

Unknown: Howdy. Howdy, folks. And welcome to Moos podcast number 337 Perfect Photographer's Computer with Chuck. Hey, thanks for stopping by. I really appreciate your time and this very special podcast is inside of that time. And and be honest with you, answering a lot of questions that come my way that I am not the expert to be asking, but I happen to know one. So thanks for coming by. I also want to thank my good friend of Bedford's camera Bedford's dot com. Man, they are cranking up the education. Like I mentioned a few times on the 27th, I'll be at their Fayetteville store there. Arkansas. Where? Doc at aviation, baby. Yep. Wheels down, prop turning. We are going to do the afterburners. Have a great time. Come on by. They've got a whole lot of other great stuff going on. I saw they have a event coming up in May with my dear friend Dixie Dixon. And, you know, besides that, did you know that Bedford actually sells camera gear? Yeah, they sell a lot. They have a huge inventory, all their stores, great service and knowledge. And of course, mention the old moose arou there. At the end you'll see 5% taken off when you check out. So. Bedford Scott, thank you very much for sponsoring the Moose podcast and helping us photographers do our thing. Well, let's get right into this episode. Perfect photographer's computer with Chuck. Now, Chuck is a dear friend of mine. He is an amazing photographer. Shot with him. I've been very fortunate to shoot him many times. He does some of the things that I do and he does some some fashion headshot stuff as well. He's based there on the East Coast. He has all that fun, fashion and high rise and modern stuff compared to us Little Mountain Boys here in Montana. But let me tell you about Chuck. Chuck has a he has saved me a boatload of time, which is really important. He has saved me a lot of money and he has saved my bacon. So without further ado, I want to make sure that you guys get to meet Chuck. Hey, Chuck.

Unknown: Amos. Thanks for that introduction. You really paint a picture that is way better than it looks.

Unknown: Now that's the first thing you learn about Chuck, besides being just incredibly generous with his time. He's incredibly humble. He is. I've seen his images here. He does great stuff. So all of it is true. Don't listen to him, Lisa, about that part. Hey, Chuck. So here's the thing. As you know, we go back and forth, you and I, about all sorts of things, technology, because that you are so brilliant with this stuff and you have helped not only myself, but many of our friends and people I send to you that are in dire needs. And I know you have words of wisdom, great sage advice. And I wanted to talk to people about a computer for your basic kind of Photoshop, Lightroom, Adobe Camera, Premiere Edition photo mechanic kind of stuff . So my first thing I, you know, I put it on the table, I just set up this week complete clean install of a brand new Mac 16 inch promax and I got the the 96 Ram, I got the 32 core, I got a two terabyte drive and it just screams and it goes But looking at the Web, I see all these minimums or recommendations which I want you to talk about because. They confuse me. I'm sure they confuse others. For example, let's talk about that RAM thing. You know, there's all these words of wisdom about Intel and AMD and. Apple's M2. What's the story, man? What's going to get us down that road? The best.

Unknown: Well, I think largely depends on the type of things that you you want to manage on the road. So personally, I carry with me a MacBook Pro M1 13 inch and it's got 16 gigs of RAM in it. I don't put too much storage in the actual laptop. I rely on the external storage for that when I travel and. You'll be amazed with the Apple M1 with 16 gigs of RAM how much you can accomplish.

Unknown: Now

Unknown: But

Unknown: you're

Unknown: if you.

Unknown: talking about the stills right now, video at that point.

Unknown: Right. With video, that's that's a a different set of requirements. It depends on the type of video you want to do. Of course, if you want to be a filmmaker and you want a color grid, that's a whole lot of other requirements. But I've been able to do your typical 4K workflow with with the setup.

Unknown: So it's important. I understand, folks, stills and video. If you're not going to do video, you might not have to spend that kind of money to do the stills stuff. Important lesson that Chuck instilled in me long ago, and it saved me a lot of money. Okay. So until M2, all those different processors, is there a plus or minus? Does it make a difference? Is it is it just hype on the Web? What is it?

