

Moment Lens

Tele 58mm Product Review
iPhone 11

Mister Zeus



MOMENT

58mm Lens Product Review

iPhone 11 Smartphone

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Tech Specs

Tech Specs of the Moment 58 mm Telephoto lens for smartphones include:

- Optical Design - All glass, 6 elements, 4 groups
- Lens Coating - Multi-layer, low flare, broadband anti-reflection
- Equivalent Focal Length - 58mm
- Lateral Chromatic Aberration - <1px at edge
- Resolution - 300+ LP/MM (Axis) 200 LP/MM (Edges)
- Low Distortion - <0.75% TV Distortion (1% Optical)
- Diameter: 39.5 mm
- Height: 27.58 mm
- Weight: 73.1 g

The Moment 58mm lens package includes a small pouch and a front-facing lens cap cover. It would have been nice to have a lens cap for the rear of the lens also, and maybe a small micro-cloth for cleaning the lens.



To use the Moment 58 mm lens with your iPhone you require a special case that includes the appropriate lens mount. With the lens mount built-in to the phone case you can easily attach and detach the lens. Moment uses a screw in thread lens mount, and even has a visible cue (markings on lens and case) to align the lens with the case and help you mount it correctly.

Note:

The visual cue cue may not be on all compatible cases (e.g. it was not on the Nomad case I purchased).

While the lens is not heavy, it will alter the weight of your phone, so bear that in mind when taking pictures, or adding to other components (e.g. gimbals, tripods)

Telephoto

Telephotolenses have several advantages:

- You can get closer to your subject through the lens
- Nice background separation
- Better depth of field
- Better background blur

Telephoto lenses are often used in wildlife photography or pet photography, because getting too close to such subjects can be dangerous or scary for the animals. The telephoto ranges for wildlife photography are typically above 100mm focal range, usually between 200 - 600mm.

Telephoto lenses of e.g. 70-300mm can also be used for portraits as they allow good background separation and blur, and allow the photographer to be further away from the subject (e.g. a person).

I do a lot of portrait photography work, so the native lens on the iPhone camera was not giving satisfactory results, leading to distortions which are not pleasing. By using the Moment 58mm lens over the iPhone 11 wide (1x lens), I obtained more pleasant results (see sample section).

While the more expensive smartphone models to claim to include a telephoto lens, it may not really be the same focal length photographers will recognize as a telephoto range. The iPhone 11 Pro model includes a telephoto, but on its own it is not really a good range. Certainly for portraits it is still sub-optimal. When you combine a native telephoto lens with the Moment 58mm lens though, you will get a longer range (total x4 range when combining iPhone telephoto with Moment 58mm lens, or x2 times when combined with iPhone wide lens) which may suit your needs.

Portrait lenses for system cameras have have a typical range of 75-110mm. Probably the most common range is 85mm. The advantage of a dedicated portrait lens is the better aperture (e.g. F1.8 to allow more light), the focal range, and the quality glass.

Another common range for system cameras is 50mm, providing a compromise between affordability, focal range, glass quality, aperture, and perspective. A 50mm view is reflective of what the human eye sees. In the camera world, 50mm lenses are also referred to as the "nifty fifty" - meaning affordable, versatile and handy in many situations.

With smartphone lenses, e.g. iPhone, there often is no telephoto lens. The included lenses are good for wide scenes, e.g. landscape, architecture, group photos. Taking a portrait picture (e.g. close-up headshot portrait) with such a lens will lead to distorting features of the human face, which tend to be non flattering.

The face distortion is probably the number one reason why photographers do not like using wide angle lenses for portraits. You should use a focal range above 50mm. An added benefit of such a focal range is that you do not have to be too close to your subject, which might feel uncomfortable with a lens or camera too close to its face. Also a focal range above 50mm can improve background separation, depth of field, and background blur (depending on aperture of the lens).

With a iPhone lens you cannot alter the aperture like with a dedicated camera (e.g. D-SLR, or CSC). Depending on the app (software application) you use, you can select ISO and Shutter speed values yourself. ISO controls the sensitivity of the sensor towards light. Shutter speeds define the length of time light is available to the sensor.

Generally aim for a low ISO (e.g. 100-300) and adjust shutter speeds. Use a histogram or exposure meter to balance the overall exposure. With an iPhone you cannot alter aperture, so that element of the exposure triangle (Aperture, ISO, Shutter speed) is locked. A common practice is to set shutter speed at least as fast as the focal distance. So if you are using the Moment 58mm lens, then set shutter speed at 60 seconds or faster.

The small sensor size of the iPhone (and other smartphones) will challenge image quality. In the sample photos included in this review, you will notice some graininess, but that is due to the sensor size and not the fault of the external lens, or the camera app. If you are using an external app (e.g. Moment or Profoto camera) you can select to shoot in RAW file format (Adobe DNG) which captures more information and allows better post-editing and non-destructive editing. I would suggest to capture with RAW for creative freedom afterwards.

