

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY 101

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CAMERA

parts of your camera

- ❖ **battery:** most cameras come with some kind of rechargeable battery, though some can also use conventional batteries.
- ❖ **memory card:** your camera probably came with a small starter memory card—you'll probably want to get a bigger one. Memory cards come in many styles—see the CNET.com article (link in Resources section) for descriptions and pros and cons.
- ❖ **flash:** usually you can set the flash to auto, on, or off

digital vocabulary

- ❖ **memory:** what stores pictures on your camera—usually your camera comes with a small memory card and you'll want to get a larger one. Memory is measured in bytes.
- ❖ **pixels:** the dots that make up digital pictures.
- ❖ **megapixel:** 1,000,000 pixels.
- ❖ **resolution:** the quality of an image, measured in pixels per square inch.
- ❖ **megabyte (MB):** a measurement of data storage capacity. Memory cards commonly hold 128, 256, or 512 MB.
 - 1024 bytes = 1 kilobyte
 - 1024 kb = 1 megabyte
 - 1024 MB = 1 gigabyte.
- ❖ **USB:** a standard computer connection used for moving information between devices, such as moving pictures from your camera to your computer.

camera features

- ❖ regular picture
- ❖ review pictures
- ❖ flower/mountain (e.g. close-up/landscape)
- ❖ zoom
- ❖ there are a lot of others—consult your owner's manual

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GETTING PICTURES FROM YOUR CAMERA TO YOUR COMPUTER

- ❖ at home you'll most likely connect your camera directly to your computer with a USB cord that came with your camera
- ❖ here we have a card reader—put your memory card in and the computer will retrieve pictures from it
- ❖ at Wal-Mart or another photo processing place, they also use card readers

EDITING & ORGANIZING PICTURES

Each picture you transfer will show up on your computer as a file, usually with an alphanumeric name (like IMG2059.jpg)

- ❖ file types: most digital cameras will use .jpg (JPEG) files. There are other file types (.gif, .tiff, .bmp, .png, etc.), but we won't get into those tonight
- ❖ file sizes
 - a 640x480 (.3MP) photo will take up approximately 100-500kb of memory on your memory card or computer and will make a decent resolution for a 3x5" or 4x6" print
 - you can set your camera to take photos in different sizes
 - you may want to take photos at a large size and then resize them later—that way you'll have a large size if you want to make an 8x10" print and a small size for e-mailing or displaying online
- ❖ photo editing software
 - Adobe Photoshop
 - Adobe Photoshop Elements
- ❖ free photo editing software
 - Picnik (picnik.com)—an online application that we'll use in class
 - for PC
 - Picasa (picasa.google.com)
 - the GIMP (gimp.org)
 - for Mac
 - QuickImageCM
 - iPhoto (comes installed on newer Macs)
- ❖ editing: crop, resize, rotate, special effects
- ❖ organizing: you can move photos around on your computer just like any other type of file. Many photo editing programs also allow you to create albums or collections of various types.

SHARING PHOTOS

- ❖ by e-mail: it's a really good idea not to send huge photos to people. Most photo editing programs will let you resize pictures so they are small enough to make it through.
- ❖ online photo sharing services: all of these offer ways to store, share, and print your photos.
 - Flickr.com
 - KodakGallery.com
 - Shutterfly.com
 - Snapfish.com

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY 101 RESOURCES

WEBSITES

Consumer Reports digital camera guide
tinyurl.com/2f3cl8

Links to *Consumer Reports* seem to change a lot, so if this doesn't work, just go to the site and look for "digital cameras" under electronics.

CNET Digital Camera Buying Guide
reviews.cnet.com/digital-camera-buying-guide
Also offers a lot of good basic digital camera information.

Digital Photography Review
dpreview.com
For in-depth reviews of cameras.

BOOKS IN PARK COUNTY LIBRARIES

Kelby, Scott. *The Digital Photography Book: The Step-by-Step Secrets for How to Make Your Photos Look Like the Pros!*. Berkeley, CA: Peachpit Press, 2007.

Meeteetse 775 KELBY

Bidner, Jenni. *The Kodak Most Basic Book of Digital Printing*. New York: Lark Books, 2006.
Cody 775 BIDNER (REV. ED.)

Miotke, Jim. *The Betterphoto Guide to Digital Nature Photography*. New York: Amphoto Books, 2006.
Cody 775 MIOTKE

Gaines, Thom. *Digital Photo Madness!: 50 Weird & Wacky Things To Do With Your Digital Camera*. New York: Lark Books, 2006.

Powell YA 775 GAINES

Wignall, Jeff. *The Joy of Digital Photography*. New York: Lark Books, 2005.
Cody 775 WIGNALL

Rose, Carla. *Digital Memories: Scrapbooking With Your Computer*. Indianapolis: Que, 2004.
Cody 745.593 ROSE

Bidner, Jenni. *The Kids' Guide to Digital Photography: How to Shoot, Save, Play With & Print Your Digital Photos*. New York: Lark Books, 2004.

Cody & Powell J 775

Odam, John. *Start with a Digital Camera : The Indispensable Guide to Getting the Most Out of Your Digital Camera*. Berkeley, CA: Peachpit, 2003.

Cody 775 ODAM 2003

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this handout is available online at <http://parkcountylibrary.org/classes/digpix101.html>

RESOURCES CONTINUED

King, Julie Adair. *Shoot Like a Pro!: Digital Photography Techniques*. Emeryville, CA: Osborne/McGraw Hill, 2003.
Meeteetse 778.3 KING

Your Lifestyle Guide to Digital Photography. Poway, CA: Gateway Press, 2003.
Powell 775 YOUR 2003

Busselle, Michael. *Creative Digital Photography*. New York : Amphoto Books, 2002.
Cody 775 BUSSELLE

Johnson, Dave. *How to do Everything With Your Digital Camera*. New York, NY: Osborne/McGraw-Hill, 2001.
Powell 778.3 JOHNSON

King, Julie Adair. *Digital Photography for Dummies*. Foster City, CA: IDG Books Worldwide, 2000.
Cody 778.3 KING 2000