Unknown: Well, if you if you're in the Apple ecosystem, fortunately, you will have the option with either M1 and M2. They both very capable. And when I first got my M1, I was quite impressed at the immediate improvement that I saw with my actual work . Now, as they do more with software upgrade a company like Adobe being able to take advantage of what's in the M1, you would be able to see more benefits from that. At some point you're going to start feeling that this is just normal and we'd like that right If you're on a PC front, you're kind of stuck with Intel and AMD. To me, the AMD seems to have a little bit of edge nowadays, but for most people they probably won't see any difference.

Unknown: So if I understood you correctly, Adobe is in a way kind of fine tuning and please correct any my words as I select them here, kind of fine tuning their product to take advantage of what the M1 and M2 are capable of doing.

Unknown: Yeah. When they when the HM1 first came out, that wasn't the case, or at least not as much. But now that M1 and M2 have been out for quite some time, Adobe has continued to to refine their product. Now, I don't have any inside knowledge as I'm just a regular user. So the only thing I can speak to is my experience on a day to day use.

Unknown: So that the end result is you're going to see a faster, cleaner performance with Adobe with the M1 M2 chip.

Unknown: Yeah. You find that the computer is more responsive, the the apps are more responsive. So you don't think as much. You don't wait as much. And another thing is you may notice that the fan on your laptop doesn't come on as often.

Unknown: Yeah, that's a biggie. I noticed that with my old machine, that fan, it was almost like an air conditioning unit for me. Yeah. I mean, you know, it blew a lot. Okay. Now, here's something that's is could be from way back when. It could be I could be most totally wrong. But somewhere in the past, I thought I remember someone saying that APS programs like to use space on our hard drive as much as our RAM to make things work. Is that true, or is that old tech or.

Unknown: That's a bit complicated. So.

Unknown: Okay. Make it simple for me to understand.

Unknown: Okay.

Unknown: That's so well.

Unknown: Yeah. So. So if you have more ram the the computer and the the associated applications would take advantage of that. So imagine that you have

Unknown: But.

Unknown: you trying to recall some story. It's much easier if you really know the story in your head. Right. And that's. Think of that as your ram.

Unknown: Okay.

Unknown: Whereas if you know, story is is much more complicated, let's say one piece that you don't have the entire thing committed to memory. Now you have to go to the books and and that essentially would think of that as as you know your harddrive or SSD today in your computer. Suppose you don't actually have a copy of War and Peace. Now you have to go to your local library or perhaps a bookstore that you can think of that as, you know, perhaps a longer term storage. The computer nowadays, especially with the apple, they're being able to take advantage of multiple lanes to access the memory. So at the end of day, the memory that that's in the computer is generally much, much faster. So your RAM is faster, your SSD would call it that, it's much faster. The

Unknown: Okay.

Unknown: external devices you external. Some people call it a hard drive and in some cases they're still spinning hard drives or you can use SSDs or the newer versions of these nonvolatile memory, they call them M, Vme,

Unknown: Right. Right, right.

Unknown: and

Unknown: Yep.

Unknown: those are faster still. Now with all that, the other the hard disk, if you will, which is the SSD inside the computer, is still the fastest.

Unknown: Okay. So that brings up, you know, speed. You know, I love speed. I mean, I don't want to be sitting in my computer. That's why, you know, surprisingly, it took me five years to upgrade my notebook, but. So, all right, I've got the fastest pro-grade card I can put in my z9. And I put that into my computer and I hit ingest and it just it just sucks it up. And the pro max just sucks that puppy up. Compare to my intel MacBook Pro that I just got replaced. Now, is it my imagination or is it actually everything working faster now the computer is faster because the car didn't change.

Unknown: Yeah, well, the card had changed a little bit, too, maybe.

Unknown: Well, I've done about the same card and the other computer.

Unknown: Yeah. Oh, I see. So. So the cars themselves have some circuitry in it as well, so that, you know, it has to work in conjunction with your entire pipeline with a faster computer. Obviously, it can process the information that's coming off of the to do your flash memory quicker. Right.

Unknown: Right.

Unknown: But also in the Mac and in some PCs as well, now you have either a USB three or a thunderbolt. Usb-C and Thunderbolt looks kind of the same nowadays. But

Unknown: Yep.

Unknown: under the hood, thunderbolt is, you know, still faster because it just has a larger pipe for you to get the information through. So.