A low ISO value provides less grainy images, but needs more light through either large aperture, or a slow shutter speed. The shutter speed controls how long light is let onto the sensor. Fast action or movements will need a faster shutter speed. Low light situations, landscape or architecture images can use a slow shutter speed. Of course in low shutter speed situations you will need to hold your camera very steady to avoid motion blur. Professional cameras often have in-body image stabilization (IBIS) through sensor-shift technology, or they use optical image stabilization within the lens. Smartphones do not have such features (though there may be such capabilities in the future).

The native camera app on an iPhone does provide functionality that is maybe enough for many photographers, but those that require more have to purchase a special software, such as the Moment camera app.

Unfortunately the more affordable camera models from Apple (e.g. iPhone SE 2020 or iPhone 11) do not have a telephoto lens. It would be nice to have a telephoto lens of at least 60mm equivalent in all iPhone models, as users often take pictures of people and landscapes or architecture. Having a wide-angle and telephoto lens would solve such challenges, but that is the choice of Apple.

In the meantime, apart from opting to buy a more expensive iPhone model, or maybe an Android phone, you can buy a third party lens. While there are some cheap smartphone lenses on the market, it is better to invest in decent quality glass to obtain sharper images. Moment offer several lenses for the iPhone, including:

- Fish eye
- Wide-angle
- Telephoto
- Macro (for ultra close-ups)
- Anamorphic (best for cinematic video)

To use the Moment 58 mm lens with your iPhone you require a special case that includes the appropriate lens mount. With the lens mount built-in to the phone case you can easily attach and detach the lens. Moment uses a screw in thread lens mount, and even has a visible cue (markings on lens and case) to align the lens with the case and help you mount it correctly.

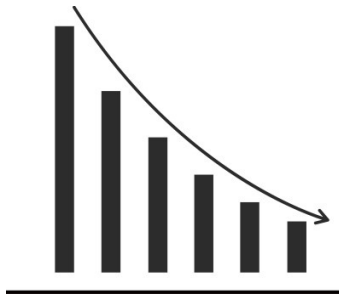
Although not strictly necessary for taking photos, the additional software features in the Moment camera app are well worth the additional money (amount varies on location, but very affordable). You can use the lens with other apps like Profoto Camera app also.

Moment camera app

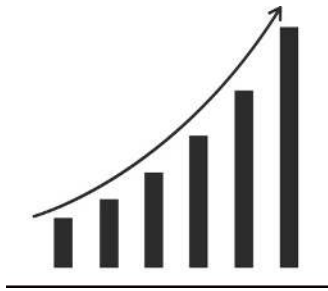
The Moment camera app available from the Apple app store is a powerful application. It allows you to control the ISO and shutter speed manually, and even depicts a live histogram chart to help you achieve a balanced exposure. The app also lets you save your image in RAW (DNG) and JPEG format.

The histogram feature is common in dedicated cameras and is really useful for checking if your image will be underexposed (bar graph leaning towards the left), overexposed (bar graph leaning towards the right), or balanced (bar graph bell curve in the middle). You may know the Goldilocks children's tale - well, you can apply that to the histogram also:

