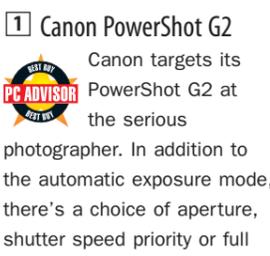



TOP 10 PROFESSIONAL AND BEGINNER DIGITAL CAMERAS

| Professional digital cameras | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| Details | 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 | NEW | 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 | 1 | Dec 01 | £680 | 1-year | 3.3Mp | 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 | 2 | 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 | NEW | 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 | 3 | 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 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| Details | 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 Pentax Optio 330 01753 792 731 www.pentax.co.uk | NEW | Jan 02 | £412 | 1-year | 3.34Mp | 3x/2x | CompactFlash/16MB | LCD, optical | 228/10 | 92x31x59mm | 205g |
|  2 Kyocera FineCam S3 01189 356 300 www.finecam.com | 1 | Dec 01 | £454 | 1-year | 3.34Mp | 2x/2x | Secure Digital/16MB | LCD, optical | 64/9 | 30x55x87mm | 165g |
|  3 Kodak EasyShare DX3900 Zoom 0870 243 0270 www.kodak.co.uk | 2 | Dec 01 | £371 | 1-year | 3.1Mp | 2x/3x | CompactFlash/8MB | LCD, optical | 23/7 | 116x42x67mm | 225g |
|  4 Ricoh Caplio RR10 020 8261 4000 www.ricoh.co.uk | NEW | Jan 02 | £372 | 1-year | 2.1Mp | 2x/2x | Secure Digital/8MB | LCD, optical | 62/8 | 117x30x54mm | 172g |
|  5 Nikon CoolPix 885 0800 230 220 www.nikon.co.uk | NEW | Jan 02 | £454 | 1-year | 3.21Mp | 3x/4x | CompactFlash/16MB | LCD, optical | 324/6 | 95x52x69mm | 231g |


TOP 10 PROFESSIONAL DIGITAL CAMERAS

1 Canon PowerShot G2

Canon targets its PowerShot G2 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 is essential for the serious user and we were not disappointed with the PowerShot G2. The 4Mp (megapixel) CCD lets you capture images up to a maximum resolution of 2,272x1,704, while the 3.6x optical zoom lens is of a high quality. The Canon is less bulky than a SLR (single lens reflex) camera, but it isn't in the same league as the ultra-compacts, such as the Sony DSC-P5.

If you aspire to more than snapshot photography, but don't want to carry a SLR-type digital camera around, the PowerShot G2 is worthy of consideration.



TOP 10 BEGINNER DIGITAL CAMERAS

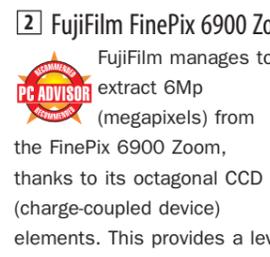
1 Pentax Optio 330

Pentax is a relative newcomer to the digital camera market and in the past we haven't been impressed with its offerings. However, this time round it has got it right.

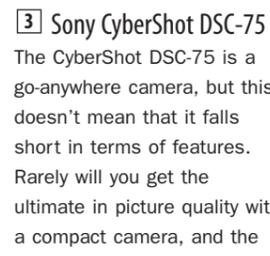
The Pentax Optio 330 has a robust metal body and boasts a 3x optical zoom. It offers three main shooting settings on the jog-dial and the simple menu system offers plenty of configurations for various photographic conditions. Pentax has even added manual focus, night shooting and a dioptre adjustment lever to get clear shots through the viewfinder for anyone who wears glasses. Its fast reactions, from picture playback to the near-instantaneous image capture, make it a joy to use.

The Optio 330 is a compact and low-cost camera, winning the top slot thanks to a low price and good features.

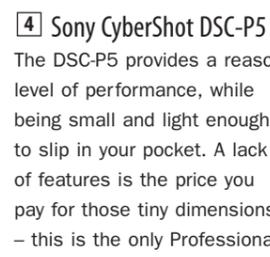


TOP 10 PROFESSIONAL DIGITAL CAMERAS

2 FujiFilm FinePix 6900 Zoom

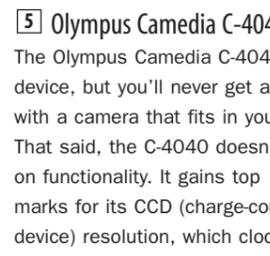
FujiFilm manages to extract 6Mp (megapixels) from the FinePix 6900 Zoom, thanks to its octagonal CCD (charge-coupled device) elements. This provides a level of detail previously unavailable at this price. Image quality also depends on the quality of the lens and we have no complaints here. However, the maximum aperture of f/2.8 is disappointing. FujiFilm has abandoned gimmicky features, such as swivel lenses and fold-out LCD screens. Instead, it's concentrated on ergonomics, and 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 also lots of scope for creativity.

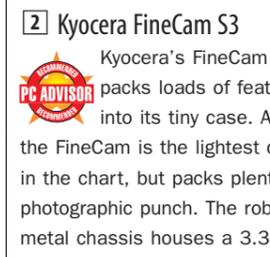


4 Sony CyberShot DSC-P5

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 chart to just offer programmed automatic exposure. The Sony DSC-P5 is basically a high-end point-and-shoot camera.

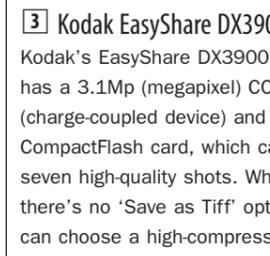


5 Olympus Camedia C-4040 Zoom

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 Kyocera FineCam S3

Kyocera's FineCam S3 packs loads of features into its tiny case. At 165g the FineCam is the lightest camera in the chart, but 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 2,048x1,536, the S3 can hold nine high-resolution photos or 64 images on a respectable resolution of 1,024x768. Quality is impressive with good colour saturation and crisp images.

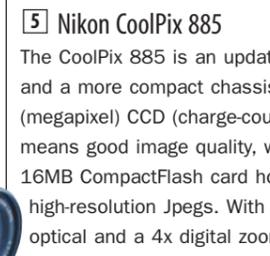


3 Kodak EasyShare DX3900 Zoom

Kodak's EasyShare DX3900 Zoom 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 as easy as possible. Installation is fully automated and the menu system is comprehensive. Novices are certainly the target market for the EasyShare DX3900 Zoom, so if you want more advanced features look elsewhere.



4 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 offered by 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. Given the amount of functionality contained in the brushed metal case, it's also to Ricoh's credit that it has managed to keep the dimensions so slinky.



5 Nikon CoolPix 885

The CoolPix 885 is an update of the 880, with rounded contours and a more compact chassis. The 3.21Mp (megapixel) CCD (charge-coupled device) means good image quality, while a 16MB CompactFlash card holds six high-resolution Jpegs. With a 3x optical and a 4x digital zoom the 885 has the best capabilities in the Beginner digital cameras chart, but it's also one of the most expensive devices.

