

The travelling digital camera can demand more than a hefty memory card to bring the pictures back alive. This is where the Epson P-7000 steps in.

The P-7000 is a storage unit that is an ideal adjunct to any digital camera — dSLR or compact — but especially in the hands of a photographer who likes to shoot mountainous gigabytes of images.

It can safely archive JPEG and RAW images on its 160 GB hard drive, then do more: using its large 10.2cm screen you can clean up images and print them to an external printer with no computer in sight.

As well as storing images, the Epson can replay MP3/AAC tracks, run an MPEG4 movie or, with its AV outputs, you can enjoy the audio on a hifi or vision on a telly. A USB 2.0 terminal connects to the Mac, so you can do imaging touchups with a graphics tablet, viewing on the P-700's screen. Load a memory card and you can copy its entire contents or transfer new or changed files. \_

In keeping with current trends to more and more people shooting in RAW format, the P-7000 can handle RAW images, supporting all major camera makers' formats, as well as Adobe's DNG. Future updates to newer RAW formats will be downloadable from Epson's site.

Once loaded, an image can be viewed full screen, zoomed into and rotated. The Epson device also detects ICC colour spaces from supported file formats to ensure more accurate colour display.

SD and CF cards can be dealt with directly, popped into the slots on top of the unit. Using a CF card adapter/ USB memory card reader, Memory Stick, Smart Media and xD-Picture Card cards can also be loaded.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. This unit would make the perfect travelling companion to a high level dSLR. At the price, a pro could travel with two P-7000s and insure against data loss.