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Date: Mar 11 2001 12:42:35 EST
From: "Hewie's Favorites" <hewie@hewie.net>
Subject: Digital Camera Advice

It's been a while since I have sent my newsletter. I have been updating Hewie's Favorites, so if you haven't been there for a while, take a look. <http://www.hewie.net> I would like to share a message that I received aalong with my answer. Feel free to share it with your friends. However, ask them to check out my web site and sign up for my free newsletter. Thanks.

Hewie
<http://www.hewie.net>

-----Original Message-----

Subject: Advice
Hello Hewie,

If you were asked: What digital camera would be the best investment today, what would your answer be?

I'd like a camera that has an optical viewfinder as well as an LCD viewer. (I don't want to burn up batteries using the LCD viewer only) I'm looking for a camera that won't be totally dependent on my computer. I'd like to download my photos through the floppy drive, if possible. I don't want to be forced to load my computer with more than 10MB of hard-drive space to operate the camera. And I already have PhotoSuite preloaded in my computer, therefore, I can already edit photos without loading something new. Finally, the 2-megapixel range would be enough for me. And while price isn't a problem, I still don't plan to pay too much.

I'll appreciate your advice, Hewie.

-----End of Original Message-----

I have been using digital cameras for a few years. The first one was a Sony Mavica, which uses floppy disks to store the pictures. I wanted at least a 640x480 picture and wanted the ability to take many pictures before having to connect to the PC. My original reason was to take pictures for web pages. We had a high-resolution digital camera at work for pictures for the catalog.

I loved that camera, but I had one of the first models and there was no upgrade path. I looked and searched for a camera that would do what I wanted and would hold a lot of pictures, at any resolution.

Without going into all of the reasons, I chose a Canon S10, and added an IBM 350 Megabyte Microdrive to it. I can take high-resolution pictures of up to 1600x1200 pixels. I also purchased Microtech USB reader to be able to read the Microdrive directly into the computer. Otherwise, I would

have to connect through the camera, which takes longer. In all, I ended up spending about \$1500. That was a year ago last December. Needless to say, it's a lot cheaper now, as well as newer and better equipment being available.

The first question that you need to ask yourself is what "am I going to do with the pictures?" If it is strictly for the web and e-mail, then a 1 Megapixel camera should be sufficient.

Only the Sony Mavica uses floppy disks, and not all of their models do. Other Sony models use the Sony Memory Stick and one expensive model uses CD-R to write the captures. Other brands of cameras use either CompactFlash media or SmartMedia. Check to see what size comes with the camera. Then check to see how many pictures it will hold at the highest and lowest resolution. Then decide how many picture you might take before you can get to your PC to free up the space. Most likely you will need to purchase more media. Some cameras include 2MB or 8MB of media. Sometimes there are specials that the manufacturer or dealer have that will include additional storage media.

Another criteria to look at is the battery. Is it proprietary? My Canon uses \$10 throw-aways or \$30 rechargeables with an optional recharger. Some use batteries that are easily obtainable. You don't want to be on a trip, need batteries, and can't find replacements.

All of the cameras should come with software. You will only need to install the software that allows you to connect the camera to the PC and download the pictures to your computer. Since you already have editing software loaded, you will not need to use software that may have been included. Make sure that you have the ability to pick and choose what to install from the included CD. Usually you do, or at least have the choice of a "custom install" where you pick and choose what is to be installed.

Make sure that the camera has the correct connection for your PC. Don't purchase one that has a USB connection, if your PC doesn't have a USB port, or you do not have at least Windows98 as your operating system. If there is a serial port connector, make sure that you either have one free or it is easy to change when needed. If the size of the cable connector is different from the PC connector, you may need an adapter.

I have listed some good sites for you to check out. They should really help you. If you have any particular questions, let me know and I will see if I can answer them.

To understand and help you decide what features and minimum requirements:

*** These url's may wrap in your email program, so the link my not work. Just add the missing part from the next line. ***

- <http://www.zdnet.com/zdhelp/filters/quickstart/guides/0,10606,6001662,00.html>
- <http://equip.zdnet.com/digitalimaging/cameras/feature/17b56/>
- <http://www.zdnet.com/special/stories/sc/camera/reviews/0,12102,2627798,00.html>
- <http://www.pcphotoreview.com/dc/new/howtobuy1.htm>
- <http://www.shortcourses.com/>

To choose the camera:

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