

Watching you watching me

An action camera the size of a macaroon that weighs a mere 25g and comes packaged with all the accessories we need? Unreal? Nope, OnReal

R2000 / esquire.co.za



■ Action cameras like the GoPro range and TomTom's Bandit are all good and well, but tend to require a slew of accessories and plenty of time reading the user manual to get the most out of them. Fondi's OnReal camera, meanwhile, couldn't really be any easier to use. There are only two buttons, a power button on the right-hand side and a shutter button on top. Press the shutter button once for an 8MP still, or long press it to start recording video.

■ Built more for bite-sized video than shooting hours of footage, the OnReal lets you record video in 3-minute, 5-minute or 10-minute chunks and captures audio with the built-in microphone. You choose how long a video to shoot using the basic-but-functional OnReal app, which also lets you browse and download footage and stills, frame your shots, and fiddle the settings for/record time lapses.

■ We found the time lapse feature the most useful, with best results when the OnReal captures a still every second. The only limit to recording time with a time lapse is the OnReal's battery life. Weighing only 25g, it's no wonder Fondi only managed to squeeze in a 400mAh battery, which is good for around a 90-minute time lapse, or around an hour of video (with the Wi-Fi turned off) per charge.

■ As you'd expect from a small lens-and-sensor combination, the OnReal produces the best results in bright, consistent light. There's no option to adjust exposure, white balance or other settings, so if the lighting conditions change mid-video or time lapse you're going to get some odd results. But when conditions are good, so are the OnReal's results.



■ Pocket stare

Along with a microUSB charging cable and soft, fabric pouch, the OnReal comes with a range of mounts, including an adhesive one, a magnetic one, a suction cup and a clip that lets you wear it on a pocket like a plastic, beady-eyed broach.



■ Memory games

There's no onboard storage, so you'll need to fork out a little extra cash for a microSD card, but as the OnReal only supports cards up to 32GB, sorting out its lack of storage shouldn't add too much to your budget-cam setup's bottomline.

Tech specs

Sensor 8MP CMOS
Video 1080p at 30fps
Storage microSD card (32GB max)
Connectivity Wi-Fi
FOV 120-degrees
Battery 400mAh
Weight 25g

STUFF SAYS One of the best ways to shoot first-person footage on a budget ★★★★★

No good in low light, but great value

Without any waterproofing, and with limited storage and battery life, Fondi's OnReal camera isn't a genuine replacement for an action camera, but it's incredibly simple to use, unbeatably compact and a heck of a lot of fun to use. Plus, the decision to include various mounts in the box means you can get great results with it without investing in anything more than a microSD card.