Digital cameras

An update on our Best Buys



BEST BUYS

Photo quality from a digital camera is partly determined by the resolution, expressed in megapixels (Mp). With more Mp, you can create bigger prints without noticing blockiness. For a 6x4 print comparable to one from a 35mm film, you need at least 3Mp. All our Best Buys, from around 125 tested, score a 1 for picture quality.

LCD screens, zoom lenses and flash eat up battery power. All our Best Buys except the Fujifilm come with rechargeable batteries and charger.

5.1Mp OR MORE

The **Olympus (1)**, £550 from John Lewis and Jessops, is a good choice for landscape shots, as it has a low wide-angle lens setting. But it weighs a hefty 772g. The **Fujifilm (2)**, £350 from Jessops, has very little shutter delay and quite a powerful zoom. The **Canon (3)**, £500 from Jessops and John

Lewis, has a longer shutter delay but, as with all digital cameras, if you half-press the shutter button to set the focus when you've composed the shot, this cuts the delay when you press it fully.

4Mp TO 5Mp

The **Olympus (4)**, £380 from John Lewis, is also good for taking landscape photos. The other **Olympus (5)**, £240 from Boots, has very good overall picture quality – almost a ★.

LESS THAN 4Mp

The higher-resolution **Olympus (6)**, £380 from Jessops and Miller Brothers, shoots short 'movies' of very good quality, while the other **Olympus (7)**, £200 from Jessops, is cheaper and slightly lighter. The **Canon (8)**, widely available at £260, lacks some advanced features, but it's small and light.

TABLE NOTES

All cameras are Best Buys.

Specification

Price Cheapest high-street price we found. **Optical zoom** The higher the number, the more you can zoom in. **Weight** Includes battery, card and strap. **Memory card** Size of card supplied with camera.

Performance

Viewfinder monitor How accurately viewfinder and monitor show scene to be shot, and how good they are in adverse conditions like bright or poor light.

KEY							
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Best	t		Worst				
	Best						

SCORE

This ignores price and is based on:							
Performance	65%						
Ease of use	25%						
Battery life	10%						

WHICH? EXTRA

For full results of around 125 digital cameras, including all our Best Buys, see www.which.co.uk/ digitalcameras

Digital cameras	Specification				Performance				Score		
	Price (£)	Resolution (Mp)	Optical zoom	Size (cm) wxhxd	Weight (g)	Memory card (MB)	Viewfinder monitor	Battery life		Ease of use	(%)
5.1Mp OR MORE	* * * *			9 9 9 9 9 9 9		6 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			6 6 6 6 6 8 8	9 9 9 9 9 9 9	* * *
1 Olympus C-8080 Zoom	550	8	x5	12.5x9x12	772	32	☆	*	0	☆	76
2 Fujifilm S7000 Zoom	350	6.1	хб	13x8.5x11	617	32	0	*	*	☆	72
3 Canon Powershot G6	500	7.1	x4	11.5x8x7.5	497	32	☆	*	e	0	68
4Mp TO 5Mp				_			_	_		_	
4 Olympus C-5060 Zoom	380	5	x4.1	12x9x7.5	534	32	0	*	*	☆	77
5 Olympus C-5000	240	4.9	xЗ	11x7.5x5.5	297	32	☆	*	0	☆	71
LESS THAN 4Mp						-	_				
6 Olympus C-770 Ultra Zoom	380	3.9	x10	11.5x6.5x7.5	361	32	☆	☆	0	☆	70
7 Olympus C-760 Ultra Zoom	200	3.1	x10	11.5x6.5x8	343	16	☆	☆	☆	☆	67

9x6x2.3

152

16

260

3.9

xЗ

8 Canon Digital Ixus 40