

# HUE HD Pro Camera

CONTACT: [WWW.HUEHD.COM/PRO](http://WWW.HUEHD.COM/PRO) REVIEWED BY: JOHN DABELL



Classroom cameras have been around for a fair old while now and it always surprises me that many colleagues still shy away from them. I have used them to zoom in on salmon eggs to see the embryos moving inside, and to enlarge texts for students with visual impairments; I've demonstrated objects, modelled stop motion animation, shown and assessed students' work, and even whipped one out in staff meetings to explain forms. A colleague of mine recently did a class 'selfie' using one – but then, he would. He's the same teacher who used it for time-lapse photography, too, and featured it on the school website. As a piece of inexpensive and versatile technology, in short, classroom cameras really are worth investigating.

The choice has never been better and with the sun setting on another BETT show it is exciting to see how 'camera on a stick technology' has evolved. One product that could get your pulse racing is the HUE HD Pro Camera. It weighs less than my jumper at 570g and comes in a choice of red, blue, green and black. But there is so much more to it apart from being light-weight and aesthetically pleasing. To be accurate, this isn't just a camera, it's a USB camera and visualiser – which means that whilst you do handstands, cartwheels, scissor kicks and a quad twist if you want, this versatile plug and play device can record it all as well as scan A4 documents and project them onto a whiteboard.

## Back to basics

When you open up the box what you get is the HUE HD Pro Camera, the camera base, USB to mini-USB cable, installation instructions and a single user licence for some software. It shares many of the features of its older sibling the HUE HD camera, but this version is called the 'Pro' and to earn that title it comes with a new design for the head and base and some brand new software too. The cameras certainly look like they are from the same family but there are obvious differences. The head of the Pro is squarer looking and contains the manual focusing ring, a camera light and an integrated microphone. The innovative flexible

gooseneck (which you can disconnect, plugging it directly into a laptop rather than using it in its base) is around the 30cm mark – and as good as it is for movement I'd like to see a longer one. I'm not talking a sauropod neck but something with a bit more reach.

Some teachers will tell you it's all about the marking. Others will say it's all about behaviour management. But from a classroom camera point of view it is all about the base. Or rather it used to be. The base of the camera was often the thing that let the camera down, literally, as they weren't robust enough. Thankfully that isn't an issue here. The oblong base is up to the job and it also features a light showing that power is being received.

When buying a camera you are looking for a brilliant high resolution picture, as image quality is everything. I have no complaints regarding the HUE Pro as the images and videos produced are excellent. The sound is spot-on too with no issues regarding clarity. I didn't run my car over it but the camera seems strong enough. It survived being knocked off my desk accidentally and I dare say would make it through much worse.

## Creative uses

Even though this gem is supremely easy to use it does come with some specially designed downloadable software called HUE Intuition, which allows you to get to grips with the full functionality of the camera with ease. The software is very exciting because it allows you to record video and sound and save movies locally, email or upload to YouTube. You

can annotate images you take and save them as JPG/BMP/PNG/GIF, take snapshots and take multiple images over time. This is clever stuff and for £44.95 ex VAT you'd be a brave soul to grumble.

They say that lessons are more purposeful, engaging and rigorous to students when they involve real world examples. They are right. Classroom cameras are the bee's knees. You could even show bees' knees using one – and they allow you to build in lots of opportunities for collaboration, sharing and interactive work. In terms of the engagement factor, using a HUE Pro Camera is ideal for getting together, getting focused and getting down to the business of learning.

## VERDICT

**SNAP HAPPY**  
Use the HUE HD Pro as a basic microscope, use it for student presentations, Vlogging, video chats with other schools, or whatever you like... but above all just use one – it offers more than a fixed webcam ever could and it could open your eyes to the possibilities of teaching things differently.

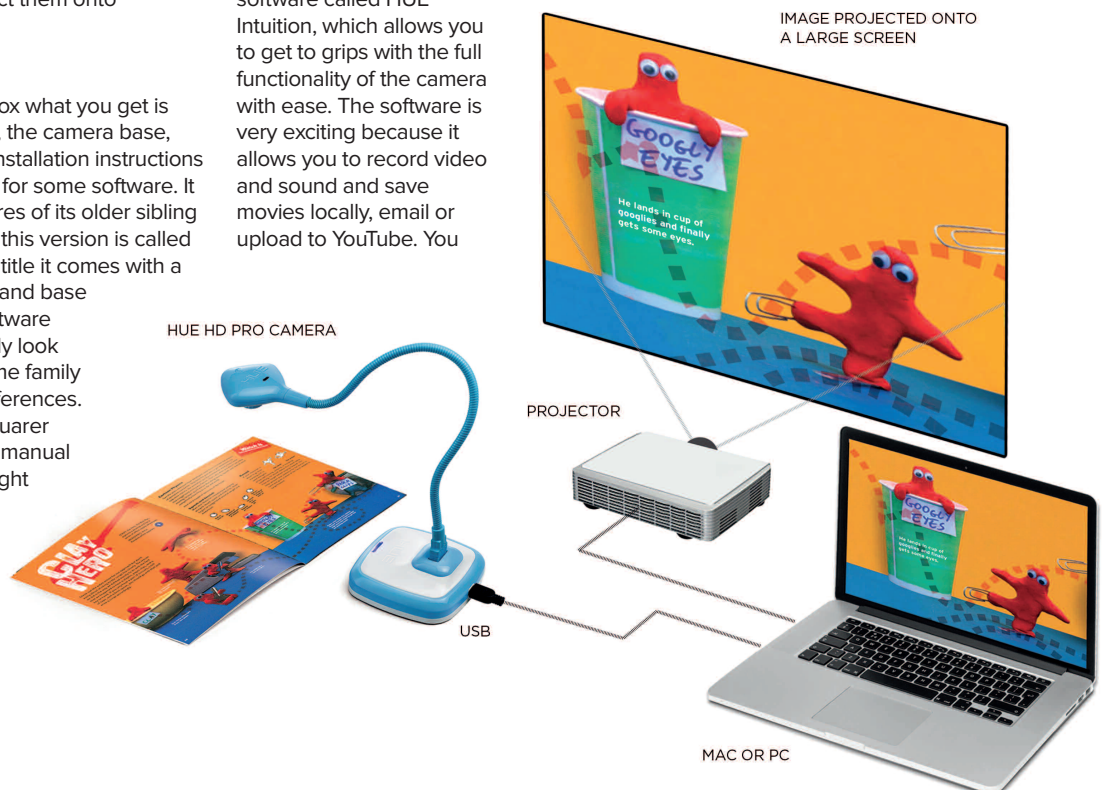


IMAGE PROJECTED ONTO A LARGE SCREEN

HUE HD PRO CAMERA

PROJECTOR

MAC OR PC