Sigma 18–200mm

Tony Briselden goes out to the far frozen south with this eleven-to-one ratio half-frame zoom lens

When Tony Briselden went to Antarctica recently, he wanted to take the full range of lenses for his Fuji S2 – from 17mm to 400mm – to ensure that he could capture every opportunity.

Then he thought about Antarctica – a potentially hostile environment with low temperatures, high winds, ice and snow.

What would it be like trying to change lenses in these conditions while wearing protective clothing? And how real was the danger of getting something nasty onto the sensor?

So he took a look at Sigma's new eleven-to-one ratio 18–200mm f/3.5–6.3 DC zoom, which would allow him to cover a wide range of focal lengths without having to change lenses.

The 'DC' signifies that this is one of Sigma's lenses which is specially designed so the image circle matches the smaller sized DSLR sensors and gives the equivalence of 27–300mm on full-frame.

The lens is consequently small – only 78mm long and 70mm in diameter – and light – just over 400g. It is strongly built with a metal lens mount holding no fewer than 15 elements.

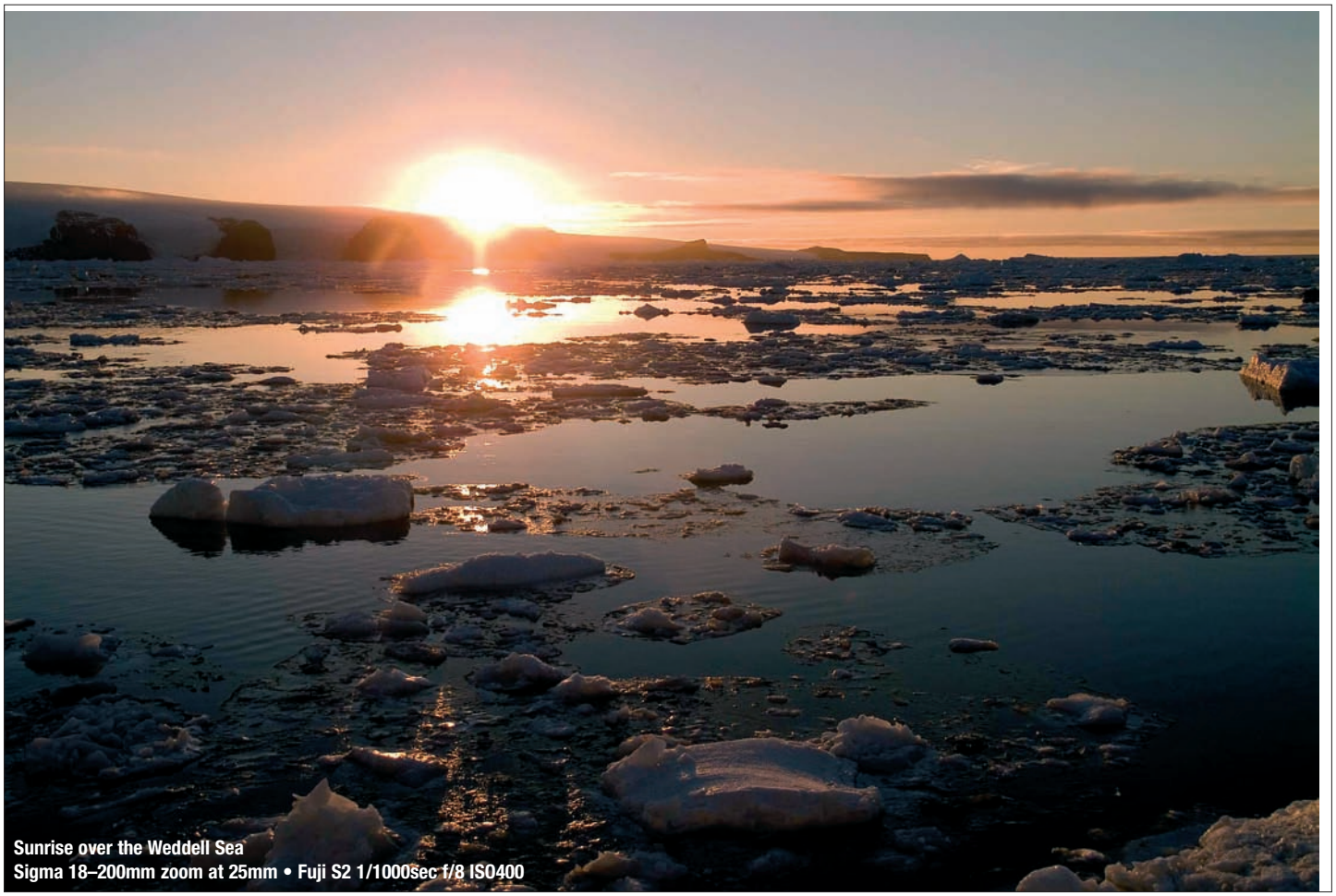
All those air-to-glass surfaces might seem a recipe for flare disaster but special low dispersion glass elements and a new type of coating reduces the flare and ghosting common with DSLRs and multi-element lenses.

Look at the shot of Sunrise over the Weddell Sea, with the sun shining right into the lens.

The front of the lens does not rotate when focusing, making it ideal for using polarising filters and shaped lens hoods.

Tony was so delighted with the sharpness and contrast of the Sigma 18–200mm zoom throughout its range that he used this one lens for over 90% of his shots in Antarctica.

Crabeater seal on Iceberg, Weddell Sea
Sigma 18–200mm at 200mm 1/1000sec f/8 ISO200



Sunrise over the Weddell Sea
Sigma 18–200mm zoom at 25mm • Fuji S2 1/1000sec f/8 ISO400