



Richard Pelham
Chief Sports Photographer
The Sun Newspaper



CHNO Technology Ltd

case study

CHNO : CRU® ToughTech® Duo

I am Richard Pelham, Chief Sports Photographer at The Sun Newspaper where I have been awarded many industry awards for my body of work. These include; What The Papers Say, The British Press Awards, Pictured Editors Guild and Photographer of The Year to name a few. My work has taken me to the four corners of the world and the events I have covered include six Olympic Games, six Football World cup Finals and many world championship boxing bouts.

In 1998 my Picture editor at The Sun called me into his office and said to me your life is going to change, and he wasn't wrong. Two digital cameras were thrust into my hand and as they say, the rest is history. Back in the days of film I would go to a football match, develop and edit the films, then cut and place them into strips of six and that was it for the archiving. At the end of that world cup I remember saying to him "How are we going to store these images for future reference" but he just shrugged his shoulders and I was told to work that one out for myself. First came the floppy drives, followed by CD's, and then DVD's, which both formed new walls in my office as they piled up. I was then advised by a fellow professional to turn to a Drobo storage device slowly putting all that data on it, and this was my main storage until early in 2013 when I went into the office and found red lights on my Drobo. With little or no technical help or any after service from the manufacturer, I lost the lot, all my digital files since 1998.

At this point a mutual friend put me in touch with [Chris Fields from CHNO Technology](#) who after hearing how I worked, recommended that I look at a new device called a ToughTech Duo which would be perfect for me living on the road photographing and videoing for today's media. Travelling and shooting both stills and video at football matches around the UK, boxing shows and many other major sporting events around the world, I had been relying on the internal drive of my MacBook Pro and a multitude of external drives to store my work until I returned back to the office.



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case study

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The ToughTech Duo drive is a small unit, perfectly sized to travel everywhere with me, and it does now. It contains two 500GB 2.5" drives (it can take any 2.5" drives that are 9.5mm wide) which are configured as mirrored drives using the onboard hardware RAID. At the end of every shoot, I import my work from the camera cards into my Mac using Photomechanic for tagging and captioning, then move them straight across onto the ToughTech Duo drive. I can then pop one of the mirrored drive pairs out from the Duo and swap it with another drive to create a third offline copy to be sent to my office for safe keeping. The drive has FireWire, USB and eSATA connectivity, and connecting over FireWire, or with the Apple's ThunderBolt to FireWire adapter, it requires no power to operate. On a studio shoot, I usually capture directly to the ToughTech Duo to keep the risk of losing data to hardware failure to an absolute minimum.

One of the key advantages of the Duo unit for me is that once it fills up, I can pop the two drives out (no tools required), replace them with two more and carry on using the unit. The two drives that I remove can then be stored (and indeed read offline) separately for safety. CRU also offer some very useful little anti-static cases for the drives to be stored in (a lot like small video boxes).

During November and December of 2013 I travelled over 22,000 miles covering the World Cup Final draw in Salvador, Brazil and visiting the venues that England will play at in The 2014 World Cup Finals photographing and videoing for the The Sun Newspaper back in England. After a day of shooting, every night I would get the video and digital files off my Mac to keep the computer clean and ready for use for the next day's assignment. The ToughTech Duo performed well with fast read speeds thanks to the 7200RPM hard drives, and when I tested it with just over 1gb of information it copied in just over 25 seconds.

The support I've received from **CHNO Technology**, the UK reseller for CRU's photo/video storage products, has been second to none, and backed up with the manufacturer's technical team, I'd have no hesitation in recommending the ToughTech Duo to any photographer or videographer in the market for a mobile storage device that looks good and offers the security of mirrored drives for the safety of your data.



TECH SPECS

Toughtech Duo QR – 2xFireWire800, USB2, eSATA connections
Toughtech Duo 3SR – USB2, USB3, eSATA connections

Both come with power supply (not required when used over FW800),
all cables and carrying case

NO TOOLS REQUIRED! Drives inserted and removed easily

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