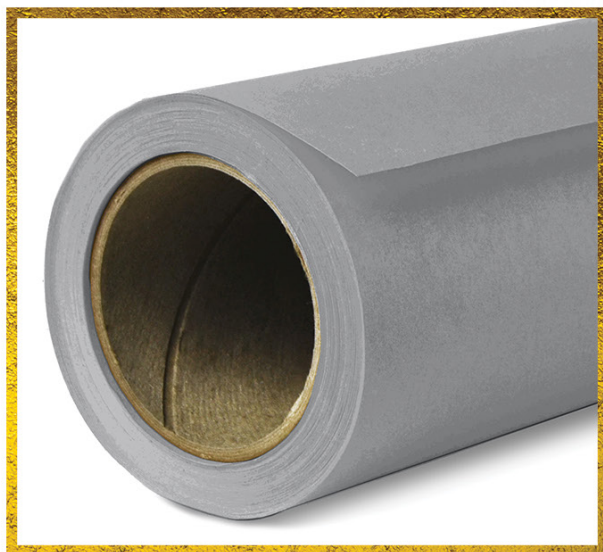
Price: \$99.95



B&H Gift Card

This is always a perfect gift because: (a) B&H Photo is the greatest camera store in the world, and (b) whatever the photographer on your gift list wants, B&H has it in stock, ready to ship. They're the magical unicorn of camera stores. Get them a gift card from here and they'll follow you anywhere.

Price: Starting at \$20



A Roll of Savage Fashion Gray Seamless Paper

Everybody needs a great roll of seamless, and if the photographer on your list ever shoots fashion, this is kind of the official "fashion gray" of paper: Savage's #56 Fashion Gray 107" wide by 36' long roll. Your photographer will love you for it, and since you're a KelbyOne member, B&H Photo will even ship it for free if you order from our [Discounts page](#) on the KelbyOne member site.

Price: \$49.99

MagMod Basic Kit

This one is for the flash user on your holiday list, and it doesn't matter which kind of flash (Canon, Nikon, Sony, Yongnuo, Phottix, etc.) they have, this system will work and it's pretty darn brilliant, because it's all based on magnets. You slide on their MagGrip and now their MagGel or MagGrid just slaps on/off instantly and magnetically. So clever! Your photographer will fall in love with 'em (like I have).

Price: \$89.95





Elgato Thunderbolt 3 Dock

This one's for the MacBook Pro user on your holiday list—it's a dock with about every possible port you could want to make up for the fact that Apple took most of them way on the MacBook Pro. It has two Thunderbolt 3 ports, a DisplayPort (so you can connect multiple displays), an Ethernet port, three USB 3 ports, and headphone and mic jacks. All this, and it comes in a slim size that connects with just one plug into their laptop. They will super dig it!



Price: \$299.95

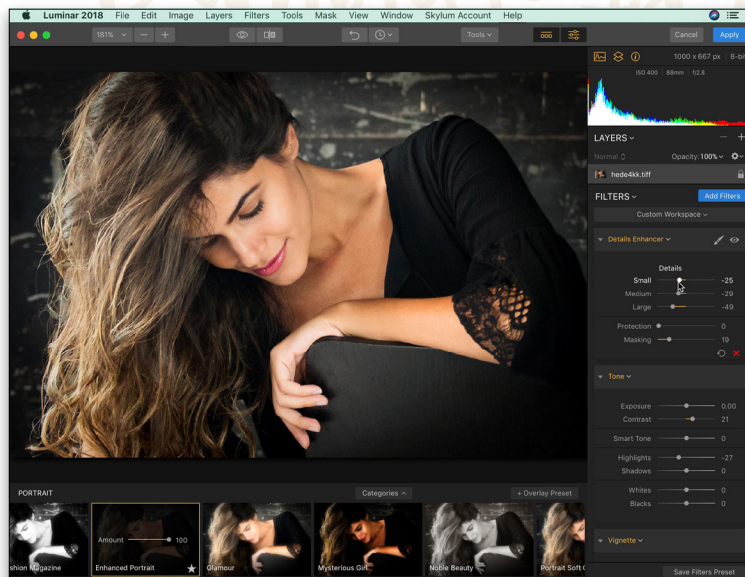
WD 4TB My Passport Portable External Hard Drive

Everybody needs more photo storage, and WD's 4-TB My Passport USB 3 portable external hard drive totally rocks at just \$120. Think about it—4-TB of storage that fits in the palm of your hand. Crazy! But, it's a really important, thoughtful gift. You'll get lots of hugs.



