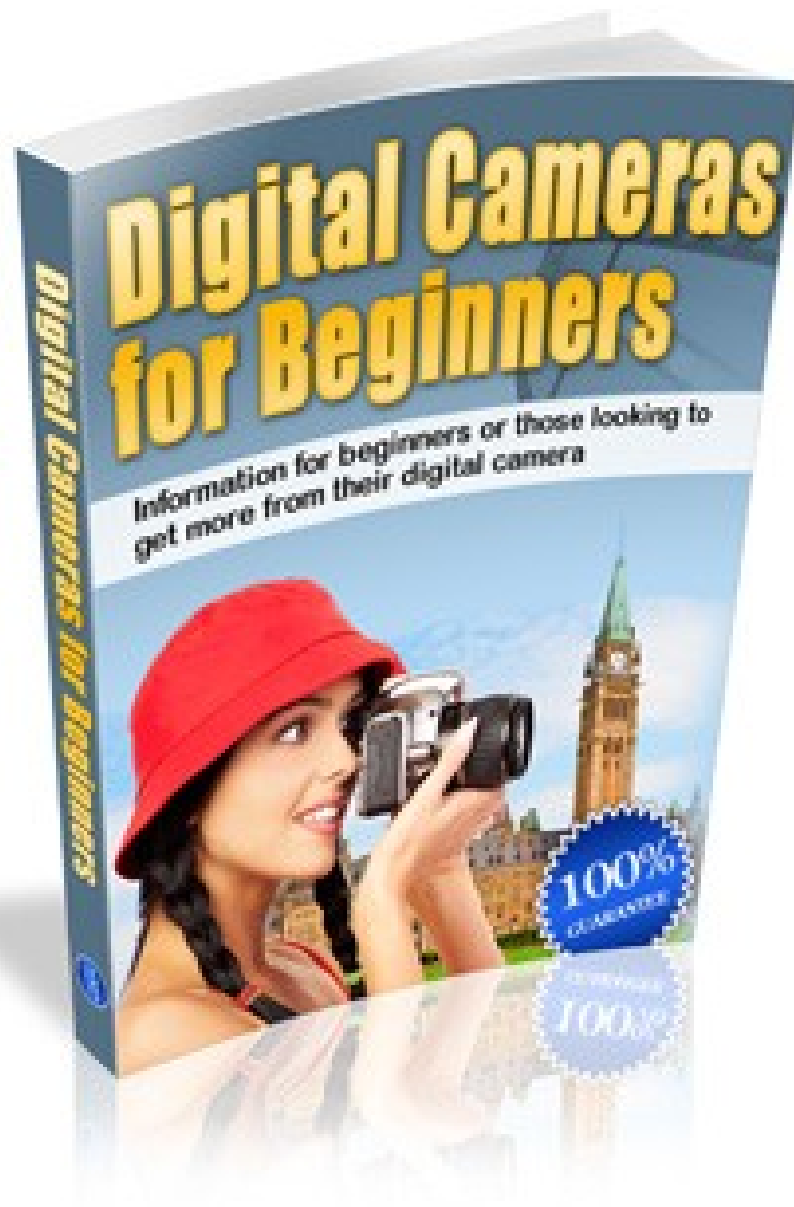


Guide To Digital Cameras



Contents

The Right Camera for Professional Digital Photography.....	3
The Pros and Cons of Using a Digital Camera.....	3
The Movement from Film to Download.....	4
The Easiest Way to Learn to Use a Digital Camera.....	5
Does One-Hour Processing Outrank Digital Technology.....	5
A Beginner’s Guide to Digital Photography.....	6
Advances in Digital Technology Affect the Photographic Industry.....	7
Are We Headed Toward Obsolescence of the 35mm Camera?.....	7
Are You Ready for the Next Level in Digital Cameras?	8
Become Familiar with Digital Camera Manufacturers.....	8
Choosing a Digital Camera for a Beginner.....	9
Compare Different Digital Camera Models Before You Buy.....	10
Digital Cameras Do Not Eliminate the Need for a Camcorder.....	10
Digital Cameras for Kids.....	11
Digital Photography and the Cell Phone.....	12
Digital Photography as a Profession.....	12
Do You Need the Newest Digital Camera?.....	13
Where to Buy Digital Cameras.....	13
Film Cameras Are Cheaper – Why Switch?.....	14
How Digital Camera Models Differ.....	15
Getting to Know Digital Camera Features.....	15
How Important Are Megapixels in a Digital Camera?.....	16
How to Choose the Best Digital Camera.....	17
Innovative Changes in Digital Cameras.....	17
Read Specifications Before You Buy.....	18

The Right Camera for Professional Digital Photography

Like its predecessor, the film camera, digital cameras have different models for different purposes. If you are taking pictures for personal use, you can use a basic digital camera but for professional photography, you need something more sophisticated with higher megapixels and more memory. It is imperative you choose a professional capacity digital camera if you are going to be doing professional digital photography. Although as a beginner you may not see the importance of having a different camera for professional and personal use, it is imperative. Although you could use your professional camera for personal use as well, you do not want to cause it to wear out sooner than necessary.

Another thing with professional photography is you will have features that you may not use in personal use cameras such as more capacity for videos and longer battery life. You may also find a larger camera that you can place on a tripod much like the 35mm that used to be in use for professional photography. You have to make sure your professional digital camera can handle the types of shots you take. You might need something different if your specialty is portraits instead of outdoor or indoor scenes. Portraits must be more precise and have more clarity, so you have to keep that in mind when you choose a camera for professional use. If you enjoy shooting outdoor scenes, you may be able to use an ordinary digital camera with higher megapixels instead of a professional camera.

