

Digital Photography?

By Stu Gershon

Everyone around you is buying a digital camera. Is it time for YOU to join the club? There are several things to consider: 1) What are you going to use the camera for? 2) What type of computer do you have? 3) How much money do you want to spend?

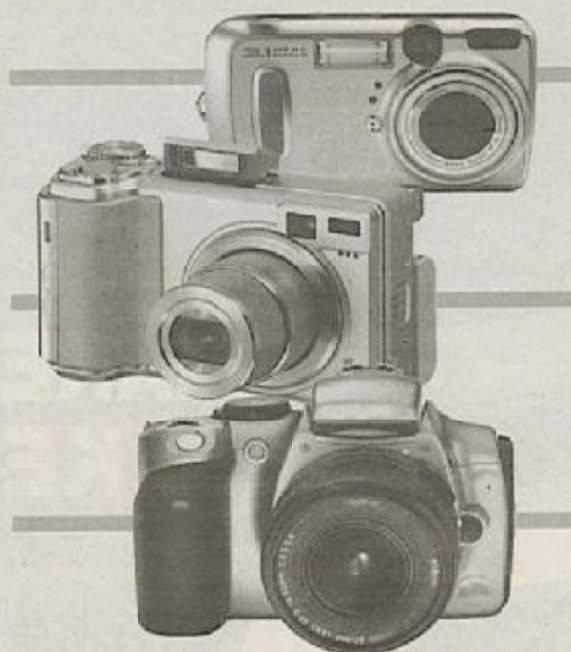
The last question is the easiest to answer since you can spend anywhere from \$100 to \$3000 and more!

If you don't have a computer, then you probably shouldn't buy a digital camera. I've often said, "A digital camera without a computer is like a boat without water." If you're going to take snapshots (with a digital camera) and then bring them to Walmart, Costco or someplace else for processing, than you might as well spend just \$4 and buy a disposal camera.

The main advantage of digital photography is to do your own editing — fixing up the picture. You can make a bad picture good and you can make a good picture better. If you don't want to edit your "pics," it doesn't pay to have a digital camera.

Another advantage of digital photography is immediate gratification — you see your pictures instantly in the LCD (screen) and enjoy them right away. However, if you don't want to edit them, you might as well buy a cheap Polaroid.

Finally, if you're going to take photos of pets, babies or sporting events, then most digital cameras under \$500 will only frustrate you because of "shutter lag." This is the third- to half-second it often takes for all this technology to "snap" a photo. Moving objects don't stay in one place, so, what you see is NOT what you get!



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Then why buy a digital camera? Well, there are several reasons why you should consider buying one. First off, you are now in control and can change the whole photo or part of the photo. You can make objects clearer, draw attention to one specific object in the photo, or change the color of all or parts of the photo.

Secondly, a digital camera, in the long run, is more economical. Prices of the actual cameras have come way down, and you never have to buy film because you can use the memory flash cards over and over again. Also, when you shoot a roll of 24 or 36 pictures, you have to pay to have all of them developed and printed. With digital photography, you only print the photos that you want.

Another reason is the immediate gratification — it's enjoyable! It's fun for you and the people in the photo to see the results instantly. You'll also feel younger because you are "in touch" with new technology, and you'll never show a bad picture. You shoot all the photos you want and "delete" the bad ones and people think you're a great photographer!

Digital photography is a great, new and exciting hobby. However, if you don't want to put in any effort (working with the photos on the computer) you're better off staying with film.

Stuart Gershon is known as "The Digital Doctor." He has given over 200 classes at 45 different libraries in Nassau and Suffolk counties. You can get more information and the schedule of his classes at www.DigitalDocOnline.com. Send questions for The Digital Doctor to digitaldoc50@optonline.net.



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