

IPACO expert report

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<i>Type</i> IFO	<i>Class</i> A	<i>Explanation</i> Fake	<i>Complement</i>
<i>Document</i> Photos	<i>Imaging location</i> Highway 10 towards Sky Harbor Airport in Phoenix, Arizona, USA	<i>Imaging date</i> July 18, 2010, 16:49'23'' Local time	

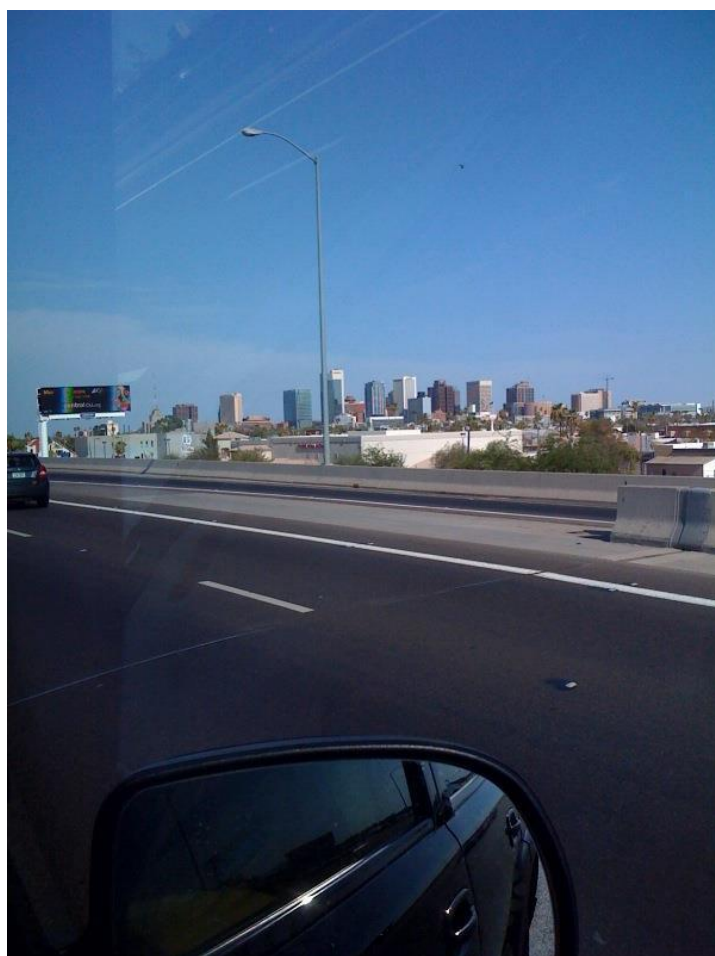


Photo n°1



Photo n°2

I. Imaging circumstances

These photos were sent to [Earthfiles](#) site with the following comments (questions are from Linda Moulton Howe):

*"1st I-Phone Digital Image
July 18, 2010, 4:25 PM Pacific
Turning East on Highway 10 toward Downtown Phoenix*

First I-Phone digital image on July 18, 2010, at 4:25 PM Pacific, as John Nano, his wife and nephew (driving) were turning east on Highway 10 toward downtown Phoenix, Arizona. The nephew driving the car slowed down so his uncle, John Nano, could take photographs of the Phoenix downtown skyline to share with their Detroit relatives.

Image © 2010 by John Nano.

"And I look at the second picture and I was seeing like the same picture exactly, but there is something in there that is strange. And I zoom in and it looks like a flying saucer."

2nd I-Phone digital Image - 1 to 2 Seconds Later - July 18, 2010, 4:25 PM Pacific - Turning East on Highway 10 toward Downtown Phoenix.

Second photo taken 1 or 2 seconds later on July 18, 2010, at 4:25 PM Pacific.

Image © 2010 by John Nano.

So I was talking to myself, 'Is this real?' I don't know. And then I took it to my brother who is just a minute away walking from my house and I show it to them. I said, 'Listen, I have seen something strange in the picture I took in downtown. Look at it.' And they look at it and they are going crazy, 'This is a UFO! UFO!!'

I said, 'I don't know what it is exactly, but I have to call somebody and find out what's going on.'

Then some customers of mine come here and I showed it to them and they say, 'This is real interesting!' And I called Channel 10 and Channel 3 here in Phoenix and Channel 10, they tell me to call at 6 o'clock and email photo.' I tell them I don't know how to email from my phone.

The next day, I find out how to email from my phone to anybody and I email the photo to eight or ten people. The first response is from you at Earthfiles. I have a customer here named Tom. He asked me if he could email to you. I said, 'Yeah, email to somebody who might look at it.' I think there is something (in disc) watching us here every day maybe, you know?

