

## Digital Camera Basics

Many people are becoming interested in digital cameras these days. Here are some basics about digital cameras.

Digital Cameras do not take film. All cameras will have some “internal memory” that they use to store the pictures on, usually in the size area of around 16MB. All cameras will also have a memory slot that is used to insert optional “memory sticks” or “flash memory cards” to store the photos on. These memory sticks will come in sizes of 32MB, 64MB, 128MB, or 256MB. The memory sticks can then be downloaded to your computer’s hard drive and erased in preparation for another set of pictures. With the average high-resolution picture taking up about 1MB you will find that you can take an awful lot of pictures before having to “unload” them to your computer.

A digital camera’s photo, or resolution quality is measured in “mega pixels.” Just a few years ago resolution was measured in dots horizontally times dots vertically, for example, 640 x 480, or 1024 x 768. But with the increase in resolution the camera industry found it easier to compare using a unit of measurement called a mega pixel. A mega pixel is 1 million dots per square inch. For example a resolution of 1024 x 768 would equal 786,432, and a resolution of 1280 x 1024 would equal 1,310,720 or 1.3 Mega Pixels. In short, more mega pixels results in a better picture. Look for a camera with at least 2 mega pixels or higher.

All cameras on the market today, except for the cheapest of cameras, have an LCD screen on the back of the camera to preview the pictures. This LCD is invaluable for centering photos and previewing before downloading and printing.

Zoom features are also very important when considering which digital camera to purchase. Optical zoom means that the camera uses the lenses to zoom in on the subject and therefore will have no decrease in resolution. Digital zoom means that the camera is using its own “computer” to zoom in on the subject and will lose resolution because it is simply making each pixel larger.

**Favorite bookmark of the week: [www.megapixel.net](http://www.megapixel.net)**