Your choice in the type of photos you take will determine the type of camera you will need. In some cases, you may need to buy more than one in order to have what you need for various photography jobs. You will need to weigh each one on its own merit and determine what you need for each job. As you work, more you will discover what you need and will be able to determine what you will need for each job. In photography, there is never a “one size fits all.” remember all of the different lenses photographers used with 35mm cameras? There is always a need for different cameras or camera features with different types of photography. If you want to be a professional, you have to learn what works best with each individual scene or shooting session. One of the major contributors is the quality of the lighting in the area of the shooting so you must keep that in mind.

The Pros and Cons of Using a Digital Camera

Although we usually tend to think of the digital camera as the best thing since sliced bread, there are both pros and cons with its use. Nothing is available on the market that does not have both a good and a bad side, but the key is to weigh the good against the bad in order to come up with the best of both worlds. For instance, we know the digital camera can take pictures without film, so therefore you do not have to worry about having enough film on hand when you travel. There is no need to worry about not having enough film or buying rolls that have damage and therefore damage your pictures.

We also know that with a digital camera you do not have to worry needlessly about taking a poor picture because you can delete any that don't come out like you had hope and start again. If the lighting is poor, you have a chance to adjust it and take another picture. If you accidentally cut off the top of someone's head, you can delete that picture and start again. You do not have to wait until you develop the film to discover that your film had damage, the lighting was poor or you cut off someone's head when you took the picture. Though not a problem in most cases, if you are travelling or photographing a

special event it can be frustrating and even disappointing to find you do not have all the shots you wanted.

On the negative side, you may find it inconvenient to have to worry constantly about having enough memory in your camera or batteries to assure you will be able to photograph an entire event. Of course, when you compare this to the cost of buying film at close to \$10 a roll, batteries, and then developing the film the cost is minimal. No matter how you look at it the cost of a film camera although cheaper in its initial phase far exceeds that of a digital camera. Of course, if you use the video feature of your digital camera you will shorten your battery life but for still pictures, you can get quite a bit of life out of your batteries before they need replacing or recharged. Of course, you still need to recharge the camera before each use but that is also minimal compared to the cost of operating a film camera.

The Movement from Film to Download

While younger people may not remember, those in their 30s and older can still remember when cameras had film. Certainly, there are still cameras that rely on film, but for the most part cameras no longer need film to take pictures. It was a difficult time when a camera needed film because you had to make sure you always had film—many of us remember having to run to the store for film because we suddenly found out we had none on hand and one of the kids had a special activity in which they were participating.

The first digital cameras did not cause too much of a stir because they were expensive, large and difficult to use. The early models had a focus more toward the professional or amateur photographer who was used to having to tote heavy photography equipment including tripods. That meant they had one less thing to carry now—film and flashes since digital cameras also have a built in flash instead of the external flash that powered most 35mm cameras. For a short time, one could also find a few disposable digital cameras but apparently, they did not gain much popularity, probably because of their cost when compared to a 35mm disposable camera. Most people who are looking for disposable cameras are looking for cost, something that maybe they can give the kids for a school trip and not have to worry if they lost it.

Of course, the first digital cameras also needed a special printer but as innovations and improvements occurred, they became compatible with home computers and printers. Instead of taking film to the store for processing, a photographer had to insert the memory card or USB device into the home computer or printer and download everything onto the computer. You could then print the photos from the computer, copy them to CD or order prints online. It was more efficient and economical, not to count time saving. Moving forward now digital cameras are becoming smaller with higher megapixels and lower cost thus making them affordable for many more people. Memory cards are also becoming more economical, in some cases only \$25 or less for a card that can hold about 500 pictures. Who knows what the future holds for the digital camera? It is certain that we will see many more innovations before the end of the 21st century.

The Easiest Way to Learn to Use a Digital Camera

Like anything new, it can be a challenge learning to use a digital camera. There is no longer the focus and press the button like with a film camera. You have to learn to focus the images on the camera's display screen, take the picture and then save it to your memory card for downloading to your computer. All of that sounds easy, and for most people it is easy, but if you begin with a more sophisticated digital camera, it may take longer to learn. It is much better to start with something not quite as complex and upgrade from there.

The first method you want to utilize to learn how to use a digital camera is to read the instruction manual for your camera. You will find not only all of the camera's functions but also how to use each one and where pertinent buttons are. Instead of trying to find things blindly reading the manual will give you a clear picture where to find everything you need and how to use each of the features. Having a clear idea of what you are doing before you begin will help you learn your camera quickly and without as much frustration as you would encounter if you tried to figure out everything about the camera on your own.

Once you have read your instruction manual and have a good understanding the features on the camera, how to use them and where to find everything you want to practice. Before you begin taking any pictures that might be important to you, practice taking plenty of pictures with your digital camera. By practicing before you are ready to take pictures at an important event, you will have assurance you will know how to use the camera when you really need it. One of the nice things about a digital camera is if your pictures do not come out right you can delete them and start again.

Combining the information in your camera's instruction manual with practical experience will provide the most intensive training in the operation of your camera. It gives you the opportunity to read in detail how to perform each function with pictures showing you where to find the operational keys and buttons for the features. Making the most of all of the resources available to you is the easiest way to learn how to use a digital camera.