Price: \$119.99

Katharina Kelly



Skylum Luminar Plug-in for Lightroom/Photoshop

This is the hot new effects plug-in that everybody's talking about, and now Skylum (previously Macphun) has a Windows version as well (and the original Mac version, too). It pretty much does everything, and these guys are on the cutting edge of interface design and effects. Great presets, and it's the "hair apparent" to the beloved Google Nik Collection.

Price: \$69

*Perfectly Clear Complete
Plug-In for Lightroom/
Photoshop*

I don't use a lot of Photoshop or Lightroom plug-ins, but when I do, I use this one. It uses intelligent image analysis to quickly fix your images. I mainly use it for portrait retouching, and it does an amazingly good job, for a pretty decent price. Totally worth it.

Price: \$129



*Hoodman HoodLoupe Outdoor Loupe
(H30 MB or H32 MB)*

This is the latest update of a classic, and this is probably the third or fourth time this has been on my holiday list because it's such an indispensable tool for any photographer who shoots outdoors in direct light. It covers your entire LCD screen so you can see your images perfectly outdoors (when everybody around you can't). It's \$89.99 and totally worth it. (There are versions for 3" screens, or Canon's 3.2" screens.)

Price: \$89.99

Westcott 43" Apollo Orb Octabox

There's a reason the Westcott 43" Apollo Orb Octabox is probably the biggest selling light modifier from one of the world's largest light modifier companies. If your photographer has studio lights, this is a killer gift. Big soft beautiful light, with a quick setup/tear down, and a price that's right at \$129.90 (and if you get it from B&H, they throw in a 40° Fabric Grid, which is normally \$69.90 on its own). Hard to beat.

Price: \$129.90



Cha-ching!

Canon EF 14mm f/2.8L II USM Lens

This is the lens...of the gods. It's a super wide-angle, but it's not big and bulky, and it's really sharp, and it's mega awesome, and your photographer will dedicate his or her life to somehow paying you back for this life-changing, photo-making, love-taking gift. I take mine pretty much everywhere, and I love it so. At \$2099, this is why this category is called "Cha-Ching."

Price: \$2,099



Nikon D850 DSLR Camera Body

I had to include this one, because I haven't talked to a Nikon shooter who doesn't think this isn't the greatest camera body Nikon's ever made. They're literally over the moon about this one. (I'm not a Nikon shooter myself, but based on the specs, and reactions from shooters I've talked with, this body is the real deal for the Nikon shooter on your list.) It has a 45.7-megapixel sensor; it does 4K; and it, well, pretty much does everything. It oughta—it's \$3,296.95 at B&H. Give them this and your photographer will accept a marriage proposal, or at the very least, they'll move in with you.

Price: \$3,296.95

Drobo 5D3 5-Bay Thunderbolt Enclosure

The Drobo 5D3 is a photo storage device for pros (or pro-quality photographers, or anyone really serious about keeping their images safe). I've been using this one for over a year and it's been awesome (and flawless). I'd given up on Drobo years ago, but their new CEO, new designs, new technology, and most importantly, new warranty (two years on the standard 5D3, but up to five years if you splurge on either the Gold or Platinum Edition), changed my mind. Stellar gift and the price is actually great for this robotic safeguard of your images.