- Underexposed - Too Dark
- Overexposed - Too Bright
- Balanced - Just Right



Underexposed - Too dark



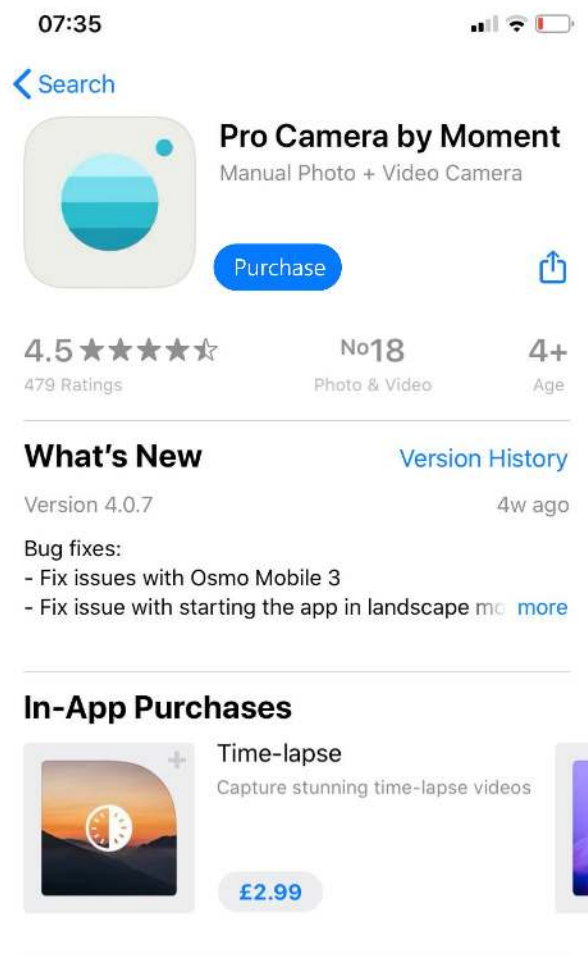
Overexposed - Too bright



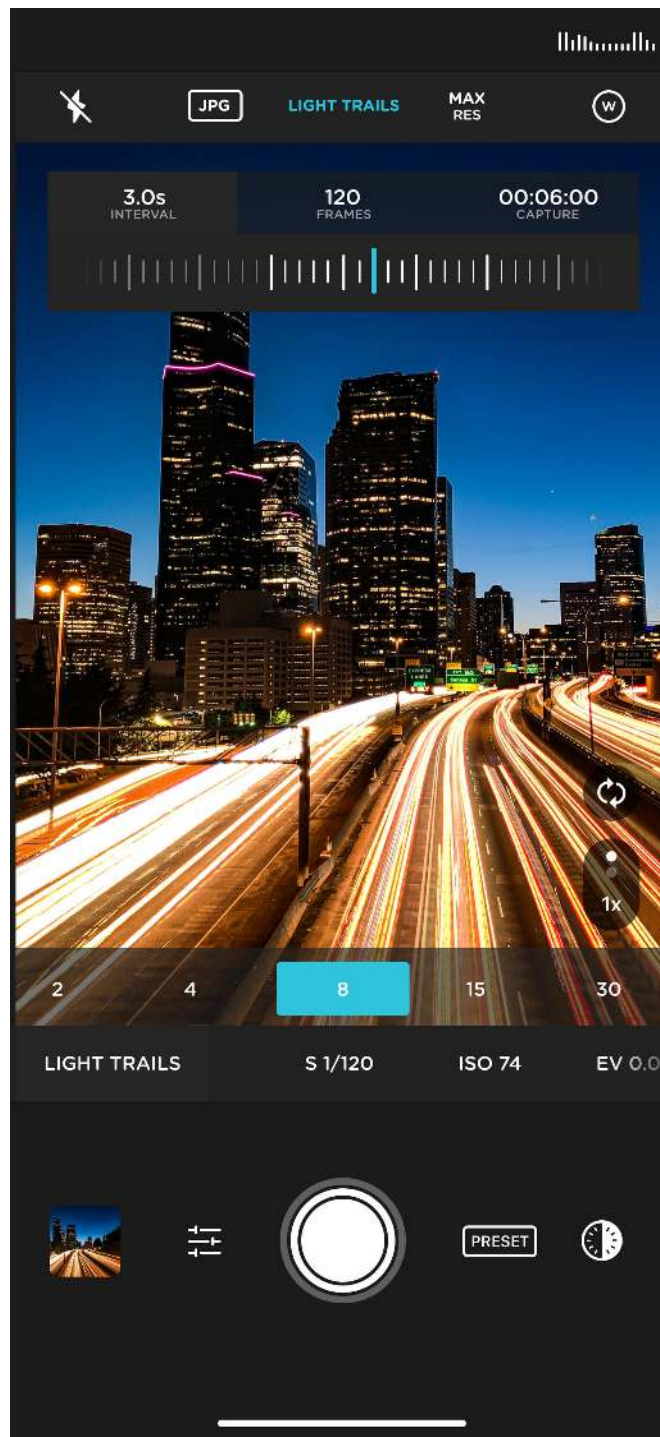
Balanced Exposure - Just right

With the moment app you can select the iPhone lens (e.g. x0.5 or x1). The ultra-wide lens does not support RAW image capture. If you have a iPhone with telephoto (x2), then adding the Moment 58mm telephoto lens will give you x4 optical zoom.

