

Digital Cameras A to Z

Floyd L. Nordin, Instructor

What type of camera user am I or what type will I become?

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Point & Shoot | Simple pictures of places and people. |
| Beginner | Same as above but want to learn more about picture taking and camera controls. |
| Serious | Am quite interested in photography and will be doing some close-up work. |
| Advanced | Will take pictures of fast moving events, close-ups, low light, etc. |
| Pro | Earn my living taking pictures. |

What will I be doing with my camera?

1. Preserve family memories, events, history.
2. Use camera at genealogy library (close ups of documents, etc.).
3. Photos of my hobby, job, life, etc.
4. Photos at the zoo (telephoto lens with tripod).
5. Photos of sporting events (fast shutter speeds).

Camera Characteristics:

1. Megapixels (Resolution): Should get 3 megapixels or greater. 2 mp = 4x6, 3 mp = 5x7 to 8x10, 4 mp = 8x10, 5 mp = 11x14.
2. Features: Auto Exposure and Auto Focus
Manual controls (Aperature or shutter priority, etc.)
“Scenes” exposure selection: (Close-up, bright backlit, Landscape, Portrait, Action, Night, etc.)
3. AA or proprietary batteries.
4. Built-in flash with several modes of operation: (Red-Eye, Flash always, Flash when needed, Don’t flash).
5. Lens quality, highest aperature opening (F2.8).
6. Optical zoom (3x or better).
7. Macro Focusing (down to 4 inches or less).
8. Playback to display screen (with delete and zoom controls).
9. Best Brands: Consumer Reports: *Kodak, Nikon, Olympus, Sony*.
Industry Raters: *Canon, Nikon, Olympus, Sony*.

What options should I buy?

1. Extra battery(s).
2. Larger memory cards:
 - A. 2 mp > 64 mb (about 70 pictures)
3 mp > 128 mb (about 100 pictures)
4 mp > 192 mb (about 95 pictures)
5 mp > 256 mb (about 100 pictures)
6 mp > 256 mb (about 80 pictures).
 - B. Speed of Memory Cards: serious = 4x, advanced = 12x, Pro = 16x

- C. Types of Memory Cards: **CF** = Compact Flash, **SM** = Smart Media, **MS** = Memory Stick (Sony), **SD** = Secure Digital, **XD** = X Type.
3. Camera Bag.
 4. AC Adapter.
 5. External Battery Charger.
 6. Tripod.
 7. Lens protect if needed.
 8. Memory Card Reader to computer USB port.

How do I use my digital camera?

1. ***Read the manual!!!*** Review articles on your camera.
2. Hold it steady with tripod or lean against something.
3. Have enough light - flash only works about 10 feet.
4. Use ***Red-Eye Flash*** setting for people indoors.
5. Compose shots by getting closer and using **Rule of Thirds**.
6. If subjects is off to side, press shutter release down half-way pointing at the subject. Then move the camera to final position and press release all the way down to take picture.
7. When shooting with camera in portrait position - keep flash on the side of the camera that the face is pointing.
8. Use picture file type *Fine* or *Best* and *JPEG* (Jay Peg)
9. Practice, Practice, Practice!

How do I transfer photos from camera memory to my computer hard disk?

1. Slow Method - use software and cable that came with the camera.
2. Fast Method:
 - A. Buy a *Memory Card Reader* to USB port.
 - B. Learn how to use *Windows Explorer* on PC. (Finder on Mac)
 - C. Then “Move” photo files from the memory card (it appears as a hard drive) to a known location on your “Biggest” hard drive.

How do I manage photo files on my hard drive?

1. Use *Windows Explorer* to create a hierarchy of folders and sub-folders (Like an electronic file cabinet.) With descriptive event names. Rename photo files with a descriptive name, etc..
2. Use “Photo Collector” database program that manages photo files while importing from the memory card directly.
(<http://www.photocollector.net/IsTheBest>)
3. Use another photo manager program.

Where do I go to get more help when I need it?

1. The internet (See page 3)

IMPORTANT INTERNET SITES

Instructor: Floyd L. Nordin

Best Internet Sites to Do Comparison Shopping From On-Line Stores

www.dealtime.com	Contains all types of items
www.streetprices.com	Computers & peripherals, consumer electronics
shopper.cnet.com	Computers & peripherals, consumer electronics

Other Comparison Shopping Sites

www.pricescan.com	Many items: books, computers, photo, electronics, etc.
www.pricegrabber.com	Many items: books, computers, photo, electronics, etc.
www.price.com	Computers, electronics, office, travel, autos
www.nextag.com	All items
www.mysimon.com	All items
www.epinions.com	All items
www.consumersearch.com	All items
www.bizrate.com	All items
www.ebay.com	Several 1000 cameras under \$200 (mostly 2 megapixel)

Best Internet Sites for Digital Camera Reviews and Information

www.steves-digicams.com	Best overall ratings and features of top cameras.
www.photoexels.com	Cream of the crop camera ratings.
www.dpreview.com	Excellent information - in depth reviews of many cameras
www.digital-cameras-info.com	Very Good
www.techtv.com/products/digital cameras	Famous outfit

Internet Sites for Camera Brand User Groups

Search for major camera brands: Nikon = www.nikonions.com, etc.