Unknown: So just just to show you, the server understands thunderbolt is faster than Usb-C.

Unknown: Well, that they're keeping pace with each other today. Yes, today.

Unknown: Okay.

Unknown: Thunderbolt is faster than Usb-C.

Unknown: And that's an important to understand today because things are continually changing in this.

Unknown: Yeah. Yeah.

Unknown: Okay. So. Yeah. So. Okay. Now, you talked about the pipeline, which is a lesson I learned really the hard way last summer. Being me wanting cool looking cables, I went and bought cool looking cables and I made the the big mistake of trying to work quickly in moving files with a power cable rather than a data cable . Can you touch on that for us? So I don't think I'm the only person who doesn't know there's a difference in

Unknown: No. You're not the only person, in fact. When Thunderbolt first came out and I thought it was so clever looking at some of these cables, and I was quite shocked at how some manufacturers so sold their cables such a higher price compared to the others. So, yes, so cables have ratings as well. And if your computer can can move as a 40 gigabit at once, then you want a cable that matches that. With that said, well, so let's stick with the cable for a second. The computer manufacturers are trying to standardize the connectivity that we have today. So in most cases that you get things that, you know, the USB C, I mean more or less we're all familiar with that that look, right?

Unknown: cables.

Unknown: The Usb-C can do a lot of things. It can give you power, can help help you move raw data, you know, off of your your flash drives, whatever. And it can deliver video. Now the cables can look the same, but they can have lots of different capabilities. So it's definitely helpful to look at the the specification that they list on the product page. And in some cases, you may actually just want to find a a reputable brand. You may pay a little more. But, you know, they probably have tested their product a little better than everybody else. And it you know, to me, sometimes that's worth it. So if you're finding that. You expect, you know, the images move so much faster off of your external drive into your computer and it's not doing that. You want to check the cables?

Unknown: Right. Now what? What do you see? Specifications. I go to Amazon and I want the fastest data cable that works for my What? What verbiage or numbers should I be looking for?

Unknown: Oh, that's a tough one.

Unknown: Thank you. I. I've got some tough ones here. Ready for you.

Unknown: So hang on. Frantically go into Amazon and look for a USB cable and.

Unknown: No. Why you do that to a piece of trivia. So like I mentioned last summer, I was up in Kodiak and I had, like I mentioned, got the fancy looking cables. I always carry extra cables with me because they break, you know, that just part of it. And I had a good friend of mine who had a black magic. It's a free app that you can test speeds with and put the hit the first cable on his app. And it was like Just Dog Pony's slow. I forget the number. It was like eight or nine or something like that. And then we I grabbed one of my backup cables, which was the black cable. It came with my Dell card reader and boom, I was up to big time numbers. I don't remember exactly 50, 40, 50, something like that. And wow, I just changed cable and I was back in business. I was not waiting forever. So I'm dying to find out that exact verbiage in number, so I don't make that mistake again.

Unknown: Okay? Yeah, lots of alphabets. So we're going to start looking at by looking at the shape of the connectors,

Unknown: Okay.

Unknown: both end of the cable should look like Usb-C or Thunderbolt three or four. They all mean the same thing in terms of the look.

Unknown: Okay.

Unknown: So that's the first thing you want to look at. Then the second thing you want to look at. So let me back up a little bit. The reason that you want them to be the same is if the other side is, you know, the flat rectangular that we've known for quite some time, then you're definitely limiting your transfer speed there. Okay.

Unknown: Understood.

Unknown: So if we move faster than a couple of things we'll look at, they would tell you something, you know, some number followed by something G, B slash s. So

Unknown: Okay.

Unknown: the fastest on the market right now that I'm aware of is 40 GB slash S.

Unknown: Okay.

Unknown: You kind of have to be careful about the letters. A lot of times we don't care about something being, you know, uppercase or lowercase or whatnot. Well, when, you know, in computers, it does make a difference. So if you're looking at 40 GB and that BE it's an uppercase, that means it is eight times the speed compared to the lowercase. We can

Unknown: Right.

Unknown: talk about as

Unknown: You

Unknown: some

Unknown: know

Unknown: of the time.

Unknown: that, really?

