

Camera Suggestions

For serious photography hobbyists, there are several items to consider when purchasing a camera. Here are a few...

- A **hotshoe** (used to attach an external flash to the camera). Compact cameras do not possess a hotshoe. While this is not an absolute necessity, it is nice to have a hotshoe if you're taking a lot of indoor photos. You could then, in the future, purchase an external flash, and use the hotshoe to attach the flash to your camera. The benefit of an external flash is that it allows you to "bounce" the light onto the ceiling (which then diffuses the light, creating a softer light on your subject).
- The **size of the sensor**; generally, smaller sensor cameras will produce poorer image quality. For example, a compact camera, when used indoors, under poor lighting, may produce an image that is lacking crisp detail and vibrancy; whereas a *larger sensor camera* (like an *SLR* or a *mirrorless camera*), will produce higher quality images when shooting indoors under poor lighting.
- The ability to switch lenses is generally desirable. But if you buy a camera with a permanent (fixed) lens, then get one with a zoom range that is acceptable for the type of photography that you will do.
- *Manual exposure controls*. The ability to manually control the exposure is useful when shooting under certain circumstances. Such cameras will have *aperture & shutter* priority modes. **The specific models listed below do have manual exposure controls for aperture & shutter priority.** **A camera with this feature is recommended for anyone taking a photography course.**

Camera Types:

SLR - allows for interchangeable lens; Has a hotshoe on top of the camera to attach an optional external flash. Below are two entry-level SLR camera models.

Nikon D3500 with 18-55mm lens
[B & H photo](#) \$446.95

Canon EOS Rebel T6 with 18-55mm lens
[B & H photo](#) \$399.00

SLR-like (aka "bridge" camera) - has a permanent zoom lens. No interchangeable lens is possible. These cameras are slightly smaller than an SLR camera. They might be a good choice if you're on a limited budget. The Panasonic (below) has a hotshoe; the Canon does not.

Panasonic Lumix DC-FZ80
[B & H photo](#) \$298.00

Canon PowerShot SX540 HS
[B & H photo](#) \$259.00

Canon PowerShot SX530 HS
[B & H photo](#) \$249.00

Mirrorless Camera - This is a fairly new type of camera that came out about 8 years ago. It was intended to compete with the SLR cameras. The supposed advantage is that it is a bit smaller and lighter than an SLR camera, but still offers the feature of interchangeable lenses. This new line of camera type is generally more expensive than an SLR camera.

Panasonic Lumix DMC-GX85
[B & H photo](#) \$498.00

Panasonic Lumix DMC-G7
[B & H photo](#) \$498.00

Olympus E-M10 Mark II
[B & H photo](#) \$499.00

Sony Alpha a6000
[B & H photo](#) \$648.00

Canon EOS M50
[B & H photo](#) \$649.00

FujiFilm X-T100
[B & H photo](#) \$530.00

Compact - No interchangeable lens, and no hotshoe. Compact cameras have small sensors; this translates into poor image quality when shooting indoors. They are somewhat limited for serious photography, unless you at least purchase one that has aperture and shutter priority. Listed below are a few examples of compact cameras that *do* feature aperture & shutter priority; the vast majority of compact cameras do *not* have aperture & shutter priority.

Sony Cyber-shot DSC-WX500
[B & H photo](#) \$348.00

Sony Cyber-shot DSC-HX80
[B & H photo](#) \$318.00

Canon PowerShot SX730 HS
[B & H photo](#) \$379.00

Note: There's an excellent website that provides information about all cameras, past and present. The link below takes you to a special web page called the DP Review Camera Hub. There are 3 ways to conduct your research...

On the Camera Hub page, you can use "[Camera Search](#)" and narrow your search by choosing "Photography Features" and then select Aperture & Shutter priority, and any other search constraints. The search results come back according to the year each model was announced.

Another method: If you already have a few camera models in mind, and you wish to compare them, then select "[Camera Compare](#)." You can then select the camera models you're interested in and compare their features; When you eventually get to the "comparison table," you'll see that Aperture & shutter priority will be listed under the "[Photography Features](#)" section of the table.

Lastly, if you want to browse all cameras issued by a specific company, then select "[Browse all Cameras](#)" and use the drop-down menu to select the company. You'll then see all the cameras made by that company (according to the *year* in which they were announced). Note that when you get to the page of a single camera, you can click the "specs" tab, and then scroll down to "Photography Features" to see whether or not the camera offers Aperture & Shutter priority.

Here's the web page... dpReview.com