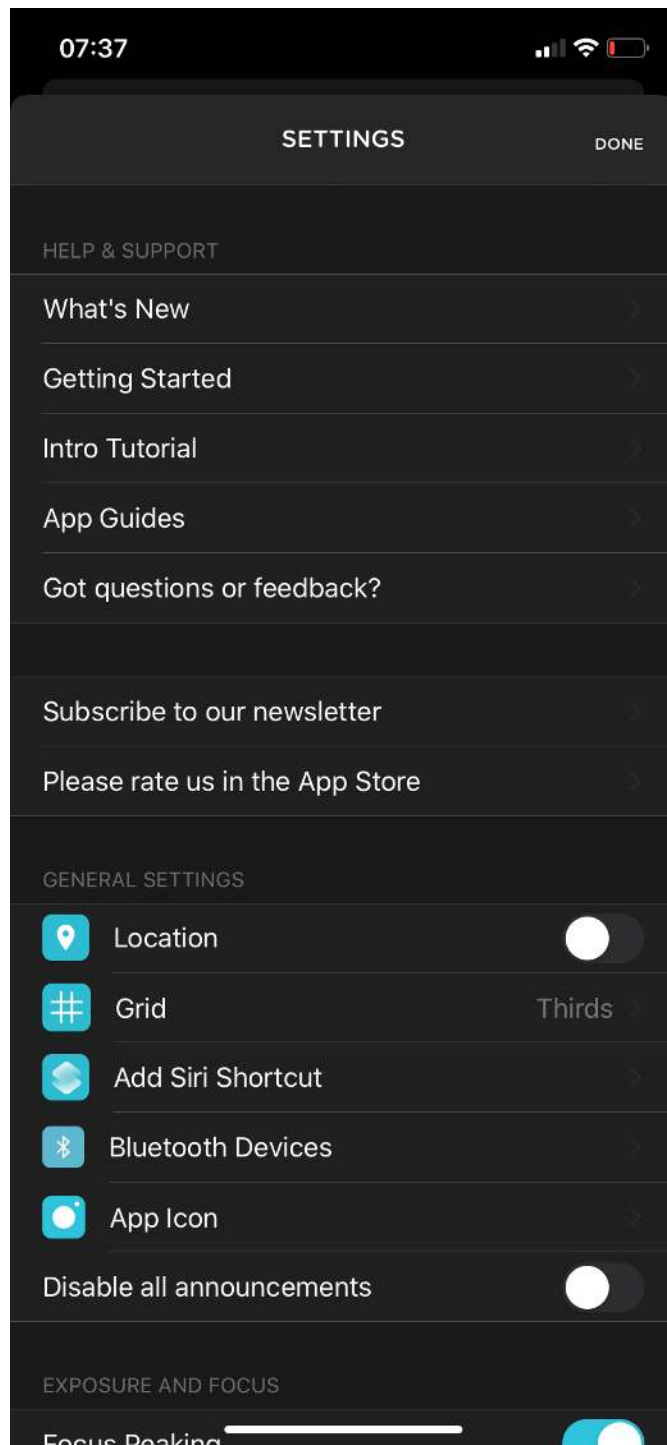
The Moment app also provides powerful video features, allowing you to set ISO and shutter speed, Time lapse video sequence, and even de-squeeze anamorphic video within the app. Visit the Apple app store and download the Moment camera app.