Does One-Hour Processing Outrank Digital Technology

Everyone is familiar with one-hour photo processing and has more than likely used it at one time or another before the advent of digital technology. The question some people may ask—those who are still stuck in the 35mm era is why bother with the cost of a digital camera when they can develop all the film in one hour? That is certainly a valid point to make but here is the issue—it costs money for film and for processing. In addition, one hour processing is more expensive than standard 3-5 day processing. However, the long-range cost is cheaper for a digital camera because you do not have to print the photos unless you want to do so. Saving them to CD for later viewing is much less expensive than printing them on your printer or paying for professional processing.

The problem with one-hour processing is that if the machine goes down you are not going to get your pictures within the allotted time. If you wanted them to show friends or family who are coming to visit, you can try taking them somewhere else but quite often the machine breaks down in the middle of processing rather than at the end. Even worse you will still be charged for one-hour processing even if it takes several days to fix the machine. All of that could have been avoid if you would have tossed the

35mm and invested in a digital camera. Unless your own computer is down, all you have to do is insert the memory card, download the pictures to your computer and save them to the computer or to a CD.

One-hour processing is far from being cost-effective. You not only have the actual cost of processing but you also have the cost of the initial film and you'll have to buy more film before you can take more pictures. You also have the cost of batteries in order for your camera and/or flash to work. Of course, you also need to add the cost of picture storage devices whether picture boxes or photo albums. No matter how you look at it, there is no method more cost effective than investing in a digital camera. Certainly, the initial cost may be higher than what you pay for a 35mm camera, but your other costs are limited to batteries, CDs, and photo paper if you choose to print your pictures.

A Beginner's Guide to Digital Photography

When you are used to taking pictures with film and having to take them somewhere to develop, digital photography is a welcome change. It is important to remember, however, that before you begin taking professional pictures you want to make sure you know how to use your camera to create the best pictures possible. That means having the right camera for the job you are doing. Of course if you are only taking pictures for personal use or for the fun of it there is less of a need for the sharper, clearer pictures than there is when you are taking pictures for professional use, especially if you are charging for the service.

Many photographers begin with pictures of outdoor scenes, making sure they are clear, sharp and clear. Since it is easier to take still pictures with an outdoor scene, these are easy marks for the beginning digital photographer. The scenes may include flowers, landscape, snow, wooded cabins and much more. The pictures take on a crystal clarity transformed into a professional photograph for outdoor magazines. It is a great place to begin and shows the world the skills you have as a photographer based on what you accomplish with your scenes. When you can have outdoor scenes published, you will then begin on your career as a professional photographer. You can also photograph other outdoor scenes such as beaches, trees, and even sporting events.

Once you learn outdoor scenes and develop a name for yourself, you can proceed on to other things. Weddings and graduations are an important part of the professional photographer's jobs but they require a great deal of experience before you embark upon them. There is no room for error when you are photographing people at an important event or taking portraits. Therefore, you want to have enough experience under your belt. You should do this before you start to set up your scenery and do the pictures the clients want.

Learning professional digital photography is a challenging but important area. One always has plenty of room for new entries as long as you are proficient and efficient at the same time. You also have to be dependable and assure high quality in your work. Once you begin showing your skills as a professional digital photographer, you can be certain your services will be in high demand anywhere you are willing to go.

Advances in Digital Technology Affect the Photographic Industry

Digital technology is older than digital cameras and was likely in use in hospitals long before we saw the first digital camera on the market. However, we know they made a major impact on the photographic industry, allowing the photographer whether professional or amateur to see how a photograph was going to look before it was printed. Instead of just a viewfinder like on film cameras, the digital camera actually allows you to see how your photo will look in its printed form, and if you do not like it, you can delete it from your camera and begin again.

Do the advances in digital technology mean film cameras will become obsolete? In the future, that may be the case but now there are still many people still using film cameras, not to count the number of disposable cameras that are still for sale. Until everyone has a computer in their home it is unlikely that manufacturers will stop making film cameras though they are becoming more difficult to find and do not include much of a variety when compared to digital cameras. The question is why anyone would want a film camera because even without a computer one can buy a printer to print photos right from their camera or take their memory card and go anywhere that processes film and print the photos from the camera.

Digital technology has affected not just still cameras but video cameras as well. The world in general is becoming one of digital technology and the trend is likely to continue into the 22nd century and beyond. In order to keep up with changing technology everyone must continue to learn how to use new products that come onto the market and try to stay on top of current technology. If you do not keep up with the technology, you will be far behind when it does finally catch up to you. The area of digital photography is changing rapidly with new methodology being in use to make improvements frequently.

The medical field is the most rapidly changing area of digital photography, but the changes affect digital cameras and camcorders as well. One needs only to look at how much smaller both digital cameras and camcorders have become to see how much of an impact these changes have caused. As we proceed into the 21st century, we will see more improvements in all areas of digital photography.

Are We Headed Toward Obsolescence of the 35mm Camera?

We are now deep into the digital technology era with digital cameras, digital cable, digital cell phones, and digital video recorders. Digital technology has changed the way the world takes pictures and does other things connected to photography. The entire world of photography has changed through digital technology—cameras have changed immensely over the years and are continuing to make innovative changes. The more we move forward into the 21st century the more changes we can expect. The question is how these changes will affect sales of the 35mm camera that has been around for so long.