Price: \$694 (enclosure only)





DJI Mavic Pro Drone (Fly More Combo)

If there's a hotter gift in general out there this season, I've yet to find it. Everybody wants a drone (not just photographers), but this is the best one ever made at this price point. It's the "dream drone," and you won't find a Mavic Pro owner who doesn't think this isn't the greatest thing since free film. I would get them the Fly More Combo, which comes with an extra battery and important stuff they'll actually need. Honestly, it's a deal for what it does (it flies up to 4+ miles, shoots 12-megapixel photos, comes with its own camera, shoots 4K video, and it's a freakin' drone. How awesome is that?).

Price: \$1,299

Canon, Nikon, or Sony Teleconverter

This is probably the lowest-price gift under the "Cha-Ching" category, but don't let that throw you because this is a seriously awesome gift for any photographer who shoots things at a distance—such as sports, aviation, or wildlife—because it gets them 1.4x closer to the action without losing quality. Don't go with the 2x—stick with the 1.4x so they don't lose too much light or quality. If your photographer is a Canon shooter, go with the Canon brand; if they're a Nikon shooter, go with the Nikon brand; and if they use a Sony camera, go with Sony (I'm usually cool with third-party stuff, but not when it comes to teleconverters). A really killer gift without breaking the bank.

Canon Extender EF 1.4x III
\$429.00

Nikon AF-S Teleconverter TC-14E III
\$496.95

Sony FE 1.4x Teleconverter
\$548.00

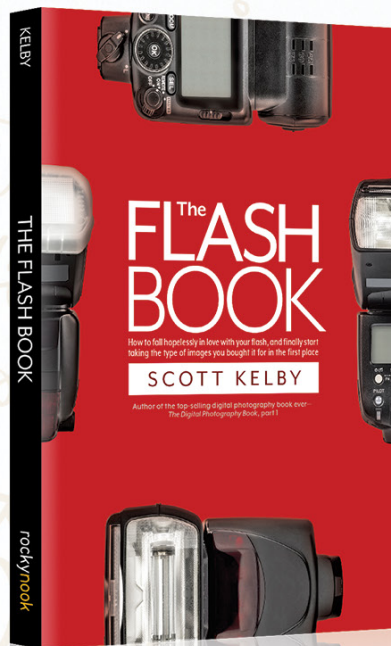


Stuff from Us

My Brand-New Book, *The Flash Book*

If you know the photographer on your wish list already owns a flash, then this is the book to make them finally fall in love with their flash. I wrote this book, which teaches a system I use for getting fantastic results with flash every time. It's for anyone who has struggled with flash and isn't getting the results for which they bought their flash. The book is brand new—printed copies are shipping early December, but the eBook edition is available right now.

*Price: \$19.34 (Kindle)
\$20.36 (Paperback)*



Photoshop World Conference 2018 Full Conference Pass

Want to blow their mind and give them an experience they'll be talking about for years? Give the photographer on your gift list a Full Conference Pass to the three-day Photoshop World Conference 2018 early next summer in Orlando, Florida. Get the pass before April 27, 2018, to take advantage of the Early Bird special, and you'll save \$100. And as a KelbyOne Pro member, you'll save an additional \$100 on Early Bird pricing. You'll have a friend for life. Maybe longer.

Price: \$599 (KelbyOne Pro Member Early Bird Pricing)



A One-Year KelbyOne Pro Membership

You're already a member, so you know firsthand about all the incredible online courses, the online Community, the digital magazines, the webcasts, the discounts, and more. Now you can share all that with a photographer you super dig. It's only \$199 for a full year, with full access to everything! They will devote the rest of their natural life to letting you know how thoughtful, caring, and generous you were to change their life in such a meaningful way. Plus, you'll just look cool. ■

Price: \$199



Discuss this Issue





ANY MOMENT IS YOURS FOR THE TAKING.

This is a life choice. You choose to live creatively. You decide that at any minute you could capture a moment and turn it into something greater. From then on, you keep your camera ready and the perfect image in your mind. Because if you only get one shot at something, you're going to take it for all it's worth. Fuel your creativity.