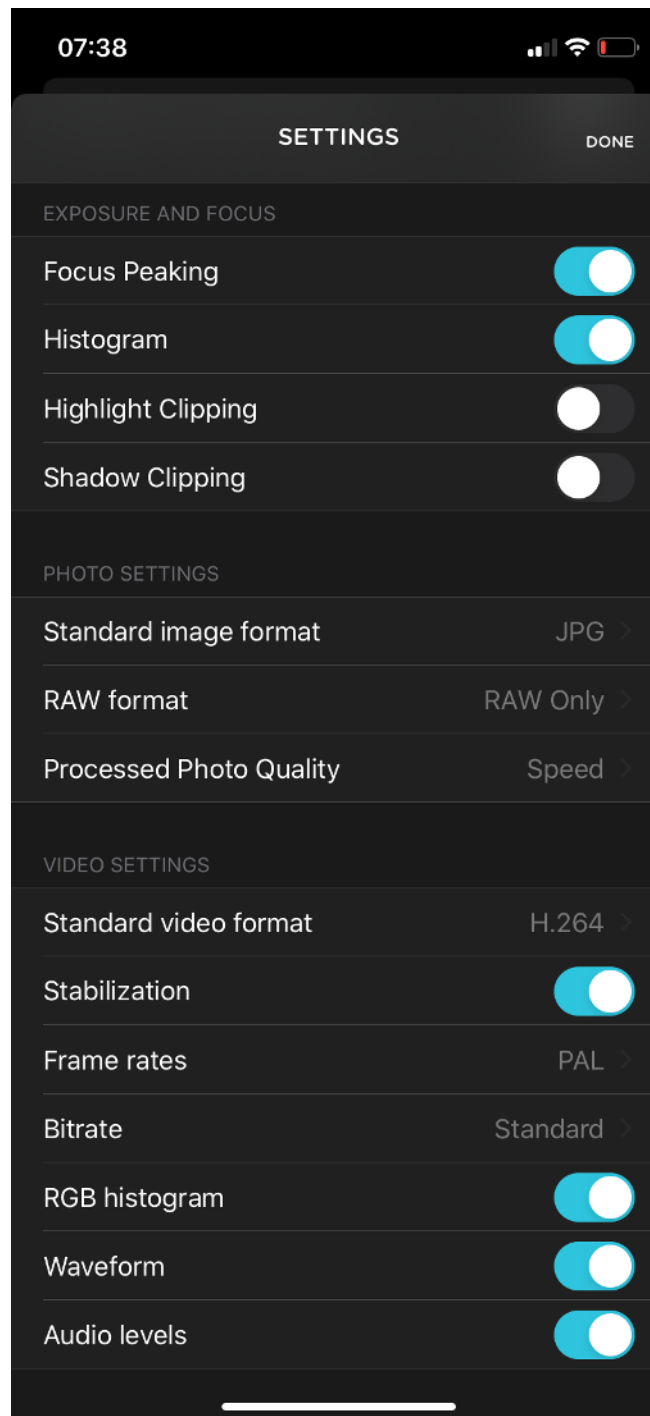
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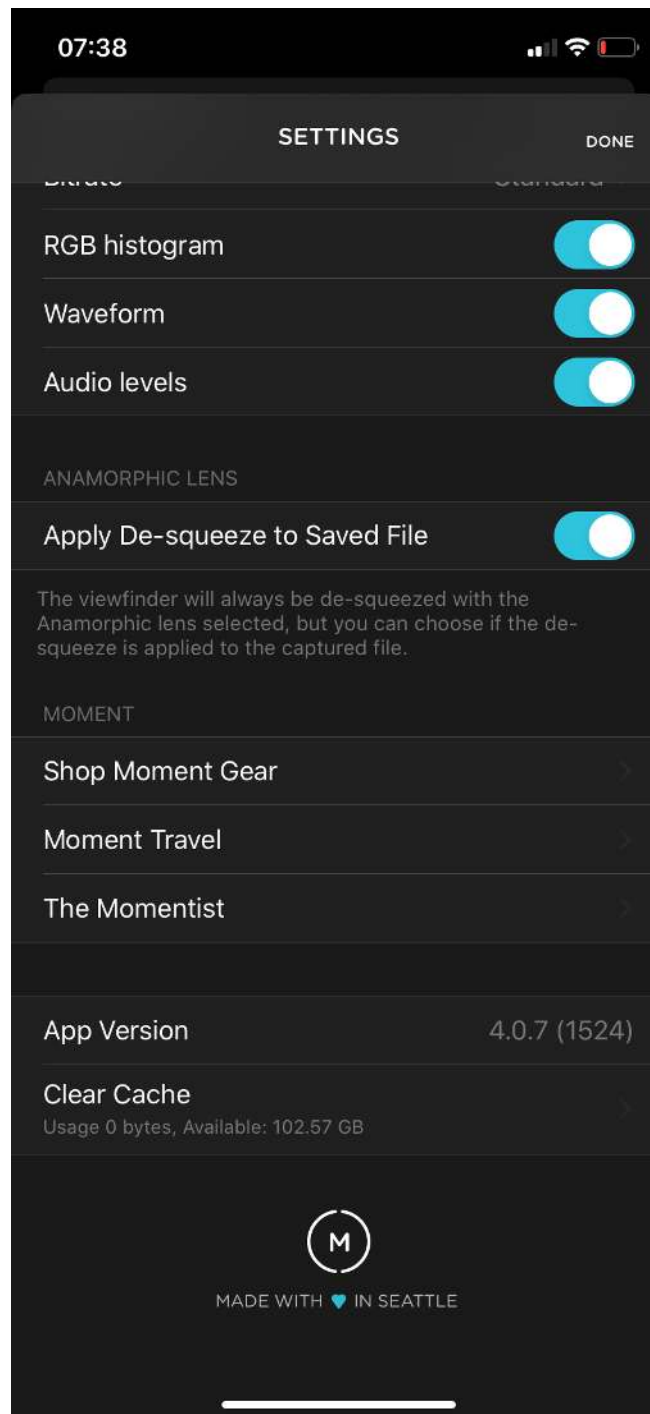
Moment Camera App - iPhone