With so many changes in digital technology, are we headed toward obsolescence of the 35mm camera? Presently there is no documentation to support that other than the fact that there are fewer models available in the stores. People are purchasing digital cameras because of their ease of use and their ability to produce higher quality pictures. Pictures you can be download and print from your home computer instead of having to take a roll of film to process and find out that some of the pictures did not come out the way you wanted or did not come out at all. The fact that digital technology eliminates that possibility makes it entirely possible that as the century continues one might see the 35mm camera

replaced completely by digital cameras. Where will that leave professionals who still use 35mm cameras? If they want to compete and stay in business, they will have to change to digital cameras.

If 35mm cameras become obsolete, it will mean only a limited amount of replacement parts will be available. For anyone who is still relying on 35mm technology it will mean considering the possibility of getting rid of the 35mm before it dies and leaves him or her stranded. They have been good cameras for many years, but they are part of the past just like Polaroid and the Brownie before that. If you want to stay competitive, you have to become part of the modern technology. You cannot continue to use obsolete equipment and expect to remain competitive in a digital society. You have to keep one-step ahead of others in your field or you will find that you will be behind losing all of your clients to photographers with more modern equipment who have joined the digital technology age.

Are You Ready for the Next Level in Digital Cameras?

When you first bought a digital camera you bought something basic so that could learn how to use it—or perhaps it was because of budget restraints. Whatever the reason may have been, you may be ready to move into a more sophisticated model now with more features. The question at this point is to ask whether you are ready to move to a more expensive or sophisticated model. If you have learned everything there is to know about the model you are currently using, then you are ready to invest in something with more features that will allow you to take pictures that are more professional if you decide to do so.

How do you know if you are ready to move to a new level of digital camera? That really depends on the reason you chose the more basic model when you first made the purchase. If it was because of budget considerations, then any time you can afford to move into another model is the right time. On the other hand, if you chose a basic model because you needed to learn how to use the features of the digital camera first, you may want to wait until you know everything about the camera you are currently using before you move to another one. It is much easier to move one level at a time—learn all about one and then you only have to learn any additional features when you move to another model with more features.

When you do move to another model, do not go from a very basic digital model to buying the most expensive one in the store. Allow yourself to move up gradually because each one will have features a little bit different unless you stay with a similar model. You want to be able to pick up a new digital camera and not having to read the instruction manual from cover to cover to know how to use it. There are going to be new things you will have to learn but that is common any time you buy a new model of any product. The one thing you do not want to do is invest in another digital camera just because there is a newer model on the market and you think you have to have it. Only upgrade if your needs have changed or your current model is in need of replacement.

Become Familiar with Digital Camera Manufacturers

Before you buy a digital camera, you want to become familiar with different manufacturers so that you know what you are buying. Each manufacturer has certain features that are included with their digital cameras, thus if you know the manufacturer you will have a better idea what you should buy. In

addition, you want to choose someone you can trust and that you know makes quality products. If you do not learn about the manufacturers, you will not know how to buy a quality digital camera. With the cost of digital cameras, the last thing you want to do is buy from an unknown manufacturer and discover the camera was not worth the price you paid.

Most of us are familiar with the big names like Kodak, Nikon, Sony, Olympus and a few others, but there are many more brands on the market that what we might know. The mistake many people make is asking the sales person in the store about the manufacturer of a digital camera in which they have an interest. You have to keep in mind that the salesman is interested in selling his product, so he is going to tell you whatever he thinks you want to hear whether it's true or not. He might know a particular brand of digital camera is currently having many quality issues, but he will pretend he does not know that. You want to conduct your own research and ask people you know who have a digital camera by that manufacturer rather than asking the sales person in the store where you are buying the camera.

It is never a good idea to buy a digital camera made by a manufacturer with which you are not familiar nor do you want to buy an off-brand unless you know someone who has used that brand without problems. You have to take the time to conduct your own research when dealing with a manufacturer that is unfamiliar to you. By taking the time to find out something about digital camera manufacturers you stand less of a chance of choosing something that is low on quality. Learning different manufacturers will help you make the right choice not only for your first digital camera but also for future purchases. It is not possible to know all of the manufacturers, so you may want to keep a notebook for future reference.

Choosing a Digital Camera for a Beginner

When you are used to using a film camera it can be confusing to try to figure out the features on a digital camera. In order to avoid confusing the beginning digital camera user, try to buy something that is simple and easy to operate. Just like film cameras, digital cameras can be very simple or very complicated to operate, especially with features such as video. For those who have been used to the simplicity of a film camera learning how to use a digital camera can become a little bit testy. Instead of just pointing and shooting, you have to take the time to focus because the picture you see in the screen is what will be the finished product.

The good thing about digital cameras for beginners as well as seasoned photographers is that if the picture you take is not clear or not what you expect you can simply delete it from your camera and start again. There is no longer the disappointment of taking a picture only to find out that something went wrong such as lighting and the picture could not develop. You no longer have to take two or more pictures of the same pose just to make sure you will have one that turns out the way you want. At the same time, you still have to know how to focus the camera and take the picture or you will be deleting many shots, an inconvenience if you are taking photographs at a special event.

You should not assume that because a digital camera does not have the same features as another one does the quality of the pictures would be lower. The quality of the pictures is in the megapixels on the camera not on the number of other features on the phone. Also, do not assume that because you have a cell phone with a 2.0 megapixel camera with decent quality that you will obtain the same quality in printed pictures. At the same time you do not need to pay the higher price for 6.0 megapixels and higher

if you do not choose to do so. For most pictures, 4.0 or 5.0 megapixels will provide high quality pictures. When you become more experienced, you can certainly buy a more expensive digital camera that has more megapixels and other additional features that may be available at the time you upgrade.

