

18 BITS OF KIT FOR LANDSCAPES

■ Gear List — what's in my kitbag

by Ray Salisbury

■ Tripod

If you're at all serious about landscape photography, invest in a sturdy tripod. If you've got the money, get a carbon fibre model. Alloy models are cheaper, albeit heavy to lug around.

BALL HEAD:

[Manfrotto 498RC2](#)

ALLOY LEGS:

[Manfrotto MT 190X3](#)

■ DSLR Camera

[Canon EOS 5D MkII](#)

Semi-pro full-frame DSLR
plus a backup camera:

Canon EOS 5D MkII

[plus lots of spare batteries](#)



■ Polarising Filters

[Marumi DHG circular polariser](#)

[Hoya Slim Frame circular polariser](#)

> eliminates reflections from water & glass. Increases contrast & colour chroma. Protects lenses!



■ Lenses

[Canon EF f/4 L IS USM](#)

70-200mm telephoto

[Canon EF f/4 L USM](#)

17-40mm wide-angle zoom

[Canon EF f/1.8 50mm prime](#)

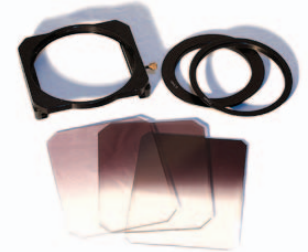


■ ND Grad Filter Kit

[Formatt Hi-Tech 85mm filter system](#)

2-slot holder + adaptor rings + 1, 2 & 3-stop neutral density graduated resin filters

> to control high dynamic range



■ Memory Cards

[SanDisk Extreme & Ultra](#)

4, 8, 16 & 32 Gig Compact Flash & SD cards > large capacity cards are expensive, but imperative for video or multi-day tramps



■ Specialised Filters

[Formatt Hi-Tech 85mm filters](#)

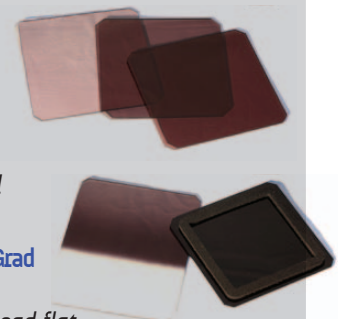
1, 2 & 3-stop neutral density (ND) resin filters > useful for slowing motion of water or clouds (e.g. coastal or waterfall shots)

[Formatt Hi-Tech 85mm Reversed Grad](#)

> this hard grad is for coastal sunsets where the horizon is dead flat

[Formatt Hi-Tech 85mm Pro Stop 10](#)

> this 10-stopper allows for super-long exposures, although creates a colour cast, which is restrictive



■ Cable Release

[Canon Remote Switch RS-80N3](#)

> this is useful for locking the shutter open during long exposures. No battery required! Faster & easy to use than an Intervalometer



■ Cable Release

[Hahnel CAPTUR Wireless Timer Remote](#)

(a.k.a. Intervalometer)

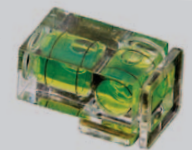
> for locking the shutter open during repeated long exposures or time lapses. 4x AA batteries required.



■ Hot-shoe mounted spirit Level

[Goja 3-axis model](#)

> 2-way bubble level for getting those horizons straight in-camera. Useful in the dark, or if your camera doesn't have an electronic level



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■ Kit Bag

[LowePro Rover AW II](#) (inc. rain cover)

> top compartment holds clothing, lunch, notebook, etc. lower compartment has room for DSLR, 2 lenses & camera gear. 2 mesh pockets for carrying drink bottles
> External tripod carrier (shown in use here).

■ Cleaning Kit

Lens cleaning fluid

Ask your local camera shop, & don't buy el cheapo stuff

Anti-static cloth

Your lens deserves a bit of TLC



■ Headlamps

[Led Lenser H7.2](#)

> when you're on an evening photo shoot, you'll rely on a decent torch to get you back to your car safely



■ Chemical Handwarmers

> for attaching to lens during star trail or time lapse photography, to prevent the lens from fogging over. Buy these cheap on Trade-Me
> you'll need tape & scissors handy



■ Finger-less Gloves

> normal mittens are fine, but it can make pressing small camera buttons rather awkward. Thick woollen gloves like these are the best compromise



■ Warm hat

> On freezing winter mornings, or evenings, you'll wanna feel comfy. Remember, much of your body heat escapes through the top of your head. Buy a decent beanie or balaclava



■ Sun Protection

> Under a blazing summer sun, you'll need a cap and sunscreen. The New Zealand weather can be unforgiving. If you're by the sea, take along insect repellent too.



■ Food & Drink

> If you're thirsty or hungry, this can affect your ability to think clearly, and therefore jeopardise the success & enjoyment of your image-making



“
Failing to plan
is planning
to fail.
— Winston
Churchill
”