Moment Camera App - iPhone

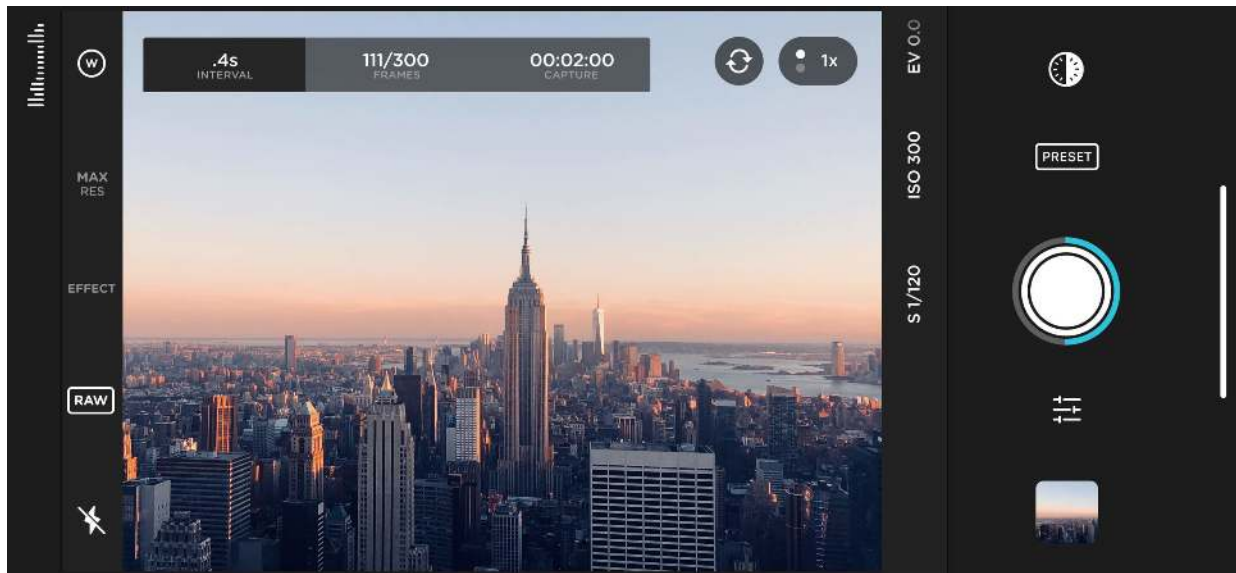


Moment Camera App - iPhone



Moment Camera App - iPhone

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Moment Camera App - iPhone



Moment Camera App - iPhone

Samples images



Taken with iPhone 11 native camera. Moment Camera App
(RAW edit in Adobe Lightroom)



Taken with iPhone 11 native camera. Moment Camera App (RAW edit in Adobe Lightroom)



Taken with iPhone 11 native camera. Moment Camera App (RAW edit in Adobe Lightroom)



Taken with iPhone 11. Moment 58mm lens. Moment Camera App
(RAW edit in Adobe Lightroom)



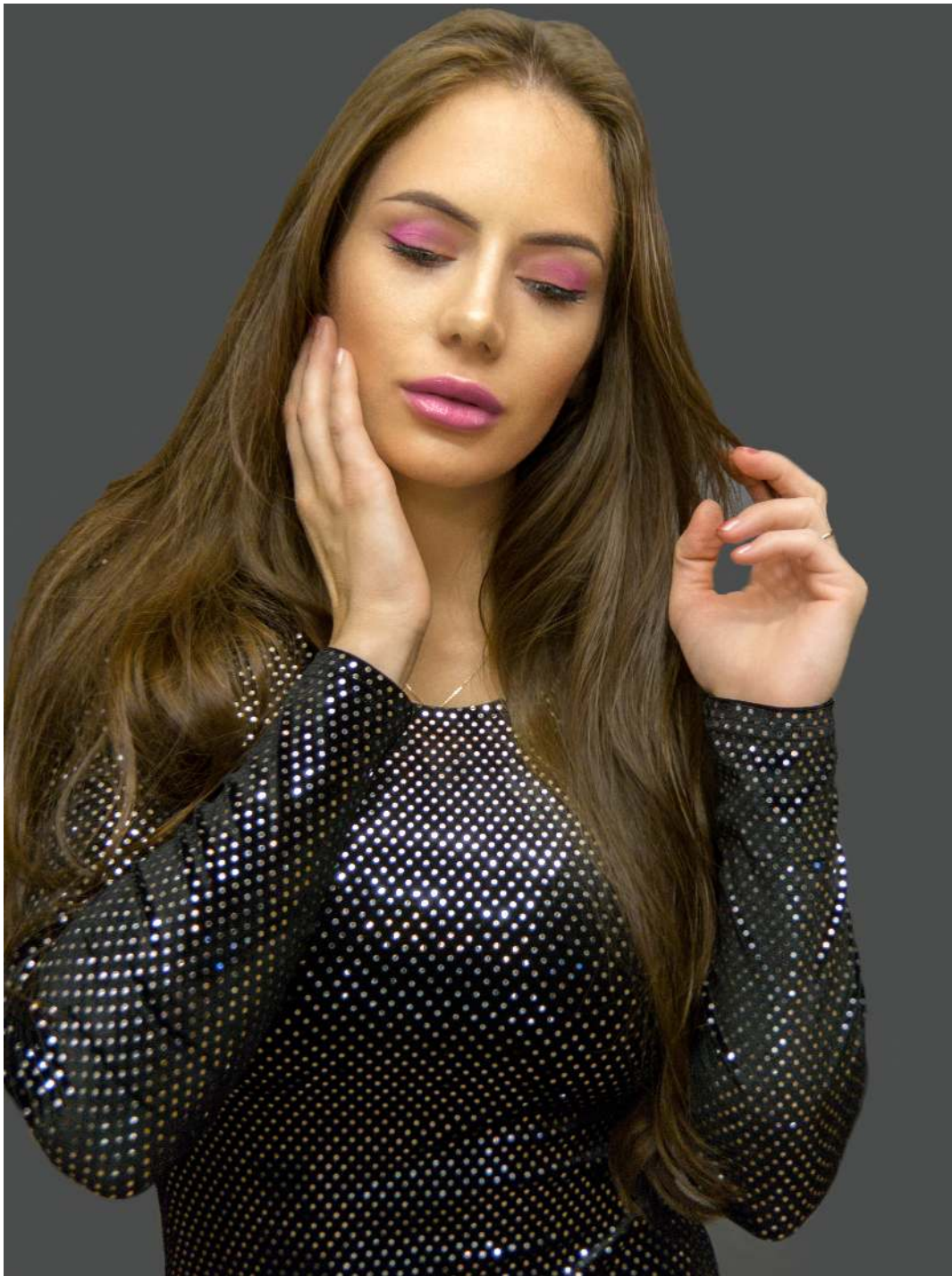
Taken with iPhone 11. Moment 58mm lens. Moment Camera App (RAW edit in Adobe Lightroom)