Compare Different Digital Camera Models Before You Buy

One mistake many people make is choosing a digital camera without doing some comparison-shopping. In this instance, the comparison-shopping is in terms of different models rather than the price. You want to look at not only other models by the same manufacturer but also similar models by a different manufacturer. The purpose of this is to compare not only price but also features in order to determine what the best fit is really for you. When you look at the features on each digital camera, you need to check thoroughly so that you compare models that are the closest in similarity among the manufacturers.

It seems like a waste of time to compare similar models but with different manufacturers, you might think, but since there are different price structures among different manufacturers you want to ascertain, you are getting the best deal. You certainly do not want to pay more money to get a digital camera that is the same except for the manufacturer. That does not mean you want to buy something cheap by any means but you do want to compare the prices based on the features available. Keep in mind that some manufacturers are so well known that you will pay for their name on the camera rather than the features and functions a particular digital may have. Those are the ones to compare, and you want to make certain you know the reputation of that manufacturer.

Even warranties may differ from manufacturer to manufacturer and these are very important when making a digital camera purchase. You do not want to buy your camera from a manufacturer who is not going to stand behind their products and maybe come in contact with trying to return a model that is inferior. A manufacturer that stands behind their products will not force you to keep a camera that is inferior in quality but will be more than willing to work with you and the retailer to fix any problems that may be in existence. You need to make sure when you buy the camera that you understand the terms of the warranty—most warranties have exclusions such as if you attempt to fix the problem yourself or if the problem is related to abuse of the camera. However, very few retailers will allow a customer to return a camera because they made the wrong selection—this is why it's essential to ascertain you know exactly what you want before you make the purchase.

Digital Cameras Do Not Eliminate the Need for a Camcorder

Although there are video capabilities on digital cameras with some high-end models including video streaming, they certainly do not eliminate the need for a camcorder. No matter how sophisticated the digital camera, the video capabilities are still limited when compared to a camcorder. One of the main problems is that there is no simple way to transfer the videos onto a DVD—you have to download the videos to your computer and use your CD burner to create the DVD. In addition, digital cameras are not to create entire videos; so again, your capabilities are rather limited.

Another problem with trying to use your digital camera to replace a camcorder is that videos take more memory and wear out your battery quicker than still photos do. That means you will be going through

memory cards and batteries rather quickly even for short picture taking sessions. If you have a model with video streaming, you might be able to record an entire event but you need connections to an external device via a remote device, a rather sophisticated process to say the least. Even with a high pixel digital camera, you will not have a video with the same quality that a camcorder produces. Digital cameras are only for use for still photos and some minimal video recording—they are not manufactured to be a substitute for a camcorder. They can take videos when you see an event and are without your video camera but they will never replace it unless technology advances to the point we have combination units much like some camera phones that include two cameras.

When you compare the quality of videos on a digital camera to those on a video recorder, you will see why there is still a need for the video recorder. Certainly, they are convenient for quick and short video clips but when you want a full-length video, you are still better off to use a video recorder instead of your digital camera. That does not mean you cannot take some clips of the event with your camera to send friends and relatives but you want to record the majority of the event on the camcorder. With camcorders being so much smaller today they are less cumbersome to carry thus eliminating the need for the need for the additional space older camcorders used to require.

Digital Cameras for Kids

With so much popularity surrounding digital cameras, it is only natural that the children want to join in. Why would they want a disposable 35mm when they can have a digital? No, Mom and Dad do not intend to let them use the family camera to take on a school outing and lose it or break it. No, Johnny does not want a 35mm disposable he wants a digital camera like everyone else. Is there a solution? Up until recently the only solution to tell the kids there was, no way they were taking the digital camera; they could have a 35mm disposable or do without, those were the only options. Today there is a better solution to the problem.

Knowing that kids want to join in with the digital cameras just like the family, some digital camera manufacturers have developed a digital camera made just for kids. Although a little more expensive than a disposable at an average of about \$50, it still provides parents with some sense of security. Although \$50 may be high to some parents, for others it is more of a sense of security and a way to keep the kids from trying to sneak out the door with the family's digital camera. It is probably no more expensive than it would be to buy a few disposable cameras for the event or trip. When you weigh the cost factor and if the kids do not lose the kids' digital camera, it will work out to be cheaper than a 35mm disposable camera, especially when you add the cost of film processing.

Of course, if you have several children and they all want their own digital camera it can run into some money, but again if they are careful and do not lose it the cost can be much less than that of buying disposable cameras for those school trips and outings. There always seems to be something when it comes to kids—they want to take pictures on the last day of school, the first day of school, the football game, the school play that includes a best friend—many different events. If the kids can share, it is great but if they need their own camera, it is a good Christmas or birthday gift. Fortunately, someone saw the need for a digital camera for kids knowing that they are great little photographers as well.

Digital Photography and the Cell Phone

The era of digital photography affected more than one sector of the world, and one of the most popular sectors that have been affected is that of cell phones. What used to be a device for talking to people has now become one of also taking pictures while on the go. Though not of the same quality as pictures from a standalone digital camera, photos from a camera phone are high enough quality to share with friends and relatives via email. Of course, some cell phones produce higher quality pictures than others. Originally, you could expect 1.0 or 2.0 megapixels from a camera phone but now you can find camera phones with megapixels of 3.0 or 4.0. Some also include memory cards that allow you to store more pictures on your phone than you were able to do previously.

