

# Choosing the right camera...



Tips learned while shopping for my first DSLR

Presentation by Vicki Wassenhove

Which one should you buy?



# Consider your intended use...



Digital SLR cameras give you more quality, versatility, and control for fast moving sports or wildlife, shooting in low light, or portraits with a soft background.

Smaller models offer the convenience of size and portability. The results are still sharp and colorful with little effort.

# Which size/type is best for you?

- Mini pocket
- Point and Shoot
- Compact & 4/3
- DSLR “crop”
- Full frame

**Find one that best suits your own needs and style.  
Some people buy two!**



# Consider your budget

- Point and Shoot - \$100-\$200
- Compact or “mini-DSLR” - \$ 400-500
- “Entry level” DSLR - \$500 or more, body only.
- “Full frame” professional quality - \$1500 and up, body only.

(Prices are rough estimations.)

# Brands

- Most popular: Nikon and Canon
- Others? Sony, Pentax, Olympus, Panasonic, Samsung, Fujifilm and more

Are you committed to a certain brand because of lenses or equipment already owned?

Some of them might be reused with a new camera, but you may miss the improved technology available today.

# Models and features

Consider YOUR needs again!

- Is ease of use important to you?
- Do you want to shoot video?
- How much weight and bulk do you want to carry?
- Need to capture fast action? Consider frames per second.
- How many pixels do you need?  
(More pixels allow for cropping capability and larger prints, but they will fill up your hard drive faster!)

# Feeling overwhelmed by the myriad of choices and confusing terms?

Here's a great starter article for "newbies" on a popular digital photography site:

[http://www.dpreview.com/learn/?/Guides/dslr\\_buying\\_guide\\_01.htm](http://www.dpreview.com/learn/?/Guides/dslr_buying_guide_01.htm)

*\*Images used in my presentation are from this great article by Dpreview.*

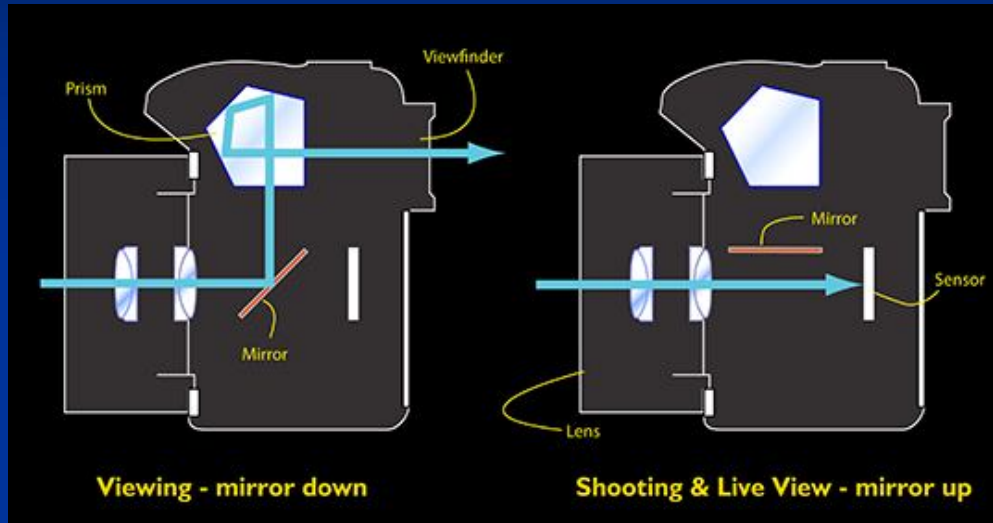


# The same digital photography site offers even more help:

- A glossary for unfamiliar terms
- Reviews on individual cameras & lenses
- Sample images
- Features and articles
- Camera feature search
- Side-by-side comparisons... & more

<http://www.dpreview.com/>

# Buying your first digital SLR?



“Entry level” DSLR cameras provide extra guidance for novices. While you learn, most have automatic settings and picture modes (similar to point and shoot cameras) that will help you take great shots.

# Some ways to get started

- Learn how your friends, family members and other photographers like/rate their camera brands and models.
- Take a digital photography class at a local community college.
- Join a club! QC Photography Club and the Q-C Computer Society have both mentors and classes.

## Some ways to get started (continued)

- Read online or magazine reviews about the “best” or most popular camera styles or brands.
- Visit online sites that help you match your needs to cameras, such as <http://www.bestinclass.com/digital-cameras>

Do your homework and enough research to develop a “short list” BEFORE heading to a store.

# Where to buy?

## See cameras in person before a purchase

- Does a friend have one you could examine?
- Big box stores may have a limited selection on display. Help from staff may be limited.
- Local camera stores may have better selections and more knowledgeable staff.
- Compare prices. Local cost may be pretty close to buying online. Some area stores will match sale prices at other local outlets.

# Where to buy cameras locally

- Sam's Club Cameras are usually bundled with a “kit lens” and small accessories.
- Big box stores Best Buy, Target, Kmart, Wal-Mart, Staples, Office Max)
- The Camera Corner, Davenport

All have catalogs online to check prices and features.

## Sites suggested to me for online purchases

- B&H Photo: [www.bhphotovideo.com/](http://www.bhphotovideo.com/)
- Amazon.com [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)
- Canon Direct Store (See [refurbished equipment](http://shop.usa.canon.com/) especially) <http://shop.usa.canon.com/>
- Fred Miranda (Buy or SELL equipment here.) <http://www.fredmiranda.com/store/>

Buying new, used or refurbished equipment online has some advantages and disadvantages.

# Reviews and Tutorials

- Google a phrase like “Canon T3i” review or “compare Canon T3i vs. Canon T4i”
- Also search for specific camera information, such as “Canon 60 D battery life”.
- [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) provides specs, good prices, free shipping for orders over \$25 and extensive customer reviews.
- Use other Google searches to find tutorials, videos, or additional specifics.



# Good site tips from others

- Camera size comparisons:

<http://camerasize.com/compare/#289,238>

- Canon Price watch:

<http://www.canonpricewatch.com/#cat-00010>

- Compare any two cameras

[http://snapsort.com/compare/Nikon-D5100-vs-Nikon D3100](http://snapsort.com/compare/Nikon-D5100-vs-Nikon-D3100)

Forums on specific camera brands or topics may be very helpful!  
Google for them!

# A perfect camera?



IMHO, you will probably never find a PERFECT camera, even if you wait for the next generation of models to arrive. However, all the new digital cameras are amazing... whether you buy a point and shoot or a higher end DSLR. Just try to find one that meets your own priorities as closely as possible.

Hope the tips I've learned while doing my research will help you too. BTW, I decided on a Canon 60 D from Camera Corner, but there are lots of other good choices out there! Have fun shopping!

~ Vicki Wassenhove