Lists of Cameras with Features

www.steve's-digicams.com/cameras_dig3.html

Where To Go for More Help As I Need It

www.shortcourses.com - online camera guides and classes
www.silverlight.co.uk/tutorials/compose_expose/intro.html - An intro to photography.
www.nightowlcamera.com - pictures of cameras for Canon, FujiFilm, Kodak, Nikon, Olympus, Sony and Toshiba
www.pmai.org/pdf/0403_pixels_to_prints.pdf - interesting 16 page report
www.betterphoto.com/digital/DCshootingTips.asp - Very good shooting tips
www.google.com Search on "photography" for training classes.
www.google.com Search on "digital cameras"
www.google.com Search on "digital camera accessories"

How to subscribe to the NGS Bi-Monthly E-Newsletter "UpFront with NGS":

Send a New e-mail message to: NGS-L-request@rootsweb.com

Type only one word in the body of the e-mail: *subscribe*

WHAT KIND OF CAMERA USER ARE YOU!

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Point & Shoot -> Beginner -> Serious -> Advanced ->Pro

<u>Camera & Model</u>	<u>Retail</u>	<u>Internet</u>	<u>Mega-pixels</u>	<u>Optical</u>	<u>Camera Class</u>	<u>Top Rated</u>
<u>Canon Power Shot 545</u>	\$550	\$170-550	4	3X	Serious	*
<u>Canon Power Shot G2+</u>	\$600	\$390-600	4	3X	Pt. & Shoot	
<u>Canon Power Shot G3+</u>	\$700	\$485-800	4	4X	Advanced	*
<u>Fujifilm Finepix S602</u>	\$700	\$570-700	6	6X	Advanced	*
<u>Fujifilm Finepix 3800</u>	\$400	\$330-500	3	6X	Serious	Good
<u>Fujifilm Finepix A303</u>	\$300	\$220-300	3	3X	Pt. & Shoot	*
<u>Fujifilm Finepix F601</u>	\$600	\$330-730	6	6X	Advanced	*
<u>Kodak LS443</u>	\$500	\$300-500	4	3X	Pt. & Shoot	*
<u>Kodak DX4330</u>	\$300	\$250-400	3	3X	Pt. & Shoot	*
<u>Kodak DX4900</u>	\$400	\$270-380	4	2X	Serious	*
<u>Nikon Coolpix 3100</u>	\$350	\$277-350	3	3X	Pt. & Shoot	*
<u>Nikon Coolpix 3500</u>	\$400	\$260-400	3	3X	Pt. & Shoot	*
<u>Nikon Coolpix 4300</u>	\$500	\$340-500	4	3X	Beginner	*
<u>Nikon Coolpix 4500</u>	\$700	\$350-700	4	4X	Serious	*
<u>Nikon Coolpix 5000</u>	\$915	\$450-1000	5	3X	Advanced	*
<u>Nikon Coolpix 5700</u>	\$1200	\$660-1200	5	8X	Advanced	*
<u>Olympus Stylus 300</u>	\$400	\$300-400	3	3X	Pt. & Shoot	
<u>Olympus Stylus 400</u>	\$500	\$470-500	4	3X	Pt. & Shoot	*
<u>Olympus C-740 UltraZoom</u>	\$535	\$400-535	3	10X	Beginner	
<u>Olympus C-750 UltraZoom</u>	\$535	\$400-535	4	10X	Serious	*
<u>Olympus C-720 UltraZoom</u>	\$500	\$280-500	3	8X	Pt. & Shoot	
<u>Olympus C-730 UltraZoom</u>	\$600	\$370-600	3	10X	Serious	
<u>Olympus C-5050 UltraZoom</u>	\$800	\$500-800	5	3X	Advanced	*
<u>Olympus C-4000 UltraZoom</u>	\$450	\$291-500	4	3X	Beginner	
<u>Olympus C-50 UltraZoom</u>	\$600	\$370-600	5	3X	Pt. & Shoot	
<u>Olympus Camedia D-560</u>	\$300	\$260-300	3	3X	Pt. & Shoot	*
<u>Olympus E-zon</u>	\$1500	\$870-1500	5	4X	Advanced	
<u>Sony CD Mavica Mvc-CD400</u>	\$700	\$480-700	4	3X	Specialty	
<u>Sony Cybershot DSC-F717+</u>	\$1000	\$625-888	5	5X	Advanced	*
<u>Sony Cybershot DSC-P7</u>	\$500	\$350-415	3	3X	Pt. & Shoot	
<u>Sony Cybershot DSC-P9</u>	\$600	\$430-600	4	3X	Beginner	
<u>Sony Cybershot DSC-P71</u>	\$425	\$290-425	3	3X	Pt. & Shoot	*
<u>Sony Cybershot DSC-S85</u>	\$500	\$400-500	4	3X	Beginner	*
<u>Toshiba PDR-3300</u>	\$350	\$210-350	3	3X	Pt. & shoot	
<u>Toshiba PDR-3310</u>	\$500	\$300-491	3	3X	Pt. & shoot	*
<u>Toshiba PDR M81</u>	\$400	\$320-400	4	3X	Serious	*

(+ = Larger Fstop...Let's more light in.)