Unknown: Yeah. So. So kind of need to pay attention to the at the casing of the letters and then the slash s means per second. So 40 gigabits per second will be the fastest you can find on the market today. You might be able to find, you know, typically something that's 20, maybe, you know, ten or even five. Right. So those are kind of typical.

Unknown: Okay. Okay.

Unknown: So that takes care of the performance, meaning how fast they can transfer the information.

Unknown: The cable, correct?

Unknown: The cable. Yeah,

Unknown: The two

Unknown: that.

Unknown: other inns that connected to have part of that as well. But we want the cable to be restricted that.

Unknown: Right. And of course, you know, don't just grab any cable. You want to make sure it is to the correct distance for you. Right. If you're traveling, maybe you don't want too long of a cable.

Unknown: Right.

Unknown: And then if you want to take advantage of the the ability to transmit power as well, then you want to pay attention to whether or not is certified for X number of watts. So 100 watts tends to be the highest that you can find today. That's relatively safe for most devices. Usb-C and Thunderbolt devices are smart enough that they can negotiate the voltage into wattage. And so that takes care of the power. Now, once you have everything connected, so you have your external reader

Unknown: Okay.

Unknown: with the cable connected to the, to the laptop and you put the card in and you start going as fast as you think you should. Couple of things to pay attention to. Obviously the reader also needs to be able to deliver the kind of speed you're looking for.

Unknown: Okay.

Unknown: And let's say that the reader can keep up with it. That's great. Then the next thing you want to pay attention to is your card itself. Typically, the memory card comes with at least one number. That number tends to be how fast can a reader read the card? Sometimes gives you two numbers. That's what I'm talking about. The numbers are printed on the card. Right.

Unknown: Right.

Unknown: And in then sometimes it would tell you, you know, not only the read speed, which generally is the faster of the two and then the rate speed. Both of those numbers are the maximum speed that the card can deliver or can support

Unknown: Okay.

Unknown: you if you care about sustained performance. You need to read further. Sometimes it would tell you minimum speed and sometimes it will tell you the average speed. Sometimes they would tell you, you know, that throughput. So. Everything together would give you the total, the actual picture, right? Because in this entire chain, everything being connected, your speed, of course, is hampered by the slowest component.

Unknown: Okay. So let's switch gears a little bit, but still take a talk about speed. So we now have in Photoshop and Lightroom we have the power of eye masking, which I just love it. It makes a huge difference. And talk about speed still. You know how I like to select five or ten images at one time and finish them all basically the same? And that includes the mask. So when you, you know, you do a command s to select all that now. So you have open adobe camera and then you go option s and you say sync them is going to sync the nine images to the to the 10th one with its masking and apply it all and a box of come up and I'll say I is thinking it's going to take X amount of time. You know what I'm talking about. So. Gigabytes and size of my SSD. Is that going to make that process faster or slower or not even affected?

Unknown: So. Everything would have an effect. On

Unknown: Okay.

Unknown: the overall performance. So obviously the card reader itself, we talked about that and then your destination where the image is was stored and being retrieved and being worked on

Unknown: As

Unknown: that.

Unknown: in external or internal drive.

Unknown: Right. Those

Unknown: Okay.

Unknown: two can make a difference. And we we we discuss earlier that internal drives are faster today than the external drive.

Unknown: Right.

Unknown: And then the amount of ram you have, it helps the processing to go faster. So the more Ramey have of the more advantageous you would be. And then if the RAM isn't enough, then the computer would need to use a scratch area they call the scratch area and sometimes it called a cache c AKG

Unknown: Yep.

Unknown: and those would be an area to set aside on their harddrive for that purpose. So anything that couldn't fit in the memory of the application or sometimes the operating system would write to that area just as a temporary storage.

Unknown: Right.

Unknown: So if you tend to do a lot of images like that, then you want a larger internal drive, right? And because that will give you more area to work with, more storage, to work with some

Unknown: Well, I

Unknown: chips.

Unknown: am. Yeah, go ahead.

Unknown: Some chips are. Our purpose built. So the intel chips, for instance, they have some purpose built circuitry in there. But generally speaking, we think of that as a general purpose. Chip Right. So

Unknown: Right.