How fast that UFO comes to that picture in the second snap! I don't know how fast, where it comes from?! If I knew a UFO was there (in the sky), I could snap ten or twenty pictures right away, but I don't see it (at the time). It surprised me when I see it in the picture!

YOU NEVER SAW THE CRAFT WITH YOUR EYES?

Right, before I never ever believed when I saw on TV they were talking about UFO they showed in Phoenix, Arizona, and China and anywhere. I never believed it until I snapped a picture myself. I look at it and now I believe there is somebody watching us every day out there.

And you can see when you look at the picture of the UFO; you can see the sun makes the top of the UFO shiny. But I don't know where it comes from. I look at the picture and I'm coming from west to east and this UFO shows BOOM! Right there within a second. Where does this come from? And how fast it was?

I think there are some more other planets, there is some more life there and they are maybe ahead of us hundreds of years. That's what I'm thinking now about it. Like I said before, I never believed in those UFOs. But now when I snapped this picture, I believe there is somebody watching us there.

IN REPORTS OVER THE PAST SIXTY YEARS OR SO, MANY PEOPLE HAVE DESCRIBED SEEING AERIAL CRAFT "POP IN AND POP OUT" AS IF THE CRAFT OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN IS INVISIBLE AND THEN SWITCHES FREQUENCY SOME WAY AND BECOMES VISIBLE BRIEFLY BEFORE RETURNING TO A FREQUENCY OF INVISIBILITY.

That would explain what happened when I snapped the two pictures only a second apart and one is clear and the next one has the disc in it."

II. Camera settings

The camera model that was used is an iPhone 3G which technical settings can be seen in details [here](#).



III. Data examination

1. Authentication

The photographer provided the original photos in .jpeg format, at respectively 600 x 800 and 533 x 800 pixels.

A document is deemed authentic original, within the meaning of the "[IPACO Analysis Methodology](#)", if it results from a direct copy of the original file created in the camera.

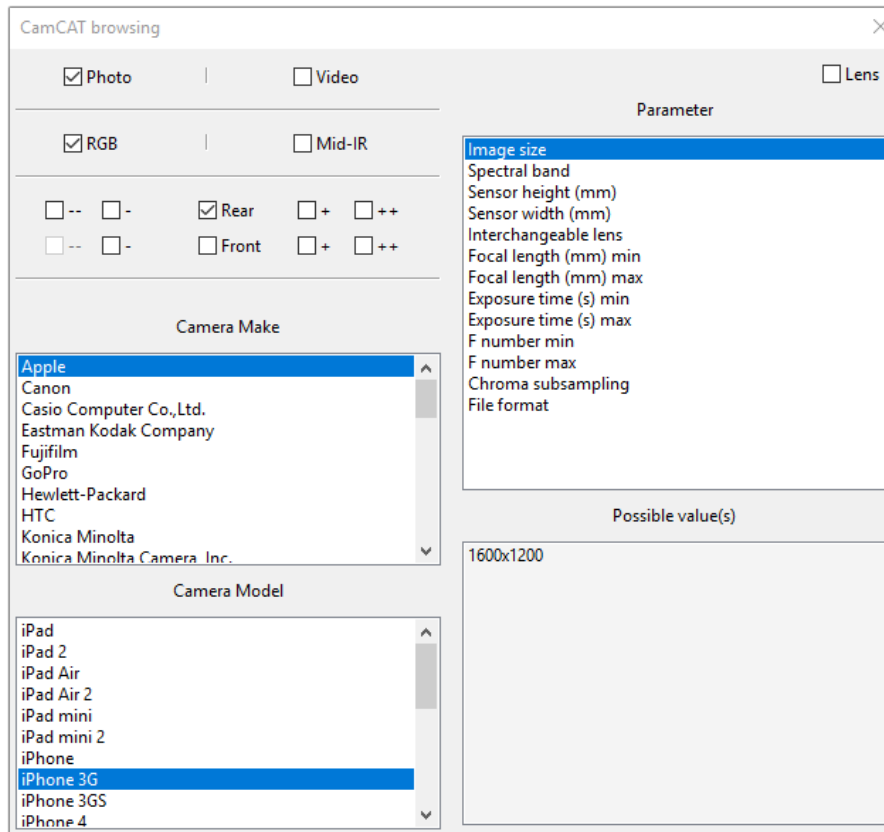
Any modification, made either to the file whilst still in the memory of the camera, or later, can be detected by IPACO with the "*Authentication*" module, in two different possible ways, the results can be displayed together in the IPACO window.

The "*Suspect tags*" tool, in particular, can be used to determine, for example, the possible use of third-party software, or a modification of the dimensions of the file (cropped image).

The « *Comparison with CamCAT* » tool allows the analyst to compare the technical data of the studied file with an internal database, in order to check if they comply with what the camera used can produce.