Of course, there are some disadvantages to having a camera phone because it allows everyone the opportunity to take pictures of people without their knowledge or consent. For many people being photographed without their permission seems like invasion of privacy and they tend to become a little arrogant about it at times. The fault lies with the person taking the pictures because that person should be the one with a little consideration. In addition, camera phones have also opened another source of concern as more businesses are forbidding people to have camera phones for fear they will take pictures of confidential or secure information. Until camera phone users learn to be considerate in their picture taking, there will be controversy over their use.

On the positive side, camera phones are an easy way for business travellers to capture pictures at trade fairs and conferences without having to carry a digital camera with them. In most cases, these travellers are in possession of a Blackberry or other SmartPhone and can email the pictures right back to their office at that precise moment. Having a camera phone can save a great deal of time and frustration when you need something in a hurry and do not have your digital camera with you at the time. Cell phones have become a luxury that almost everyone has today, and for some it is the only phone they possess choosing a cell phone over a landline. Since most cell phones are actually camera phones, we can see how digital technology has affected the sector of the economy.

Digital Photography as a Profession

As long as there have been cameras, there have been professional photographers. The only difference between now and the turn of the 20th century is the way the photographs are captured. In the beginning, the only thing available was black and white, and though today some photographers still use black and white scenes, for the most part we live in a world of color. Television started out as black and white, we had to wonder what everyone was really wearing, and how the room really looked before color televisions became a new invention. For many people that was a great day, but at the same time, it became a problem as the industry attempted to reproduce black and white productions into color—it just did not have the same effect.

Photography in general has come a long way and with digital cameras on the market now, it makes it easier for professionals to present their photographs to publications or otherwise sell them. It also means that professional photographers can now let their clients pick out photographs for a package within just days of the time they had portraits taken—sometimes the same day depending on the size of the studio. That makes it convenient for people who like to have pictures for the holidays because they will have them sooner than they did in the past and with a more professional look. Photographers no

longer have to spend time in the darkroom with chemicals like they used to have to do—it's just a matter of touching up the photos on the computer and printing a package for the customer.

Instead of having to learn how to process film in a darkroom, the 21st century digital photographer only has to learn how to operate the camera and print professional looking pictures from the computer. It also makes it easier when a customer wants reprints because instead of having to maintain negatives, all that is necessary is to pull the customer's file and print more or the photographs the customer wants. It also makes it easy for those who tend to take pictures at accident and incident scenes—they and now take pictures with a digital camera and email them where they need to go instead of having to wait for processing. The world of digital photography has made the job of the professional photographer easier as well as more challenging.

Do You Need the Newest Digital Camera?

Some people seem to think they always have to have the newest digital camera on the market. They think there has to be something different from the one they currently have and even if they only bought it six months ago, they just refuse to use something that is "obsolete." While it is certainly nice to have the latest model, there is no need to do so. Unless you are a professional photographer who has special needs, you do not need to buy a new digital camera unless yours is wearing out or is so out of date that you cannot perform the functions you would like to perform with your camera.

Instead of worrying about buying the newest digital camera on the market, think about something you can do with your current camera to make it more usable. For instance, if the problem is with your memory and you have a memory card, start saving files to your card and download them to your computer. By downloading pictures to your computer and deleting them from your camera, you free up space and save the cost of a new camera. If you do not have a memory card and have not done so download them to your computer before you lose them. Once your memory becomes full, the camera will begin overwriting to pictures that are already there. That means older pictures will be replaced with newer ones and you will lose whatever was there first.

If your problem is with megapixels on your camera, you want to evaluate whether you really need something higher. If you have an older camera that has less than 4.0 megapixels, you might want to upgrade if you can do it economically. Although 2.0 is fine for sending pictures between emails, as on a camera phone, you need something with more clarity for printing pictures. That does not mean you need to pay the extra cost of a 6.0 megapixel camera—a 4.0 or 5.0 will do the job effectively. For a professional photographer, certainly, a higher megapixel is necessary because of the enlargements that are necessary—enlargements alone will cause photo distortion, so you have to make sure the original photo is as clear as possible. The clearer your original picture is, the clearer your enlargements will be as well. Keep that in mind before you decide to buy a new digital camera.

Where to Buy Digital Cameras

One of the first concerns of beginning digital camera users is where to buy their first camera. Although it may be cheaper to go to a department store camera department, if you don't know exactly what you need it can be frustrating. It's important to keep in mind that you will not find the help you need in most

department stores, so unless you have conducted research and know the exact camera you need you may want to make your purchase in a camera store where you will find experienced and knowledgeable people to help you choose the camera you need.

Although many people may have an idea what they need in terms of features, megapixels and other important amenities, not everyone takes the time to find that out. This is especially true if the person making the purchase is a novice or has so much knowledge that he or she has difficulty buying something for a new user. Either of these scenarios can be detrimental to the purchase of a new digital camera and are good reasons for making the purchase from a reputable camera store instead of a department store. There you will find sales people who will be honest and helpful instead of ones who are just trying to sell you anything they can to make a sale.

The only remaining question might be to decide which camera specialty shop will be the best for your needs. One thing you may want to do is go in and just browse around before you are actually ready to make a purchase. Walk around, see what is available and get a feel for the way the store takes care of customers. Listen to how they handle other customers that come in while you are there in order to determine if you feel that store has the knowledgeable sales staff to help you choose the right digital camera for your needs or that of the person for whom you are buying it. Do not wait until the last minute to make a purchase and try to rush or you will quite possibly make a wrong choice. You need to give yourself enough time to browse and even conduct more research after you leave the store. Let the sales person know you are only browsing and making comparisons—they are more likely to provide accurate information if they think you are not ready to make a purchase.