Unknown: central processing unit is, you know, it can do everything that you wanted to do. The issue, of course, is that because you can do everything, it's probably to optimize for certain things. So with the kind of things that Adobe's being adding to their software and of course other people as well as special circuitry are of concern. So if you have an M1, an M2, you will have the benefit between the hardware and the software. If they are optimized for each other, you will see that performance be faster.

Unknown: You have so much trivia in your mind, but I. I didn't actually call you up or bug you about my choice on drive space. I actually did a bunch of reading for a change said of bugging you and taking the easy way

Unknown: Okay.

Unknown: out. And I went with just the two terabytes on my promax. My logic was one what you just discussed. And then to kind of like the worst case scenario. My worst case scenario being I've been shooting all day some aviation work I filled up. And I don't think it's going to happen any time soon. One terabyte card and I have uploaded that under my computer and then I have another card that has video and all of sudden the card goes bad, which has not happened to me knock on wood. But I wanted to have enough space to hold the one card and then enough space to rescue the other card. That was why I went with the two terabyte drive. I figured on the worst case scenario, I could limp by, get things taken care of with that space. So that was my logic for that size this time.

Unknown: Mm hmm.

Unknown: So kind of wrap it up a little bit too simple questions for you. What is the one accessory the traveling digital photographer sure should have that he doesn't have in his case?

Unknown: Huh?

Unknown: Yeah. I didn't tell you I was going to ask you this, but I just wanted to see what? Because you always have these great toys you send me. Here's this. Here's that. I just got my. What's it called? I got my little one. Is it. It's ar0hs little one. Tear bite, sticky dude.

Unknown: Okay.

Unknown: You know that that works much better than some of those actual sticks. It's just a little, little, little thing. What is the what's the latest toy or tool that we should have?

Unknown: Oh. Yeah. You really got me on that one.

Unknown: Oh, man.

Unknown: So for

Unknown: Okay.

Unknown: me.

Unknown: Okay. Hey, no answer is still an answer. That's. We're good. So we'll go to my last question for you then.

Unknown: Okay.

Unknown: Is price by itself an indication of a good or a bad computer.

Unknown: No. I think good or bad, computer number one has to be something that is useful for you. If you buy the most expensive computer and it doesn't do anything that you want to do or not do any of those, well, then, you know, it's not helpful. Right. So

Unknown: Right.

Unknown: I think the first thing that I tell people is figure out your budget and after the budget, then tell me what are the things that you must have and then tell me the things that you would like to have. I think when we make purchases and I do this myself, it's Oh, wouldn't it be nice if I have this and then suddenly the budget goes up

Unknown: You

Unknown: so

Unknown: know, right there with your buddy.

Unknown: and so. So, you know, budget shouldn't be something that that is too flexible. You can certainly create a budget and give yourself a little slack. That's fine. But more importantly, it's. You know what? Required today versus what you would like to have. What tends to happen with technology is that, I mean, we all I've seen it is that, you know, technology is cheaper over time. Sure. At times they go up a little bit more, a lot more like, you know, the last few years during pandemic. But. Today. If you just look at some of the the hard drive prices with the computer prices, if you wait a little longer, they come down, you know, somewhat, sometimes a lot. So. I wouldn't buy anything that you're hoping to use in a year or two years or three years from now. I would just buy things that solve your problem today and then, you know, if you do get there and especially if you make money with, you know, you found capability, then upgrade.

Unknown: Well, Mr. Chuck, you always are still me with your your knowledge. And as always, I learn more things. So I can't thank you for taking time. I know you are jumping around and

wearing a gazillion hats and I thank you for your time and expertise. And hey, I owe you one, buddy.

Unknown: Well, thanks much for having me. I had a great fun.

Unknown: And so at this point, folks, I want to tell you that if it sounds a little differently, the podcast has a different sound. I have been invited. I'm using the new Adobe Podcast Beta, and this is a program that is based on the web and it is not all being done by. The screen that I'm looking at and that Chuck's looking at is basically a big white box that has a button that says record or stop record. And that's about it. It's so if it sounds different and if it sounds better, if you would drop me a note, I would really be grateful. So, folks, thanks for stopping by. And remember to make every click your story.