

# DIGITAL CAMERA – Things to Consider

## Memory Cards

Most cameras come with relatively small memory cards (16 MB). Best investment is to buy additional cards. Either 512 MB or larger SD Memory Cards are recommended. These cards are less expensive. Look to see that your camera uses SD memory cards before purchasing your camera.

## Batteries

Use rechargeable batteries to save money. Most manufacturers say that digital cameras actually operate longer on those as opposed to your standard AA battery

## Zoom

Buy based on Optical zoom NOT Digital zoom.

Optical zoom uses the optics (lens) of the camera to bring the subject closer.

Digital zoom enlarges a portion of the image, thus 'simulating' optical zoom. In other words, the camera crops a portion of the image and then enlarges it back to size. In so doing, you lose image quality.

## Downloading your Images

Most cameras come with a USB cable for downloading. Save battery life by purchasing a card reader for your memory card. Most cameras also come with “free” image software. Do not bother loading this, it very rarely works as advertised.

## File Size

The more megapixels your camera shoots, the larger the file size of the image. For example, 6 MP camera images can be as large as 5 Megabytes. If you plan on emailing pictures, be sure to use a photo editor to reduce the file size. Around 250 Kbytes is recommended.

## Printing Sizes

	High Quality (in.)	Acceptable Quality (in.)
5 MP = 2592 x 1944 pixels	10 x 13	13 x 19
4 MP = 2272 x 1704 pixels	9 x 12	12 x 16
3 MP = 2048 x 1536 pixels	8 x 10	10 x 13
2 MP = 1600 x 1200 pixels	4 x 6, 5 x 7	8 x 10

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How many pictures you can expect to take based on (Megapixels and the size of your memory card)

Megapixels	32MB	64MB	128MB	256MB	512MB	1GB	2GB
10	12	25	51	92	188	384	789
8	15	30	60	109	223	458	934
7	18	36	73	132	268	548	1125
5	23	48	96	174	354	723	1482
4	30	60	121	216	440	898	1841
3	37	74	149	264	537	1097	2250
2	61	123	246	446	907	1852	3798
1	93	187	376	649	1320	2694	5524

### Digital Imaging Software:

#### **Adobe PhotoShop: \$290 (+)**

For advanced users interested in top quality and with most powerful tools:

#### **Adobe Elements 5.0: \$70 (+)**

For Entry-level users interested in basic functions and tools:

#### **Microsoft PAINT FREE** (Start Menu – Programs – Accessories – Paint)

VERY Basic image functions ( rotating image...)

### FREE (Web-based)

**Picasa** from Google:

<http://picasa.google.com/>

**Photostory** from Microsoft:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.mspx>

For making free photo albums that will allow music or audio to be imported