


TOP 10 PROFESSIONAL AND BEGINNER DIGITAL CAMERAS

| Professional digital cameras | | Last month's position | First reviewed | Price (ex VAT) | Warranty | Megapixel rating | Optical/digital zoom | Max aperture | Shutter speeds (in 1/3 stop increments) | Storage media type/capacity | Dimensions (widthxdepthxheight) | Weight |
|---|--|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|
|  | 1 Canon PowerShot G2 0800 616 417 www.canon.co.uk | 1 | Jan 02 | £637 | 1-year | 4Mp | 3.6x/11x | f/2.0-f/2.5 | 1/1,000-15in | CompactFlash/32MB | 121x77x64mm | 425g |
|  | 2 FujiFilm FinePix 6900 Zoom 020 7586 1477 www.fujifilm.co.uk | 2 | Dec 01 | £680 | 1-year | 6Mp (3.3Mp true) | 6x/4.43x | f/2.8-f/3.1 | 1/1,000-3in | SmartMedia/16MB | 110x94x79mm | 410g |
|  | 3 Sony CyberShot DSC-75 0990 111 999 www.sony.co.uk | 3 | Aug 01 | £595 | 1-year | 3.3Mp | 3x/2x | f/2.0-f/2.5 | 1/1,000-8in | SmartMedia/8MB | 117x71x64mm | 462g |
|  | 4 Sony CyberShot DSC-P5 0990 111 999 www.sony.co.uk | 4 | Jan 02 | £510 | 1-year | 3.2Mp | 3x/2x | f/2.8-f/5.6 | N/A | SmartMedia/8MB | 105x56x36mm | 180g |
|  | 5 Olympus Camedia C-4040 Zoom 0800 072 0070 www.olympus.com | 5 | Dec 01 | £681 | 1-year | 4.13Mp | 3x/7.5x | f/1.8-f/2.6 | 1/800-4in | SmartMedia/16MB | 110x70x76mm | 320g |
| Beginner digital cameras | | Last month's position | First reviewed | Price (ex VAT) | Warranty | Megapixel rating | Optical/digital zoom | Storage media type/capacity | Optical viewfinder | Low/high resolution capacity | Dimensions (widthxdepthxheight) | Weight |
|  | 1 Canon PowerShot S40 0800 616 417 www.canon.co.uk | NEW | Mar 02 | £469 | 1-year | 4Mp | 3x/11x | CompactFlash/16MB | LCD, optical | 165/4 | 112x42x58mm | 260g |
|  | 2 Pentax Optio 330 01753 792 731 www.pentax.co.uk | 1 | Jan 02 | £412 | 1-year | 3.34Mp | 3x/2x | CompactFlash/16MB | LCD, optical | 228/10 | 92x31x59mm | 205g |
|  | 3 Kyocera FineCam S3 01189 356 300 www.finecam.com | 2 | Dec 01 | £454 | 1-year | 3.34Mp | 2x/2x | Secure Digital/16MB | LCD, optical | 64/9 | 30x55x87mm | 165g |
|  | 4 Kodak EasyShare DX3900 Zoom 0870 243 0270 www.kodak.co.uk | 3 | Dec 01 | £371 | 1-year | 3.1Mp | 2x/3x | CompactFlash/8MB | LCD, optical | 23/7 | 116x42x67mm | 225g |
|  | 5 Ricoh Caplio RR10 020 8261 4000 www.ricoh.co.uk | 4 | Jan 02 | £372 | 1-year | 2.1Mp | 2x/2x | Secure Digital/16MB | LCD, optical | 62/8 | 117x30x54mm | 172g |


TOP 10 PROFESSIONAL DIGITAL CAMERAS
1 Canon PowerShot G2

The PowerShot G2 wins the Best Buy award in the Professional chart for the third month running. Canon has targeted this digital camera at the serious photographer. In addition to the automatic exposure mode, there's a choice of aperture, shutter speed priority or full manual exposure. A high-resolution CCD (charge-coupled device) and good lens are essential for the serious user and we were not disappointed with the Canon PowerShot G2. The 4Mp (megapixel) CCD captures images up to a maximum resolution of 2,272x1,704dpi (dots per inch), while the 3.6x optical zoom lens is of a high quality.

The Canon is less bulky than an SLR (single lens reflex) camera, but it isn't in the same league as the ultra-compact, such as the Sony DSC-P5. If you aspire to more than snapshot photography, but don't want to carry an SLR-type digital camera around, the PowerShot G2 is worthy of consideration.

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TOP 10 BEGINNER DIGITAL CAMERAS
1 Canon PowerShot S40

Is it possible for Canon to combine a decent specification, portability and low price in a digital camera? Yes it is, and the highly versatile PowerShot S40 – our new Best Buy – is the proof. It's compact, reasonably priced, laden with features and produces high-quality images.

