



With: The Ultimate Guide for Buying Your First Digital SLR



The Author of “DSLR buyer’s Guide” is [Beno Ibrahim](#) from “[Nikon D3200 News](#)”, it’s a free Ebook, you can use it and send it to your friends or for your readers in your site/social media/ email list, but without change anything on it.

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The Ultimate Guide For Buying Your First Digital SLR

Let's assume that you've been shooting with your "point and shoot" for a while now, and you've taken some pretty nice snapshots. But maybe you are starting to feel a little limited by what the camera is capable of doing. You've read up on photography, and there are things you want to work on. You feel it is time to step up!

This guide will help you to understand some of the basic features of Digital SLR cameras (DSLRs), and hopefully help you find one that fits both your needs and budget.



What is an SLR? (DSLR)

Before we get started, it's important to note that **no** camera will make you a better photographer. No matter how fancy or expensive! That said, your camera may limit your progress and creativity if it doesn't do what you need it to.

SLR stands for Single Lens Reflex. Basically this tells you that when you look through the viewfinder, through a series of prisms and mirrors, you will see exactly what the lens of your camera sees. You are looking through the lens. As opposed to some of the viewfinders (if your point and shoot even has one) which just give a

Hold It in Your Hand

While you may end up buying your DSLR online from an online retailer, you may want to consider going to a store and actually handling the camera to see how it fits your hand size and how accessing the controls match up to you.

DSLRs range in physical size from quite compact to fairly large. If you are someone with small hands, some of the larger ones may actually be uncomfortable for you to use or vice versa if you have large hands. So try them out first - either at a big box store or even preferably at your local camera store. But do me a favor, if you go to your local camera store, which can be a wealth of knowledge in helping you decide on the right camera for you, buy it there too. Don't take their advice for free and buy elsewhere or that place may soon not exist.

If you do buy online, just remember the old adage: if it sounds too good to be true, it is too good to be true. Meaning if you find a place whose price is far below what everyone else is selling it for, be very wary and check them out before you hand over the credit card.

Many are not selling new in a box, some without warranty, some without all the accessories that come standard and they will try to sell them back to you separately. Some, you just plain will never see a box arrive at your door. So think twice before you buy what seems to be an incredible deal.

My recommendation for who love shopping online, is **buying** from most trusted online marketplace as **Amazon.com**, and also look if who put the product or bundle in Amazon is trusted seller or not.

Brands



85% of all DSLRs sold are sold by two main brands; Canon and Nikon. There are also fine offerings from other manufactures such as Pentax, Olympus and Sony. All are excellent manufacturers that have been around for years dating back to film cameras (Sony's was previously under the Minolta/Konica Brands). No one manufacturer is better than another and they all have their strength and weaknesses. You just need to find one that has the strengths in the areas most important to you.

There are often huge flame wars between Nikonians (Nikon shooters) and Canonadians? (Canon shooters) about which brand is superior, which I always refuse to get into. I happen to shoot with Canon but my images would look no different if I shot with a Nikon. I have never heard someone standing at a gallery show, saying "Wow - That is such a great Nikon shot", or "There is some real Canon magic in that image". When it gets to that point (large print on a wall) no one would know. It is all about features, controls, and specifications that fit your needs, not brand popularity.

So let's look at some of the technology and features of a DSLR and I will talk a little about what brands may have an edge in certain areas. But the superiority of one brand over another is very close, and who is ahead may just depends on the new model release of that year.

Megapixels

Nowadays, the question of megapixels (MP) is almost moot. Almost all basic DSLRs out right now have at least 10 megapixel digital sensors. Megapixels are merely the total pixels or points of light that a digital sensor has to make an image. Having more does not make for a better image, it only allows for that image to be blown up to a larger size. But 10MP is sufficient for almost any size print you are likely to make these days.

To figure out how big is pretty easy. In the specifications for your camera you will see a Pixel x Pixel for a large image specification. It will look something like this from a [Canon Rebel XSi](#) - 12MP - 4272 x 2848. Take those pixel dimensions and divide by 300 which would give you 14.24 X 9.49.

That is the maximum print size in inches for a *Museum Quality Fine Art Print* for that camera. Is that the maximum print size for that camera? No, not at all, in fact you could print up to a 42" x 28" print from that camera with very good quality which is large enough for just about anybody's wall.

So you can see if you just are going to print 4" X 6" or 8" x 10"s every camera out there is sufficient for your needs. In fact if you only email or post pics to your Facebook account, those images are under 1 MP so there is no need to worry at all. Since you are here to learn and get better at your photography, we would hope that you would like to print some nice 11 x 14's to display on your wall!

