



Digital Camera Feature Comparison Chart

To use this chart, take it with you to the store and fill in the blanks for each model you are interested in. Also, you may want to keep it near your desk as you research each model of digital camera.

Feature Description	Enter Brand and Model:	_____	_____	_____
	Price	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Image Quality: The amount of detail that the camera can capture is called the resolution , and it is measured in pixels. The more detail you have, the more you can blow up a picture before it becomes "grainy" and starts to look out-of-focus.	Max Resolution	_____ X _____	_____ X _____	_____ X _____
	Image Format	JPEG ___ TIFF ___ Other _____	JPEG ___ TIFF ___ Other _____	JPEG ___ TIFF ___ Other _____
	Sensor Type	CCD ___ CMOS ___	CCD ___ CMOS ___	CCD ___ CMOS ___
Lens/Viewfinder: Fixed-focus, fixed zoom lenses are inexpensive and great for snapshots, but fairly limited. Optical zoom lenses typically have "wide" and "telephoto" options and automatic focus. With digital zoom, the camera takes pixels from the center of the image sensor and "interpolates" them to make a full-size image. This approach may create a grainy or fuzzy image. Replaceable lens systems are similar to high-end 35mm cameras, and in fact can use lenses from 35 mm cameras in some cases.	Color LCD	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___
	LCD Size	_____ X _____	_____ X _____	_____ X _____
	Optical Viewfinder	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___
	Zoom	Digital: _____ X Optical: _____ X	Digital: _____ X Optical: _____ X	Digital: _____ X Optical: _____ X
Power: Look for rechargeable batteries. Removable batteries are preferable so that you can use the camera for extended periods simply by swapping batteries.	Replaceable Lens	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___
	Battery Type	_____	_____	_____
	Rechargeable	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___
	Removable	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___
	Replacement/Spare Cost	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Computer Interface: Ensure the host computer's operating system is compatible with the included camera software and the hardware interface. Drivers and support for Windows NT, Linux and other alternatives to Windows 95/98/2000 or Mac are very rare. Cameras that use removable media (floppy disks, CompactFlash, CD, DVD or SmartMedia) can normally be read directly by a Windows or Mac computer.	Battery Life	_____	_____	_____
	Operating System	Mac ___ Win 98 ___ Win 2000 ___ Other: _____	Mac ___ Win 98 ___ Win 2000 ___ Other: _____	Mac ___ Win 98 ___ Win 2000 ___ Other: _____
Memory: Depending on compression and resolution, the number of pictures each camera can store per megabyte may vary greatly. Check the exact number per MB for each model. Some of the less expensive cameras provide a small amount of memory, maybe only 8 MB. This can limit the number of pictures drastically. Make sure that the memory is upgradeable so you don't end up paying more in the long run buying additional memory for a "cheaper" model.	Data Port	USB ___ Serial ___ None ___	USB ___ Serial ___ None ___	USB ___ Serial ___ None ___
	Amount of Memory	_____	_____	_____
	Memory Upgradeable	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___
Options: If you plan to take close-up images of things, look for a camera that has a macro focusing capability. Some cameras now offer an "MPEG movie" feature, allowing you to take short movies with your camera. If this is a feature that you want, make sure the camera offers it because it is not a standard feature. Most cameras have completely automatic exposure. If you want exposure control, look for a manual exposure feature. Some cameras also offer special exposure settings for special situations like sports, indoor arenas, etc. Some cameras offer a "Steady cam" image stabilization system like video cameras have. A system like this can help you take clearer images.	Type of Memory	Internal ___ CompactFlash ___ SmartMedia ___ Memory Stick ___ Floppy ___ Hard ___ CD ___ DVD ___	Internal ___ CompactFlash ___ SmartMedia ___ Memory Stick ___ Floppy ___ Hard ___ CD ___ DVD ___	Internal ___ CompactFlash ___ SmartMedia ___ Memory Stick ___ Floppy ___ Hard ___ CD ___ DVD ___
	Flash	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___
	Macro Mode	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___
	MPEG Movies	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___
	Additional Software	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___
	Exposure Control	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___
	Manual Focus	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___
Physical: If you will be carrying it often, be sure the size and weight are comfortable for you.	Image Stabilization	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___	Yes ___ No ___
	Size (L-W-H)	_____ X _____ X _____	_____ X _____ X _____	_____ X _____ X _____
	Weight	_____	_____	_____