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USER REPORT

Covering the News With Frezzi Batteries

by Henry Bautista

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As an independent ENG cameraman, the reliability and quality of my equipment is essential to my success. The fact that most of my assignments involve shooting in areas of conflict around the world makes that statement even more critical. I'm a native of Gibraltar and have been an independent cameraman for more than 35 years. I was originally based in South Africa where I covered the Apartheid conflict, Rhodesia/ Zimbabwe Crises and Angolan-Mozambique War for ABC. Later I worked for CBS, covering everything from the release of Nelson Mandela to both Gulf Wars. I moved to America in 1994 and have spent much of my time covering events in Kosovo, the Middle East, Russia, Sudan and the current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

My forte is going into dangerous situations and getting the story, often under difficult conditions.

LONGTIME FREZZI USER

I first became acquainted with Frezzi products in the 1970s, using their LW-16 16mm film camera while working for South African TV. My ENG gear now consists of everything from Frezzi batteries and chargers to on-camera and portable HMI lighting. The equipment is reliable, state of the art and can be used anywhere in the world. For my Sony DNW-90WS camera, I use Frezzi's

BP-14 NiMH 130 WH bricks, backed up by the M2100 Analyzer/Quad Charger. These batteries give me up to three hours per charge and are extremely reliable. Frezzi also has a new version, the HD-150, which provides 150 WH and can be discharged at a 10 A rate, allowing it to power both the camera and a Frezzi Light.

However, I realize that the world seems to be moving toward lithium ion battery technology and I now have a few of these too. I imagine that I'll be converting totally to Frezzi Lithium Ion units one of these days.

My standard on-camera light is a Frezzi Mini Fill with dimmer. The light unit that I use most when working in conflict situations is the Frezzi SSGK1 200 W HMI light kit. It comes with dimmable DC ballast, soft box and barn doors. Using this system, I'm able to get excellent lighting anytime and anywhere.

In addition to powering my camera and lights, I use Frezzi's NiCad batteries to power my portable Sound Devices 442 audio mixer and wireless mic units. These batteries can power the mixer for days at a time.

GREAT SUPPORT

One of the reasons that I have been loyal to Frezzi for so long is that in addition to the fact that their equipment performs well under all kinds of conditions, the company is sensitive to the needs of broadcast cameramen. If there's a problem, they will move mountains to resolve it. In one case, we were traveling in Iraq early in the U.S. invasion and our generator shorted out, causing the fuses on our Frezzi batteries to blow. I called



Henry Bautista on assignment in Beirut

Ed Kuhn at Frezzi and he overnighted new batteries and fuses. Whenever I need something serviced, they provide a loaner, and repair the problem quickly and efficiently. In my business, I can't afford to be down for long, especially since I never know where my next assignment will be. Unlike larger companies where you are just a number, Frezzi's personnel develop relationships with their users and make it easy to do business. It is this kind of service that has kept me a Frezzi user for all of these years.

Henry Bautista is the owner of Bautista Video Productions of Clifton, N.J. and is one of the foremost news cameramen in the industry. He may be contacted at bautistavideoproductions@gmail.com.

For additional information contact the Frezzi Energy Systems Division of Frezzolini Electronics Inc. at 973-427-1160 or visit www.Frezzi.com.