The S40 isn't as ergonomically satisfying as some of the more rounded models, but it's robust and comfortable to hold. The 4Mp (megapixel) CCD (charge-coupled device) provides a maximum resolution of 2,272x1,704dpi (dots per inch). With video and audio capture taking up precious storage space, you'll need to pay out for a better-endowed flash card – the bundled 16MB CompactFlash card only holds 165 low-resolution or four maximum-resolution shots. The PowerShot's image quality is excellent, operation is fast and the control system is intuitive.

It's Windows XP-compatible, can be plugged into a Canon BubbleJet printer via the USB cable and has an optional underwater case.

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TOP 10 PROFESSIONAL DIGITAL CAMERAS
2 FujiFilm FinePix 6900 Zoom

FujiFilm manages to extract 6Mp (megapixel) from the FinePix 6900 Zoom, thanks to its octagonal CCD (charge-coupled device) elements. This provides a level of detail previously unavailable at this price. Image quality also depends on the quality of the lens, and we have no complaints here. However, the maximum aperture of f/2.8 is disappointing. FujiFilm has abandoned gimmicky features, such as swivel lenses and fold-out LCDs (liquid crystal displays). Instead, it concentrates on ergonomics, so the 6900 Zoom is a joy to hold and use.

**3** Sony CyberShot DSC-75

The CyberShot DSC-75 is a go-anywhere camera, but this doesn't mean that it falls short in terms of features. Rarely will you get the ultimate in picture quality with a compact camera, and the Sony is about average. With a 3.3Mp (megapixel) CCD (charge-coupled device) and a good lens, though, its performance is respectable. What's more, the compact design doesn't mean that you have to sacrifice control. You can operate the DSC-75 as a point-and-shoot camera, but there's still plenty of scope for creativity.

**4** Sony CyberShot DSC-P5

The DSC-P5 provides a reasonable level of performance, while being small and light enough to slip in your pocket. A lack of features is the price you pay for those tiny dimensions – this is the only Professional camera in our Top 10 chart to just offer programmed automatic exposure. The Sony CyberShot DSC-P5 is basically a high-end, point-and-shoot camera.

**5** Olympus Camedia C-4040 Zoom

The Olympus Camedia C-4040 Zoom is a compact device, but you'll never get a good zoom range with a camera that fits in your pocket. That said, the C-4040 doesn't skimp on functionality. It gains top marks for its CCD (charge-coupled device) resolution, which clocks up 4.13Mp (megapixels). The lens is of a high standard, and it has a large f/1.8 aperture.



TOP 10 BEGINNER DIGITAL CAMERAS
2 Pentax Optio 330

Pentax is a relative newcomer to the digital camera market, and in the past we haven't been that impressed with its offerings. However, the Pentax Optio 330 has changed our mind. It's an excellent camera that deserves its Recommended award, thanks to its robust metal body and 3x optical zoom. The Optio offers three main shooting settings on the jog-dial and the simple menu system offers configurations for various photographic conditions. It even has manual focus and night shooting. Its fast reactions, from picture playback to image capture, make it a joy to use.

**3** Kyocera FineCam S3

Kyocera's FineCam packs loads of features into its tiny case. The lightest camera in the Top 10 chart, the S3 packs plenty of photographic punch. The robust, all-metal chassis houses a 3.34Mp (megapixel) CCD (charge-coupled device) and uses a 16MB Secure Digital card for storage. With a top resolution of 2,048x1,536dpi (dots per inch), the S3 can hold nine high-resolution photos or 64 images on a respectable resolution of 1,024x768dpi. Quality is impressive with good colour saturation and crisp images.

**4** Kodak EasyShare DX3900 Zoom

Kodak's EasyShare has a 3.1Mp (megapixel) CCD (charge-coupled device) and an 8MB CompactFlash card, which can store seven high-quality shots. While there's no 'Save as Tiff' option, you can choose a high-compression mode when shooting at 3.1Mp. Everything about the DX3900 is designed to make digital photography easy: installation is fully automated and the menu system is comprehensive. Novices are certainly the target market for the DX3900 Zoom, so look elsewhere for more advanced features.

**5** Ricoh Caplio RR10

Digital cameras that offer MP3, webcam, movie and sound capabilities are normally low-end, jack-of-all-trades devices, so we were surprised to see the quality of the Ricoh Caplio RR10. With a 2.1Mp (megapixel) CCD (charge-coupled device), it offers decent photography and the budget price is remarkably generous, considering the whole package. Indeed, despite the amount of functionality the Caplio has packed in, it remains a neat, pocket-sized camera.