In some cases, too many megapixels may actually be a hindrance. If you don't have a high end computer with a fast processor and plenty of memory, you may not even be able to process an image from that 21.2MP behemoth you are ogling at the photo shop. Plus, too many MPs may actually negatively affect high ISO performance on a lesser camera. So while MPs are important, it is not the specification that should make or break your decision on a basic DSLR.

High ISO performance

ISO is the sensitivity to light of your digital camera. The higher the capability, and the better performance of that capability, the better you can shoot in low light situations. If you always shoot outdoors on nice sunny days, or indoors with flash, this may not be a specification that you need to worry about.

But if you want to shoot action, sports, with existing light indoors, weddings where no flash is allowed, or night street scenes, high ISO performance will be very important to you.

Most basic DSLRs have ISO capabilities of 100 to 1600, with 100 being for plenty of light and 1600 being for low light. As you move up in each manufacturer's product line you will see increases in the top ISO available; 3200, 6400 and even an incredible 12,800 in a consumer DSLR! Now just because a camera has that *capability* does not mean that it has the *performance* at that ISO.

Most cameras are only capable of producing an image with acceptable noise at a mark below the maximum number. Most that are capable of ISO 1600 really can only go to ISO 400 without getting excessive noise (the bad side effect of high ISO) and even the ones that top out at 12,800 may actually only be usable to 3200. This is still a great feat. If this is a specification that is important to you, you may want to check out some of the camera review sites to see which cameras do better in this regard.

Large and High-Resolution LCD

A 3" or larger LCD on the back of your camera is a welcome addition. For reviewing your shots or zooming in to check focus, the larger and higher resolution will make it easier for you with less squinting. It will also help for the display of all the camera's menus in larger fonts making it easier to read and adjust settings. They also help if your camera has a "Live View" feature which I will discuss next.



Live View

Some models of cameras have "Live View" and, if you have been using a digital point and shoot, you are quite used to using one. It allows you to use the LCD on the back of your camera to compose your shoot and to zoom and check focus. I am not a big fan of it (since LCD's are still hard to see in bright sunlight) but many people love this feature.

Frames Per Second (FPS)

Frames Per Second is how many images your camera is capable of taking in a row with the shutter button held down and in "multi" mode. If you just take a snap here or there, or take a few minutes to compose a great landscape, this will not be at all important to you. But if you shoot sports or wildlife, this will be high on your list to look for to capture fast moving action. 2- 3 FPS would be Normal; 8 FPS would be very fast.

Movie Mode

A number of new DSLRs offer video shooting at High Definition (or near High Definition) quality. Whether that is important to you is a personal decision, but it's becoming a standard feature on many of the most popular entry level DSLRs.

Sensor Size

There are a few different size digital sensors from **APS-C**, which most consumer DSLRs are, up to what is known as full size sensors. Since this is a guide to your first DSLR I won't go into too much detail on them. There are some advantages to full size sensors, but they are really found in professional or semi-pro cameras in the high end of the price range beyond the scope of this guide.

Sensor Cleaning

One of the side effects of being able to change lenses is that with the lens off, the chance of dust or dirt getting on your digital sensor is greatly increased. They appear as fuzzy spots in your images and can be quite annoying. Luckily most cameras now come with self-cleaning or dust reduction systems for the sensor to minimize dust, or the need to take the camera into the shop for a cleaning.

Lenses

There is no more important accessory to a DSLR than the lens, or choice of lenses. If you are on a very tight budget you may want to stick with the "kit" lens that comes with your camera.

In fact, lenses are so important, if you were thinking about two different priced cameras, I would go for the lesser camera body and instead upgrade the lens. They are just that important to image quality; sharpness and ability to auto focus quickly.



There are almost limitless choices from the camera manufacturers - and also from third party lens makers - such as Sigma, Tamron and Tokina. Most of the time you get great lenses from the manufacturer of the camera. You can save some money going with a third party lens. The only slight problem you may have is some compatibility issues with AF (Auto-focus) systems on the camera because third party manufacturer are not privy to the engineering data from the camera manufacturer.

But don't let this dissuade you from looking into third party lenses and checking out a few reviews. Although most of my lenses are by my camera manufacturer, one of my favorite lenses is made by a third party manufacturer.

You will want to start out with a wide angle to normal zoom lens. Most of the kit lenses are in the 18-55mm range. This will allow you to shoot landscapes at the wide end (18mm) and then shoot some nice portraits at the normal end (55mm). If you shoot a lot of sports or wildlife, you may want to instead look at a lens that is more of a telephoto zoom, in the 70-200mm Range. This will also allow you to shoot some portrait close-ups (head and shoulders at 70mm) as well as zoom into subjects in the distance.

The best value is to buy "zoom" lenses which allow you to zoom in or out with a single lens. But there are also fixed, or "prime", lenses. You cannot zoom with these (gotta use your feet) but they do offer better image quality in similar prices to zooms. A great value in most manufacturers' lines are the 50mm 1.8 lenses. They can be

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had at a low price (\$100 USD) and can offer far better sharpness than a comparable size zoom lens.