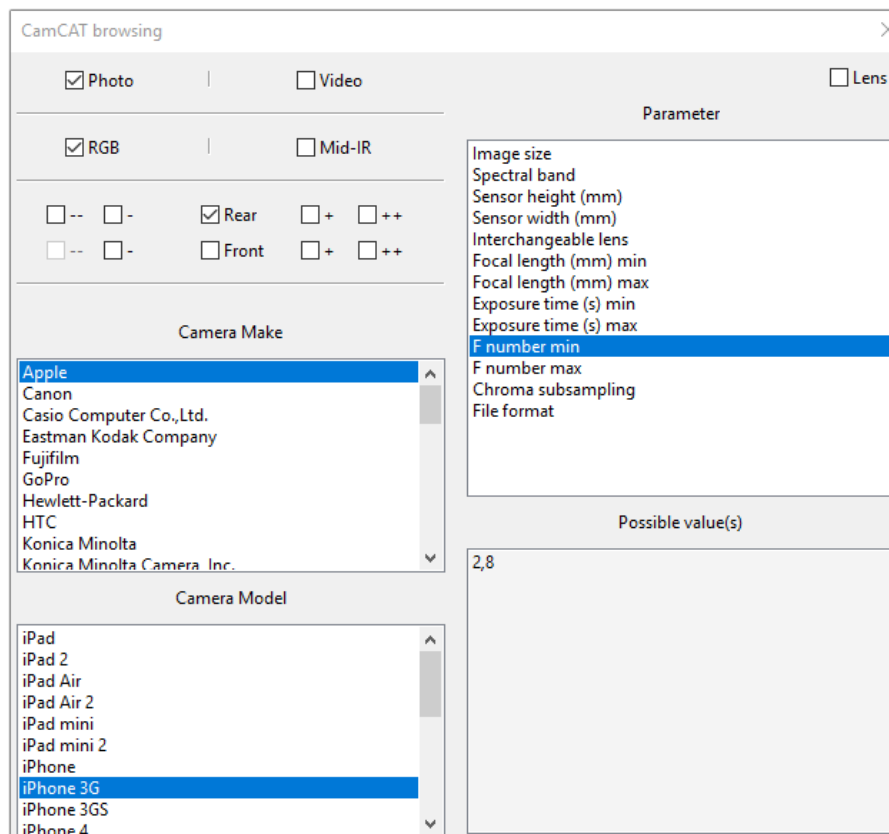
It is also possible to directly consult this database in order to check the presence and/or the consistency of such and such parameter.

Thus, regarding the photographs dimensions that the iPhone 3G can produce, there's only one: 1600 x 1200:



CamCAT extract that relates to the possible image size for an iPhone 3G

Regarding the technical parameters that should be present in the EXIF metadata, it's in particular the aperture (tag « *Exif.Photo.FNumber* »), that is fixed and must be 2.8:



CamCAT extract that relates to the presence and the value of the "F number" tag for an iPhone 3G

In addition, the date and hour of the photographs must necessarily be present in the metadata (tag « *Exif.Image.DateTime* »).

None of the three aforementioned points are respected by these two photographs.

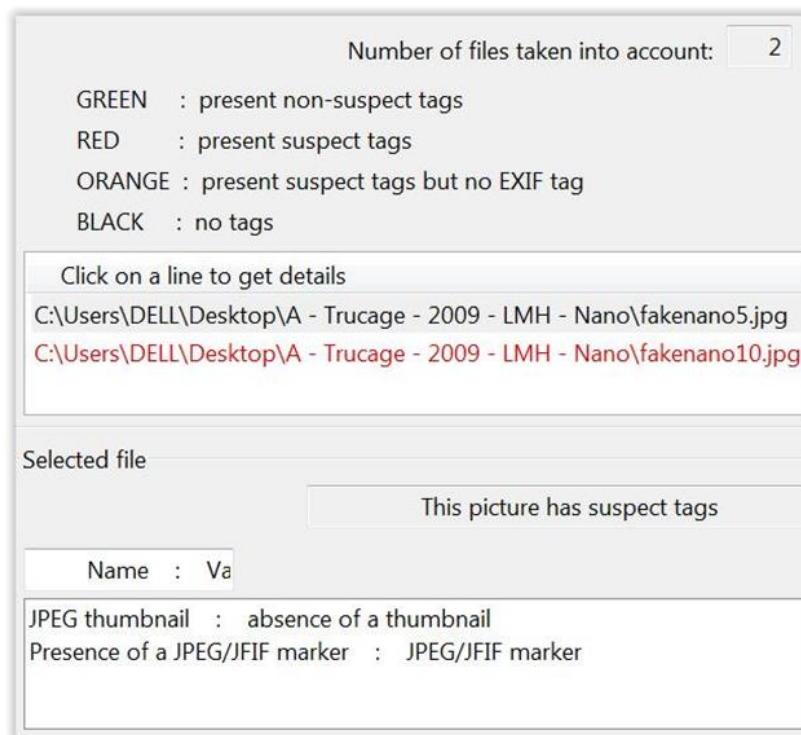
In details:

1. the dimensions of the photographs are not compliant with that that the iPhone 3G can produce
2. the technical data that relates to the aperture value is present in the EXIF metadata only for the photograph n°1.
3. the date and hour are only present in photograph n°1.

