



How to choose the right camera for you

Thinking on buying a new camera and not sure which one to buy? Unfortunately, there is no quick and easy way to find out if it is right for you as it depends on many different factors including purpose, budget and the desired format of the camera. One thing that often gets asked in photography forums is 'which camera is best for me' and the comments below can often be overwhelming and leave you none the wiser. So, I have written this guide in order to try and help guide you in your research.

1. What is the purpose?

You should try and determine why you want a camera before you begin shopping for one. By thinking about how you will primarily use your camera for, you can narrow down your options, save time, and simplify the buying process. You should ascertain if you are more comfortable with simplicity or many options, and consider your preferred camera design.

2. Your budget

You should always consider which lines of cameras are available to you within your budget. Special deals can sometimes bring cameras that are otherwise out of your reach into the affordable range. If you are on a budget, you should never hurry when shopping for a camera. It is generally preferred you wait and invest a lot of time monitoring the prices of particular models you have in mind. There may be times, however, when you may need to act quickly to take advantage of an exceptionally good deal.

3. The release date

Digital cameras are frequently updated with new technological advancements to improve the picture-taking experience. Before you decide on a camera, firstly try to find out when it was released so that you are not left with a new camera that is technologically superseded at the time of purchase. you should choose a camera designed with good future proofing considerations.

4. Desired format

You should understand why a particular camera format is a better choice for you. You can determine this by the type of photography you wish to participate in. A compact camera is the first choice for the amateur market as they are the most simple to use. Compact system cameras are suitable for the intermediate photographer because they have many creative controls without the weight and complexity of a DSLR. Most serious photographic enthusiasts and professionals prefer the DSLR because of their precision optics, large sensors, interchangeable lens capabilities, superior image quality, and overall artistic control. The three main types of camera you might want to look at at this stage are:

Camera type	Characteristics	Market
<u>Compact</u>	Double lens, automatic focus, non-detachable lens, small sensors, limited viewing scope	Amateur
<u>CSC (Compact System Camera)</u>	Mirrorless lens and non-optical viewfinder, detachable lens, medium sized to large sensors	Semi-amateur and enthusiast
<u>DSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex)</u>	Single lens reflected mirror image, optical viewfinder, detachable lens, full user control, semi-automatic function, large sensors	Enthusiast and professional

5. Important features

You should prioritise on your most important control features. This is especially important for those with limited finances. Those who are shopping for a new camera should research important camera features to determine what level of features you need in a camera to successfully fulfil your photographic requirements. This not only saves time, but potentially a lot of money.

Canon v Nikon

This is the age old question, which is better? Although there is a lot of competition between the two biggest names in photography, the fact is that at each level of their range there is little to choose between them. Most professional photographers do tend to stay with the brand that they start with and the reason for this is that lenses will only fit on that brand of camera and the lenses can be very expensive. Although the standards are almost exactly the same at each level, the camera's settings, menu layout, etc. are very different. So, it is worth as part of your research looking into which brand works best for you and which one you find it easiest to use for what you need.

Conclusion

As stated at the beginning of this guide, there is no easy answer as to which camera is right for you. The 5 tips above should help you in your research in buying the right camera for you and I hope this helps.