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▼ MOTA Wireless Charger for GoPro

Enabling Continuous Recording

Review by Erik Vlietinck

The MOTA Wireless Charger for GoPro is a nicely designed, glossy black-and-white charging station with a battery inside that can hold and charge a case-mounted GoPro, as well as an extra GoPro battery and a USB device.

The charger works with a HERO3/3+/4 on the principle of inductive charging. It comes with a wireless receiver and a micro-USB to USB charging cable. No USB-to-power adapter is delivered with the unit. The receiver connects to the GoPro's USB interface and wraps around the base of the device. Its metal parts are enclosed by a thin sheet of plastic to allow the GoPro to be kept inside its mounting case while charging. The receiver looked flimsy to me, but the mini-USB interface swivels to prevent it from breaking when you pull it out. The MOTA is resistant to light rain, so it can be used outdoors.

Charging the MOTA Wireless Charger from empty to fully charged took more than six hours. I could then place my HERO3+ or 4 in the charger's slot. The slot is only meant to grab the GoPro housing's "feet"—where you fix the actual buckle—and optimally position the wireless receiver. Once mounted and active, the MOTA will charge the GoPro from displaying one battery block to fully charged in less than an hour.



Professional Auto Album Design Software

Review by Michael Corsentino

The clever minds at Fundy Software are back with a slick new version of their award-winning album design software, Fundy Designer v7. This version is a beautifully implemented evolution and a true game changer, incorporating three revolutionary core technologies: a first-of-its-kind professional-grade, intelligent, autodesign tool; a completely revamped, redesigned, image browser that can recognize image tags and star ratings via Adobe Lightroom, Photo Mechanic, and Bridge; and 150 new template-free layout options via the new Quick Design Picker.

It's no joke when I tell you that, with Fundy Design v7, you can import all of your event images, click the Auto Design button, and have a complete album layout in a matter of seconds! If you're like me, it's this first rough draft that takes the most time. Designer v7 does all that work for you, and does it amazingly well. Layouts are stylish, classic, and contemporary—no stale templates here.



The wireless power transmission was quite good. Even when I removed the GoPro from the MOTA base, the charging process kept going until I was about half an inch away from the attachment recess. All in all, you'll be able to shoot for about five to six hours with the GoPro mounted on top of the MOTA. Of course, mounting the camera on the charger rules out action filming. To compensate, you can simultaneously charge another GoPro and a spare battery.

Company: MOTA

Rating: ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ♦ ♦

Hot: Battery stamina; charges three devices simultaneously; design

Not: Not waterproof; receiver not designed for frequent removal

If absolute control is your thing, Designer v7 has you covered: Application tags for Main Image, Cover Photo, Panorama, and its ability to group images into sets destined for automated layout, all speed the custom design process into a whiz-bang affair. After the initial design is complete, you can adjust individual layouts and spread order to your heart's content. The Quick Design Picker in Designer v7 puts a dizzying array of 150 new template-free layout options at your fingertips, giving photographers and designers millions of possible combinations.

When your album is complete, you can either export your design or send it to many of the industry's top album manufacturers directly from within Fundy Designer v7. This makes designing and printing albums easy no matter what album company you're using. Time is money and nobody wants to spend his life designing albums. Fundy Designer v7 gets you back where you want to be, behind your camera!

Company: Fundy Software

Pricing: Suite: \$499.00; Album Builder: \$299

Rating: ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

▲ Hot: Auto design tool; image browser; 150 new template-free layout

▼ Not: Improved Text tool doesn't support center and right-aligned tex