Film Cameras Are Cheaper – Why Switch?

One of the things you will find when you go to buy a digital camera is that their initial cost is higher than that of most film cameras. Keeping that in mind, why should you bother switching to a digital camera. You can save the money and just continue paying to have your film processed when you finish a roll. Certainly, that is an option but when you weigh the cost of buying film and having it processed against the cost of buying a digital camera you will discover that although the digital camera is more expensive than most film cameras initially, over time you will save money if you switch to a digital camera.

Of course, you have fewer choices with film cameras because of the digital camera phase. There are many valid reasons to choose digital over film beginning with the inconvenience of having to take the film to be processed. Think of your own situation—how many times have you taken pictures at a special event and either misplaced the film or forgot to take it for processing? This is something that occurs with every one of us at one time or another—sometimes the film accumulates and you discover you have 50 or 60 rolls of film and it's going to cost over \$100 for processing because you want doubles and one-hour processing even though the film has been sitting around for months.

Couldn't you still miss processing pictures with a digital camera? You could to a lesser degree if you continue to buy memory cards instead of downloading the pictures onto your computer and deleting them from your memory card. Realistically there is no need to have more memory cards than you will use in a single picture taking session. Certainly if you are going on vacation you may want extras if you are not travelling with a laptop but any other time there is no need for more than two memory cards—one to download to your computer and the other as a backup while you are preparing to download the

pictures from the other card. The other cost savings over film results because you do not need to professional print every picture you take. Storing them on the computer or on a CD is cheaper and takes up less room than having to buy photo albums for all the pictures you take.

How Digital Camera Models Differ

Like film cameras, each model in digital cameras is a little bit different. There are varieties of features, not all of which are available on every camera. If you are looking for certain features, you want to look at each model to determine which model has the features you want. If this is your first digital camera, you may want to search online or browse through a camera store before you make a purchase so that you will know what is included on the camera. If you are not sure of the features, you need or want definitely take a trip to your local camera store and talk with a sales representative about your photographic experiences presently.

In order to choose the camera that is right for you it is important to analyze what kind of pictures you currently take with your film camera. Are you an amateur photographer? Do you take professional photographs or portraits? Do you photograph events for organizations? Do you take pictures for personal use such as pictures of family and friends? If you fall into the last category, you will not need the same camera model as someone who takes professional pictures because the same quality is not necessary. That does not mean you do not want high quality pictures by any means, but if you take professional pictures you will need a camera with higher megapixels than someone who takes only personal photographs.

You also want to analyze whether you need video capabilities. Although most digital cameras include some video capabilities, those on the lower end cameras are very basic while an upper end camera may even include video streaming. In addition, the lower end camera models may or may not include a slot for a video card, so you want to make sure you know that before you make the purchase. Once you take the camera home and put it together, you will not be able to return it, so it is important to read the specifications of each model before you make the purchase. If you are not sure, you need to ask. The best way to buy a digital camera is to research first so that you know which model has what you need—megapixels, video capabilities, memory card, and internal memory. When you have all the information on each camera model, it will be easier to choose the one that has what you want and need.

Getting to Know Digital Camera Features

Depending on the digital camera model you choose, you will find any number of different features. Do not assume that all cameras have even similar features because you will end up buying a camera you cannot use. The price of the camera will also have an effect on the number of features you will find on an individual camera although you may find the same features on a lower priced camera that you find on sale or in a discount store. When you are shopping for a digital camera, it is important to read the specifications so you know whether that model fits your needs.

One of the mistakes new digital camera buyers make is thinking that every model comes with a slot for a memory card. Although this may be a valid assumption, the lower priced digital cameras may not include even a slot for a memory card—your picture taking capabilities are limited to the internal

memory. What does this mean for someone who is often away from home? It means you will need to have a laptop or another modem for downloading the pictures on your camera in order to free up the space for new pictures. If you fail to do that, what will happen is the newer pictures will replace the older ones. When you purchase a camera that relies solely on internal memory you have to make sure you have to make sure you are also close to a computer so you can download older pictures to make room for newer ones.

Most new digital cameras also include video capabilities although the model you choose will determine how extensive those capabilities are. Some of the less expensive models include video only without sound while models that are more sophisticated even include video streaming. You want to remember that with many cameras you cannot use the video and still picture feature at the same time. You also want to remember that the quality of the videos on your digital camera will not compare to those on a standalone camcorder. The video feature is great for those unexpected moments when you are without your camcorder but this feature is not to be a replacement for a video camera. Be careful when you buy a digital camera to read all of the specifications so you know what you are getting. Never assume that every digital camera will include all of the same features.

How Important Are Megapixels in a Digital Camera?

If you have never owned a digital camera you may not understand the importance of megapixels or even know what they are and how they relate to your camera. The first thing you want to understand is that the higher the megapixels on your camera the higher the quality of the pictures. However, and this is the other consideration, the higher the megapixels the more expensive your camera will be. Therefore, you want to look at your own needs before you arbitrarily decide you want to buy a 10-megapixel camera because it is the latest thing on the market.

