

## RING LIGHT

## Kaiser R60 LED light £73

● As anybody who shoots extreme macro shots will tell you, getting the right level of available light for a close-up shot can be hard, and that's where ringlights come into the equation. The R60 by Kaiser is a portable battery, or mains powered (DC adapter sold separately) unit, which attaches to the front of your lens via a filter thread (it comes with 49, 52, 55, 58, 62 and 67mm adaptors). Once secured, it can provide soft, even light over your subject thanks to a circular array of 60 LED lights, which are capable of putting out 2300 LUX (at 30cm). Each LED carries a colour temperature of approximately 5600K, which means they give roughly the same colour temperature as daylight (so your images don't come with an unnatural blue or orange colour cast). This light can be dimmed, thanks to the inclusion of a control wheel on the side, to adjust the amount of light output. It also comes with a minimum working distance of 3cm, which allows you to get really close to your subject. The unit itself is pleasingly rugged, while maintaining a lightweight feel thanks to its plastic construction. This means your lens won't be over-burdened or top-heavy



**Above** Thanks to 60 LED lights putting out 2300 LUX at a daylight colour temperature of 5600K, it provides very even illumination.

while you're shooting. The light lasts for up to 120 minutes at full power or 30 hours when dimmed to the lowest setting, which is very respectable, though you'll want to invest in a set of rechargeable batteries if you're a heavy user. One annoyance we found was that the compartments which house the four AA batteries were screwed shut by two small Phillips Head screws. This would normally be fine, but since each battery has its own compartment, this means changing them becomes a bit of a pain, and we'd have preferred a simple snap-shut design. [kaiser-fototechnik.de](http://kaiser-fototechnik.de)



## TRIPOD

## Benro Slim carbon fiber tripod £120

● With many cameras becoming smaller, lightweight travel tripods offer an amazing alternative to expensive, bulky versions. The Benro Slim series offers great stability in a tiny package, weighing only a smidge over 1kg. As well as being light, it's a budget-busting £120, amazing for a tripod with a 146cm reach, an included ball head and 4kg weight capacity. Without the central column, which is operated with an intuitive twist lock design, the tripod reaches 122cm, and the whole kit folds down to 51cm, making travel a piece of cake. It also comes with a ball head and an Arca-style plate, as well as hard-wearing aluminium twist lock mechanisms, allowing you to extend the legs in an instant. We're extremely impressed with this tripod, especially at the price, and even more so with the aluminium version, which retails at only £80. [benro.com](http://benro.com)



**Left** The carbon fiber version weighs in at just over 1kg

**Right** The inclusion of a ball head is extremely welcomed.



## Pixi Pano360 £125

Pixi Pano360 is Manfrotto's fully remote controlled rotating panoramic head. Designed for phones, it comes with a universal smartphone mount and a remote control, allowing you to move the head left or right, as well as set it to a sweeping video motion or minute increments. You can also control this with the Pixi Pano360 smartphone app, which works as well as the head itself, although sadly the price will put off those who would prefer the same kit but for a traditional camera. [manfrotto.com](http://manfrotto.com)



## iStorage Personal 2 32GB £49

This 32GB USB thumb-drive from secure memory manufacturer iStorage offers full XTS-AES 256-bit encryption in a small package. Great for anybody needing to transfer sensitive data on the go. The drive lets you set a password on the keypad to ensure you're the only person able to view the contents – perfect for keeping those special files safe. It also offers USB 3.0 connectivity for high speed transfer, and is available in 8, 16 and 64GB versions. [istorage-uk.com](http://istorage-uk.com)

