

Choosing a camera

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Having an SLR is neither
necessary nor sufficient
for taking good photographs.



unretouched pictures from Nokia N95
(5 megapixels, Zeiss lens, auto-focus)











Choosing a camera

• for this course,
need manual control
over shutter and aperture

- ◆ if you have the money, get an SLR, not a point-and-shoot (micro-four-thirds is fine)
 - larger sensor = less noise, especially in low light
 - larger aperture = more control over depth of field
- ◆ don't worry about
 - megapixels - most cameras have too many
 - brand - any major brand is good enough
 - body - inexpensive ones are fine (and lighter)
- ◆ worry about lenses
 - variable-zooms are convenient but the quality varies
 - avoid large focal ranges (18-250mm) - they're "soft"
 - maximum aperture (lowest f/stop) matters

Extra goodies

- ◆ 50mm f/1.8 “fast” “prime” lens for low-light work
- ◆ tripod
 - sturdy is good, but heavy to carry
 - look at mini-tripods, flexible tripods, etc.
- ◆ flash
 - external flash aimed at ceiling takes much better pictures than a built-in flash aimed at the subject
- ◆ video capability
- ◆ count on \geq \$500 for SLR + standard zoom + tripod
- ◆ CS 178 loaner cameras are
 - Canon A590 point-and-shoot (takes surprisingly good pictures!)
 - Nikon D40 (or D3000/3100) with 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 (28-88mm equiv.)

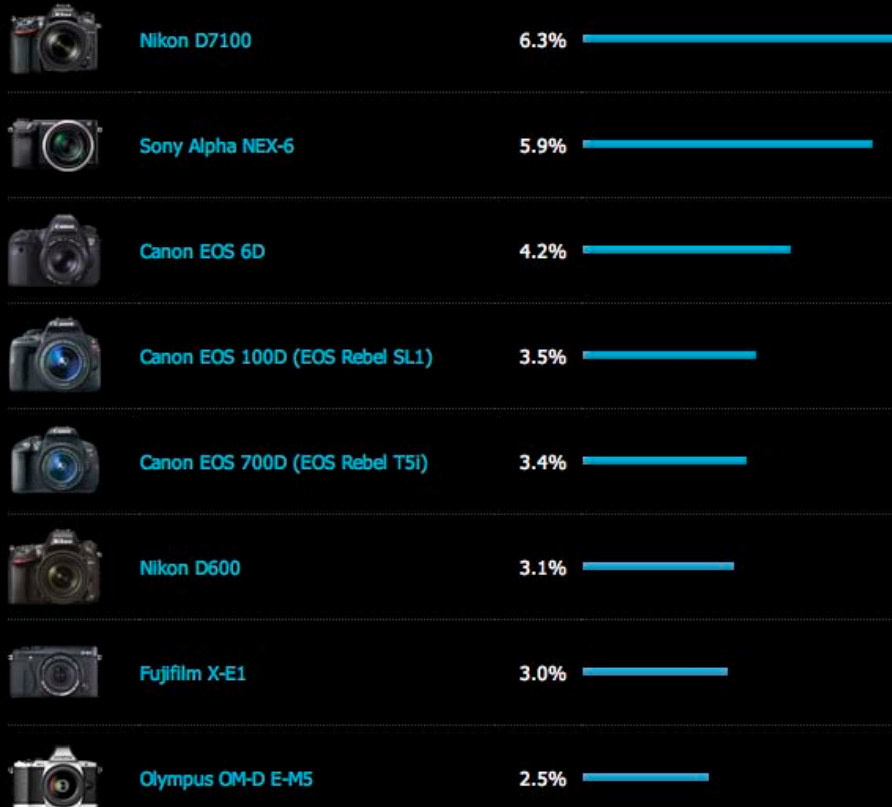
Resources

◆ <http://dpreview.com>

Popular interchangeable lens cameras

Top 10: Reviews and specs | **Top 10: Galleries** | **Top 10: Challenges**

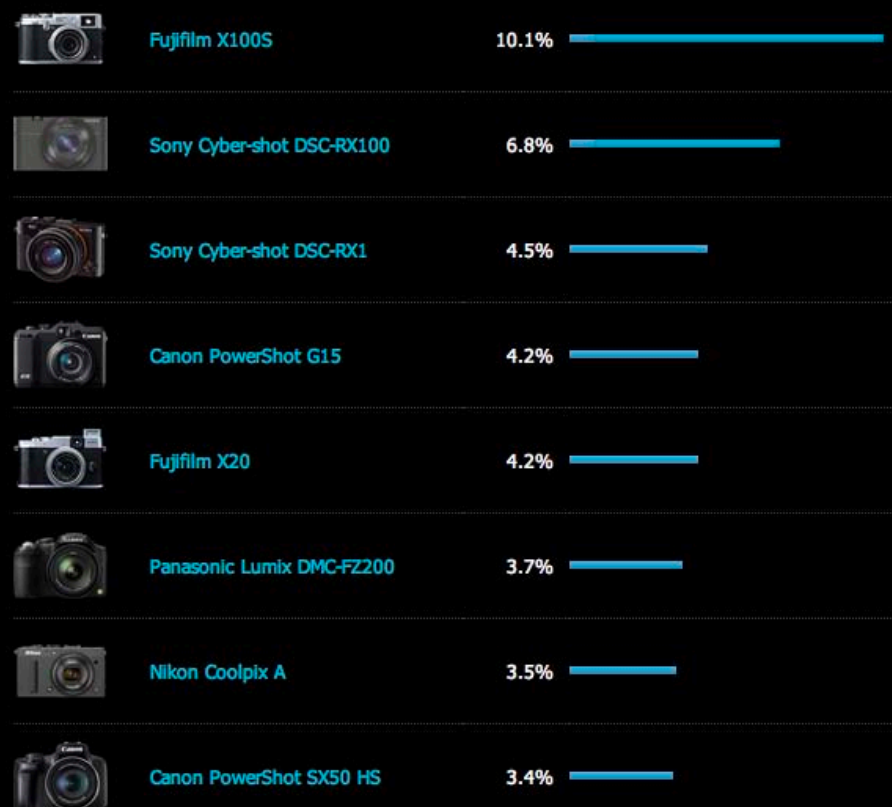
Cameras and lenses receiving the most views in reviews, previews, news and product database pages in the last 120 hours (5 days). There have been 773,654 views in the last 120 hours.



Popular compact cameras

Top 10: Reviews and specs | **Top 10: Galleries** | **Top 10: Challenges**

Cameras and lenses receiving the most views in reviews, previews, news and product database pages in the last 120 hours (5 days). There have been 386,606 views in the last 120 hours.



Resources

- ◆ <http://dpreview.com>
- ◆ <http://www.the-digital-picture.com>
- ◆ <http://www.steves-digicams.com>
- ◆ <http://www.luminous-landscape.com>
- ◆ <http://www.kenrockwell.com>