

## GET THE SCOOP ON THE LATEST GEAR



# Air Direct

## Wireless, High-Speed Tethering System

Review by Gilmar Smith

**Company:** Tether Tools

**Price:** \$329.99

**Rating:** ★★★★★

**Hot:** Worked seamlessly with Smart Shooter 4

**Not:** Compatibility issues with macOS Catalina

The Air Direct by Tether Tools is a wireless, high-speed tethering system that allows you to transfer RAW or JPEG images to your computer using the software program of your choice, or to a mobile device using Tether Tools' Air Remote app (Nikon and Canon users only). Air Direct can be mounted on the hot shoe, or an L-Bracket using the Arca Clamp accessory available for purchase on the Tether Tools website, and connects to the camera through a USB-C cable. It has the option of 2.4-GHz or 5-GHz bandwidth for faster transmission, less environmental interference, and further distance (up to 200'). The Air Direct only weighs 6 oz and measures 1.5x3.6x2.7".

The unit is independently powered by an LP-E6/N battery, so it doesn't take power from your camera, and the battery life is 3.5 hours. The Air Direct comes with a DC port that allows you to change the battery without losing power and interrupting your session.



“I love having the camera ‘untethered,’ because I mostly work with kids, I usually forget the camera is attached to the computer via a cable, and I’m clumsy.”

The Air Direct currently has compatibility issues with macOS Catalina, but Tether Tools is working on a fix. (If you haven’t made the update to Catalina, or you use Windows, there are no compatibility problems.) As a Mac user, I had already upgraded to Catalina when I received the Air Direct for review; so, in order for it to work, I had to download **Smart Shooter 4**, which is compatible with Nikon, Canon, and Sony cameras. (Smart Shooter costs \$69.95, and the Pro version costs \$195.95, but there’s a free 30-day trial available.)

The Air Direct worked wonderfully, and I was able to wirelessly transfer my images to my computer via Smart Shooter with no issues. I love having the camera “untethered,” because I mostly work with kids, I usually forget the camera is attached to the computer via a cable, and I’m clumsy. ■