You never want to buy more of anything than what you really need. Are you going to buy a 16-passenger van when a 12-passenger van will do? Of course, you are not because it will cost more to purchase and maintain. The same is true for a digital camera—you want to buy the digital camera that has the features you need and will use including the megapixels. Many digital cameras have video capabilities but if you are not going to use that feature, you may want to choose a more basic digital camera—keep in mind that even if you think you will use the video feature, you cannot do still photos and video at the same time. Therefore, do not rely on the capabilities of your video feature. Another thing to remember is that the video features may require higher megapixels in order to produce the quality in your videos.

When you are looking at digital cameras and trying to decide the right megapixels for your needs, keep in mind that 2.0 on a cell phone camera is about average and is a high enough quality for emailing pictures to your family and friends. On the other hand, when you are going to print pictures or put them on your computer, you want a higher quality. That doesn't mean you have to pay the higher price for a digital camera that has 6.0 megapixels or higher, but you do want to consider at least 4.0 or 5.0 in order to get the quality you want for printing and producing enlargements. It will cost you more money initially, but the quality you will get from your pictures will more than make up for the cost. Make sure you know before you buy your digital camera what your needs are so that you do not invest money in more features than are necessary.

How to Choose the Best Digital Camera

When you are making your first purchase, it can be overwhelming if you do not know how to make a good selection. In order to know the best digital camera to meet your needs you should first determine exactly what you expect to do with your camera—is it only for pleasure or do you have some professional needs as well? Are you looking to becoming a professional photographer or are you currently taking photography classes? Are you perhaps looking into becoming a freelance photographer and take photographs at various events in your area? Your answers to these questions will help you decide which digital camera is best for your needs.

In order to determine the best digital camera for your needs, you want to make a list or mental note of how you plan to use your camera. Consider things such as how often you take pictures, how many pictures you take, the events you photograph, and whether you take pictures for personal or business use. The answers to these questions will provide the information you need to help you choose a digital camera. If you only take a few pictures for personal use, you will need as many features as someone who uses the camera for business use or takes many pictures at various functions. The reasons and number of pictures you take will also help you decide how many megapixels the camera you choose should have.

Those who take pictures at many different events may want to choose a camera with more megapixels or even higher video quality. At the same time, someone who uses the camera only for personal use may not need the same features. While a 4.0 or 5.0-megapixel camera is sufficient for the average personal user, someone who takes professional pictures, even on a limited basis, may want to choose something higher. It is essential to keep in mind that the higher the megapixels, the more expensive the camera will be, so you do not want to buy more than what you actually need. Think of it in the same way as a film camera—you do not want to buy film with 800 ASA unless you are taking pictures of fast moving objects. The comparison is to show you only buy what you need instead of paying a higher price for components you will seldom use on your digital camera.

Innovative Changes in Digital Cameras

From when digital cameras first came about in the latter part of the 20th century, they have undergone many changes. When they first came out, they were bigger, bulkier and very complicated to use. In addition, you had to buy a special printer in order to print your pictures or take your memory card to a place that had the capability to print digital photos. They were not designed to work with a regular computer printer at that time therefore there was not the capability of downloading them to a home computer—at least not on all models. It is easy to see how far they have come since their first introduction and one can only imagine what the future holds for digital cameras.

As digital cameras became more popular it became obvious there was a need to make them easier to use and economical as well. The price came down and they became compatible with home computers and printers. That meant more photo paper needed manufacturing for home use. Digital cameras became smaller and less complicated to make them attractive to everyone. The digital age of photography was born and today very few people even own a film camera and those that do choose to do so because of the cost factor or the fact that they do not want to get rid of a camera that still works. As time goes by more people will dispose of film cameras and replace them with digital cameras.

Whether film cameras will eventually become obsolete is not something with a clear answer at this time.

When digital cameras first came on the market, they were just that—for taking pictures. Today you can use your digital camera to take video clips, and although the quality and capacity does not match that of a camcorder, it is certainly something that can occur in a quick moment when you are without the camcorder. The quality is decent for sharing with friends and family though not professional as it is on a camcorder. It has come a long way, however, and will likely progress a great deal more through the rest of the century and into future centuries. Changes to the digital camera have been necessary in order to keep up with innovations in the entire sector of digital photography including that within the medical profession, the earliest user of digital photography.

Read Specifications Before You Buy

When you are buying a digital camera, it is important to read the specifications of the model you are considering before you buy. You should have an idea what you want before you begin to look, so look for the models that have the specific features you need. Each person will be different so do not choose a digital camera because your best friend has it and loves it—you may not do the same kind of photography as your friend does or even your parents. Your photographic needs are as different as night and day and you should treat them accordingly. Never buy a digital camera because someone else has it and recommended it. Look at it yourself and know it will meet your needs.

Each camera model has specifications printed on the box or available online. Before you purchase a new digital camera read the specifications very carefully to make sure the camera you are considering includes what you need. Never assume that every digital camera includes video and a memory card because the lower priced model may not have either one. If you have to have video then you want to make sure you read the specifications on each model to ensure it is included with that model. Some model may include video with no sound and most models do not allow you to run video and still photos at the same time. Consider all of these possibilities before you make your final selection.

By reading the specifications before you buy a new digital camera, you will save yourself time and money. Once you open the box it is up to the store where you purchased the camera whether they will allow you to return it or not. You will save yourself many headaches and frustrations if you learn to read specifications before you make a purchase. If you do not see the feature you seek, it probably is not included on that camera model. In that case, you will want to seek a model that more closely resembles what you have in mind. The best way to search for a digital camera is online where the specifications are more detailed than those you find on a camera box. In addition, you also save time because when you are ready to make the purchase you already know what you want and can get in and out of the store quicker.