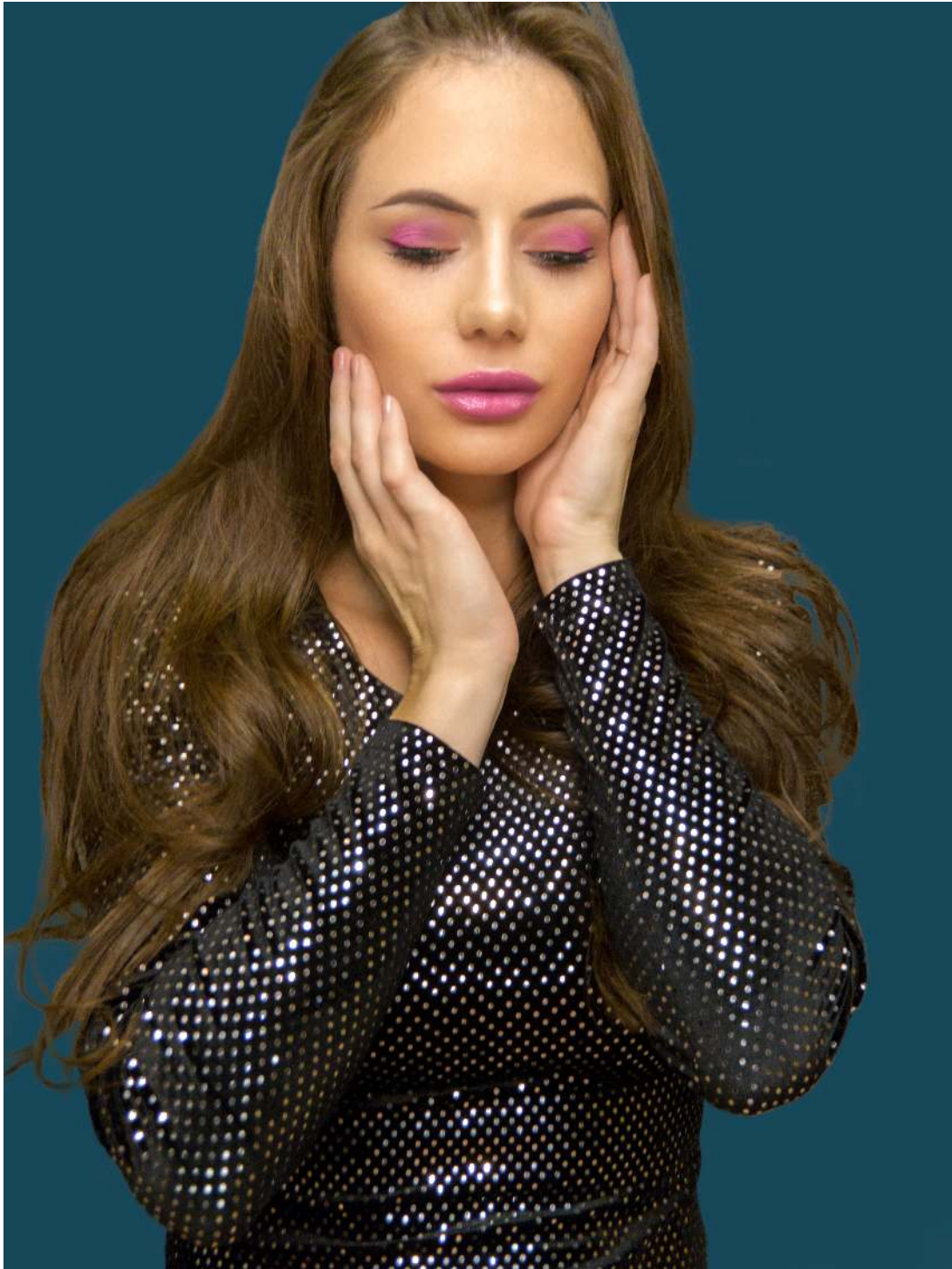
Taken with iPhone 11. Moment 58mm lens. Moment Camera App (RAW edit in Adobe Lightroom)