Quite a few lenses now come with "image stabilization or "vibration reduction". Some manufacturers even have it built into the camera, rather than the lenses. This can help you shoot in low light and not use a tripod, solving those blurry image problems. Just be aware that IS or VR systems do not help to stop action.

So whether you chose a wide angle, a telephoto, a macro, or any of the other, an almost infinite choice in lenses is the true advantage of a DSLR.

Our recommendation to beginners to DSLR technology, is Nikon D3200 because it have latest features and technology, and easy to use, small body, and have low price, so you can invest in tripod, lenses, memory card ...

See: #1 best seller Nikon D3200 Bundle at Amazon (2 lenses + D3200 body + bag + 30% OFF mean you save \$230.00)



Flashes

Almost all basic DSLRs come with a built in pop-up flash and they are adequate for snapshots indoors or possibly to fill in a bit outdoors. The problem is that they tend to look "flashy", are underpowered, and often, despite "red eye reduction" systems, hamper your image quality by red eye.



A solution is to get an accessory flash that mounts to the top of your camera. They are more powerful so you can shoot at a greater distance to your subject. They also have the ability to bounce the flash off walls and ceilings so that the images look less flashy. And since the flash mounts higher on top of the camera, it moves the flash out of the plane of the lens and reduces the chances of red eye.

Sometimes, you can even use these flashes off camera - and this is where Nikon for the moment rules with their "Commander" mode. Although with the release of the [Canon 7D](#), Canon seems to want to narrow that ground with a new off-camera flash system that I am sure will trickle down into their more budget models.

If you want Buy Your First DSLR Camera, this part will help you

Lot of people that are interesting in photography using DSLR technology, wonder if **Nikon D3200** is the best entry level DSLR camera? and if it is the right camera that they need to begin with, so for that reason "Nikon D3200 News" think in write a small article that it is special and contain full information that every beginner to photography need to know before taking the final buying decision.

This article is not a review, while it is the answer for a collection of most asked questions in forums and yahoo answer.

- If you don't read yet any Review about **Nikon D3200** see a [full Review here and latest rumors.](#)

Why Nikon D3200

This small beast contains latest technology from Nikon, and it's has:

- More megapixels 24.2.
- Large sensor than all Canon cameras under \$700.
- Very easy to use (thanks to the guide mode, made by pro photographer).
- Has small body, so it is easy to handle.
- All magazines rate it as Best DSLR for everyday shooting.
- # 1 best seller DSLR camera at Amazon.com (see the offer here).
- Have a lower price, so you can invest in Guides, and bag and memory card, also a tripod.

Please note: DSLR cameras are noting without their lenses, so be sure to buy at less the standard lens 18-55mm, it work great and give a very good result with any DSLR body.

If you are not sure that Nikon D3200 is the right camera for you; keep Reading?

You know that your budget can help you to make the right decision between a Nikon D3100, D3200 or D3300?

- **Have a very tight budget** - we recommend the **Nikon D3100**.
- **Have a bigger budget** - the **Nikon D3300** (introduced in 2014, upgrade of **Nikon D3200**).

Summary:

The Nikon D3XXX has a **basic menu** (easy to use) and provides high image quality, and they are great for everyday shooting.

So let your budget decide which one you will choose. They are all great for beginners.

Do I need to purchase Nikon D3XXX, D5XXX, or D7XXX?

If you have just one question from this list below, so you need read this section carefully because your answer is here.

- **Nikon d3200 vs d5100 !**
- **Nikon d3200 vs d5200 !**
- **Nikon d3200 vs d7100 !**
- **Nikon d3100 vs d3200 !**
- **Nikon D3200 or d5100 !**

The Nikon Company provides several different series and each one has its specific features:

- Nikon D3XXX series (D3100/D3200/D3300):

All this three entry level digital SLR cameras are the best for beginners or for normal use (home use with family - school ...) because they are easy to use and provide high quality images and HD videos.

- Nikon D5XXX series (D5100/D5200/D5300):

One of these three entry level DSLR cameras is what you need to purchase if you are interested in these 2 features:

- > You need the **Vari-Angle LCD Monitor** (more about this feature later).
- > You want more control on your camera.

Your budget can also help you here in choosing the right one. And just remember that the Nikon D5300 is better than the Nikon D5200, and the D5200 is better than the Nikon D5100.

- Nikon D7XXX series (D7000/D7100):

The Nikon D7XXX series is always expensive. For example, the Nikon D7100 is around \$900 while the Nikon D5300 is around \$700.

You can choose a camera from this series if these features interest you:

- > Weather sealed, means the camera is sealed so that you can shoot in the rain.
- > Significantly long battery life - 950 shots.