Other parameters that should natively be present in the EXIF metadata are absent as well from the photograph n°2, like it is the case for the exposure program used (tag « *Exif.Photo.ExposureProgram* ») or the flash status (tag « *Exif.Photo.Flash* »).

Finally, the tag « *Exif.Image.Model* » that gives the camera model used is oddly noted “*iPhone*” in the photograph n°1 and totally absent in the photograph n°2 even though it should be present and noted as “*iPhone 3G*”.

Additionally to the previous verifications, we might use the authentication tool “*remote check*”, that allows the user to check in a few clicks if the concerned documents can effectively be defined as “*original authentic*”:



Use of the tool “remote check” on both photographs

This is not the case for both pictures, they lack JPEG thumbnail and show the presence of a JPEG/JFIF marker.

Conclusion:

The two photos have been resized and cropped to a final resolution of 800 x 533 pixels, where a simple resizing for the native size (1600 x 1200) should have given a final resolution of 800 x 600 pixels.

The effect of this manipulation was a modification of the EXIF data, both in the number of tags and in their values, especially of the “technical” tags for the photo n°2.

Furthermore, any use of post-process software, such as Photoshop, should have left traces in the EXIF data, in the form of specific tags (IPTC or XMP tags) as well as another tag that specifies the name of the software that was used (“*software*”), which is not the case.

It is therefore certain that further EXIF data manipulation was done to hide these markers, manipulation easily achievable using either specific programs (“*Exifer*” ...) or a hex editor.

2. Visual inspection of the photographs

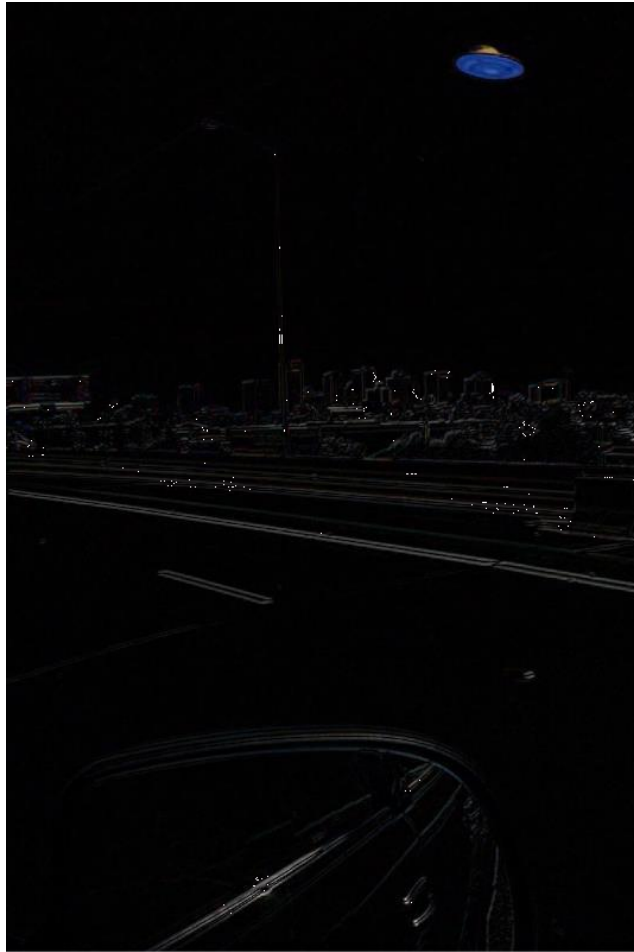
At first glance, the similarity between the two photographs is obvious, pointed furthermore by the presence of two elements at the same place of the scenery on both photographs:





Comparison also shows the presence of a [Gaussian blur](#), uniformly applied on the whole photography.

Moreover, combination of both pictures using layers in "*fusion difference mode, opacity 255*" clearly shows firstly the presence of objects edges emphasized by the addition of the Gaussian blur, and secondly the artificial inlaying of the 'UFO':



Conclusion:

The photograph n°2 is just a cropped version of the photograph n°1, on which was artificially added some Gaussian blur and a fake 'UFO'.

IV. Conclusion

Given the objective data provided by the examination of the photographs, we can safely conclude that the "UFO" photograph is the result of manipulations for forgery purposes.

V. Sources - Photographs credits

Photographs come from Linda Moulton Howe Internet site: [Earthfiles](http://Earthfiles.com).