Taken with iPhone 11. Moment 58mm lens. Moment Camera App (RAW edit in Adobe Lightroom)



Taken with iPhone 11. Moment 58mm lens. Moment Camera App (RAW edit in Adobe Lightroom)



Taken with iPhone 11. Moment 58mm lens. Moment Camera App (RAW edit in Adobe Lightroom)

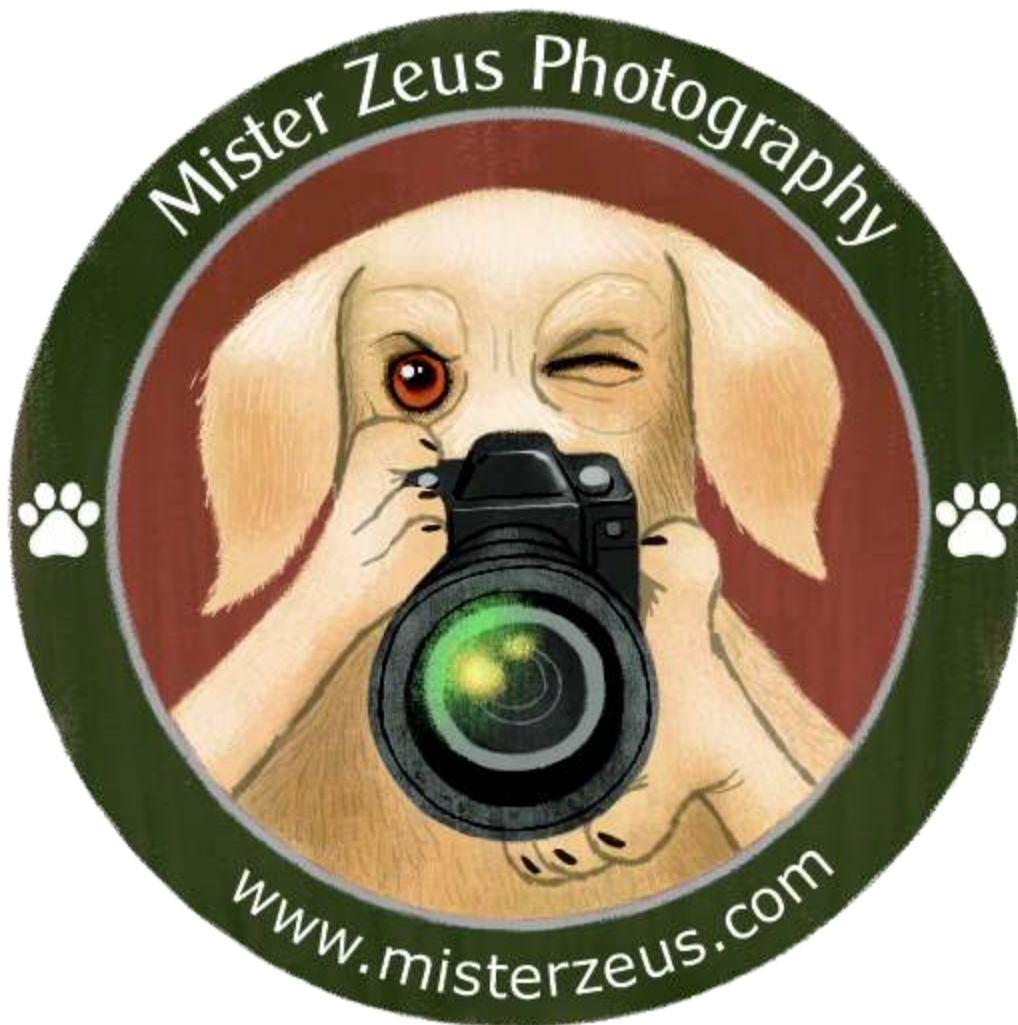


Taken with iPhone 11. Moment 58mm lens. Moment Camera App (RAW edit in Adobe Lightroom)



F8. ISO 100. Shutter speed 1/125 second

Taken with Sony A7 III and Sony FE 85mm lens (RAW edit in Adobe Lightroom)



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