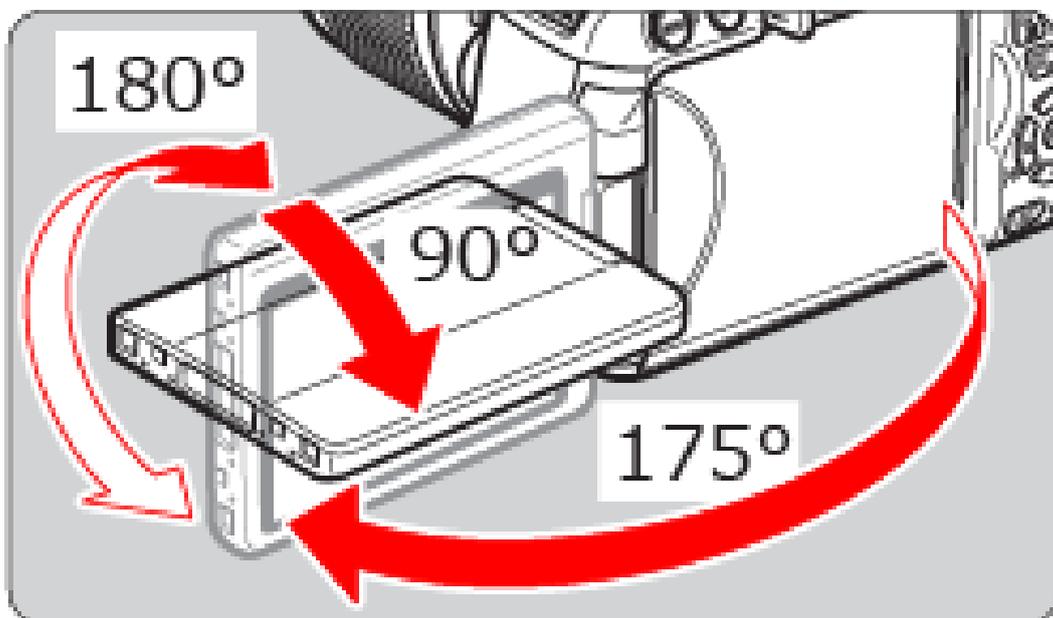
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- > More storage slots - 2 vs. 1 in most of the DSLR cameras.
- > Much faster max shutter speed - 1/8000s.

Summary:

If you live in an area where there is a lot of rain, or you like to take photos in bad weather, or you go on long trips where you will need a good battery and lots of memory, then this series is the best for you. Just remember that DSLR cameras in this series are a little expensive and have no **Vari-Angle LCD** and they are not basic (easy to use) as the D3XXX series.

Covering All Angles with the Vari-angle LCD monitor (in D5XXX series)



Why you need a flip-out display!

The company of Nikon makes the LCD displays fixed on its most Digital SLR's cameras, but The D5XXX-series have an articulating LCD displays that flip out and rotate to any angle.

Here where the live view mode really proves its value, because it's allow you to take pictures where it's impossible to be directly behind the camera yourself as (ground level - above head height - in tight corners).

Pros: This LCD Vari-angle monitor permits you to be creative from any point of view.

Nikon D3200 vs. Canon DSLR cameras under 700\$

If you want compare The D3200 with Canon digital cameras under \$700, so Nikon D3200 will win because it has a large sensor and more MP megapixel then any Canon under \$700 or even \$1000, this mean a better image quality.

Who should buy Nikon D3200?

- Beginners in the world of photography.
- Family or personal use (for example, parents or young students)
- You have a limited budget (<\$500) and want a Digital SLR camera with modern technology and the latest features on the market + Good image quality and HD video.
- You want an upgrade from Nikon D3000, Nikon D3100, or Canon EOS 1100D.

What are the benefits of buying the netry level DSLR camera Nikon D3200?

There are 11 reasons that can push you to buy Nikon D3200:

1. The best entry level DSLR camera under \$500.
2. Has a higher rating in all magazines than lot of others Digital SLR cameras that are more expensive than it.
3. Very good Image quality.
4. Understandable menu => easy to use and master.
5. It is less expensive than the Nikon D3300 because it was introduced earlier.
6. Best entry level DSLR camera Nikon D3200 has a solid body.
7. Easy to learn how to use Nikon D3200 and takes a high quality image.
8. Many lenses are available (Zoom lenses & Prime lenses).
9. Many guides available (books, magazines, forums) that talk about how to use your entry level DSLR camera Nikon D3200 because this camera came out in 2012.
10. You won't even think about an upgrade for two or three years because you have 24.2 MP and a large sensor. (today is 06/09/2014 and Nikon D3200 still have more MP and Large sensor).
11. You can have a wonderful photography adventure with Best Entry Level DSLR camera –Nikon D3200.

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