











Top 10 Professional digital cameras & Digital camcorders

			Professional digital cameras	Actual sensor	Optical zoom Equivalent range	Max aperture range	Viewfinder type LCD size	Shutter speeds	Storage media Supplied media	Closest focus distance (macro)	Accessories	
PC ADVISOR BEST BUY	1		Canon EOS-300D 0870 514 3723 www.canon.co.uk/ eoscaseras New	• £899 inc VAT • 1-year warranty • 560g • First review Jan 04	6.3Mp	no lens supplied n/a	depends on lens	SLR 1.8in	1/4,000 to 30 secs	CompactFlash OMB	depends on lens	Hotshoe
	It may be a serious purchase, but the Canon EOS-300D is remarkable value for money. The handling is wonderful and images look great, making the 300D the digital camera many photographers have been waiting for – not to mention the model all future all-in-ones will be measured against. A clear chart winner.											
PC ADVISOR RECOMMENDED	2		Fujifilm FinePix S7000 Zoom 020 7586 1477 www.fujifilm.co.uk/di New	• £699 inc VAT • 1-year warranty • 590g • First review Mar 04	6.3Mp	6x 35-210mm	f2.8-3.1	EVF 1.8in	1/10,000 to 15 secs	xD-Picture 16MB	1cm	Hotshoe
	The S7000 Zoom is a 6.3Mp high-end digital camera with a 6x optical zoom lens, plenty of photographic control and a design inherited from the earlier S602 that will appeal to enthusiasts. You'll have to budget for rechargeable batteries and a bigger memory card, but the S7000 is still good value for money.											
	3		Sony Cybershot DSC-F717 0870 511 1999 www.sony.co.uk Last month 1	• £699 inc VAT • 1-year warranty • 659g • First review Dec 02	5Mp	5x 38-190mm	f2.0-2.4	EVF 1.8in	1/2,000 to 30 secs	Memory Stick 32MB	2cm	Hotshoe, sync plug
	The F717 remains an impressive model, producing the most detailed pictures we've seen from any professional 5Mp model. Its bright optical aperture means that faster shutter speeds can be used under dim conditions, while features such as the autofocus illuminator and infrared night mode are excellent additions.											
	4		Minolta Dimage A1 01908 200 400 www.minolta.co.uk New	• £799 inc VAT • 1-year warranty • 639g • First review Spr 04	5Mp	7x 28-200mm	f2.8-3.5	EVF 1.8in	1/16,000 to 30 secs	CompactFlash 16MB	13cm	Hotshoe, sync plug
	Minolta's well-built, light and powerful high-end Dimage A1 will delight enthusiasts thanks to its long 7x optical zoom, wide-angle coverage and effective antishake mechanism. We think that the quality is fractionally inferior to that of the best 5Mp models but, this aside, it's a great professional camera.											
	5		Olympus E1 0800 072 0070 www.olympus-pro.com New	• £1,409 inc VAT • 1-year warranty • 660g • First review Feb 04	5Mp	no lens supplied n/a	depends on lens	SLR 1.8in	1/4,000 to 60 secs	CompactFlash OMB	depends on lens	Hotshoe, sync plug
	The Olympus is the first camera to employ the new Four-Thirds standard designed exclusively for SLRs. It allows smaller lenses than you'll find in its 35mm counterparts and the E1 itself is a capable body. Images are smooth and detailed with a high tonal range. If money isn't an issue then this is a fine choice.											
			Digital camcorders	Image processor	CCD	Optical digital zoom	Max aperture	Horizontal DV resolution	FireWire in/out	Focal distance range	Multi-media card	
PC ADVISOR BEST BUY	1		Panasonic NV-GS50 0870 535 7357 www.panasonic.co.uk Last month 1	• £699 inc VAT • 1-year warranty • 435g • First review Aug 03	1/6in CCD	800,000 pixels	10x 500x	f1.8	500 lines	yes yes	2.3-23mm	8MB
	The NV-GS50 may be compact and lightweight, but that doesn't mean it lacks features. It's easy to use, comfortable to hold and ready to record in just 1.3 seconds. Although not the cheapest model in the chart, the Panasonic offers good value for money and is a worthy winner of our Best Buy award.											
PC ADVISOR RECOMMENDED	2		Sony DCR-TRV33E 0870 511 1999 www.sony.co.uk Last month 2	• £729 inc VAT • 1-year warranty • 630g • First review Aug 03	1/4.7in CCD	1.07Mp	10x 120x	f1.8	520 lines	yes yes	3.7-37mm	8MB
	Sony's DCR-TRV33E is extremely easy to use and incredibly responsive. The autofocus and 10x optical zoom are fast and the unit reacts well to light changes. At £729 the Sony loses out on value for money, but if you've got the cash and want a compact and capable camcorder then this is certainly a contender.											
	3		Canon MV600i 0870 514 3723 www.canon.co.uk Last month 3	• £400 inc VAT • 1-year warranty • 520g • First review Aug 03	1/6in CCD	800,000 pixels	18x 360x	f1.6	500 lines	yes yes	2.8-50.4mm	n/a
	The MV600i is a robust camcorder ideal for the first-time buyer. If you're just starting out or aren't bothered about extras like still-picture capture and USB connectivity then it offers the essentials at a great entry-level price. It hosts a powerful 18x optical zoom and its picture quality is perfectly sufficient.											
	4		JVC GR-DX25EK 0870 330 5000 www.jvc.co.uk Last month 4	• £550 inc VAT • 1-year warranty • 440g • First review Aug 03	1/6in CCD	800,000 pixels	16x 700x	f1.6	520 lines	no yes	2.7-43.2mm	n/a
	Like the MV600i, the small and lightweight JVC concentrates on camcorder functionality rather than added extras. The lack of a FireWire-in option is disappointing, however. It means that if you want to do any video editing then you can't digitally transfer your edited footage back to tape once you're finished.											
	5		Canon MV650i 0870 514 3723 www.canon.co.uk Last month 5	• £651 inc VAT • 1-year warranty • 520g • First review Jul 03	1/6in CCD	800,000 pixels	22x 440x	f1.6	500 lines	yes yes	2.8-61.6mm	8MB
	The MV650i is an easy-to-use, reasonably sized and affordable camcorder. We did have a couple of problems with autofocus at the maximum zoom, but other than that it performed well. If you're looking for your first camera but don't want to break the bank then the MV650i is a worthy contender.											

Buying advice

Professional digital cameras

- **Megapixel rating** When you're paying over £700 for a digital camera aim for 5Mp (megapixels) or more. Pay over £1,000 and you'll get a model offering 6Mp or even 7Mp.
- **Storage** Even at this high price point we're seeing a pitiful amount of bundled storage media. Some cameras

come without any storage at all, and even the best models are only being supplied with 32MB memory cards – this simply isn't enough to get the most out of such top-end models. Remember, the higher the megapixels, the more storage space you'll need for each shot. CompactFlash and Memory Stick are still the most popular formats, but newer flash memory types like Secure Digital and xD-Picture cards could take over in the future.

- **Peripherals** Rechargeable batteries (and the necessary charger) will save you pounds in the long run. USB 2.0 or FireWire support should prove their worth and some cameras have hotshoes, allowing you to connect accessories such as lights and external microphones. For software opt for Adobe Photoshop Elements if you can.
- **Zoom** A 4x or 5x optical zoom is reasonable, but shop around and you might track down an 7x optical zoom.