

How to buy a dSLR

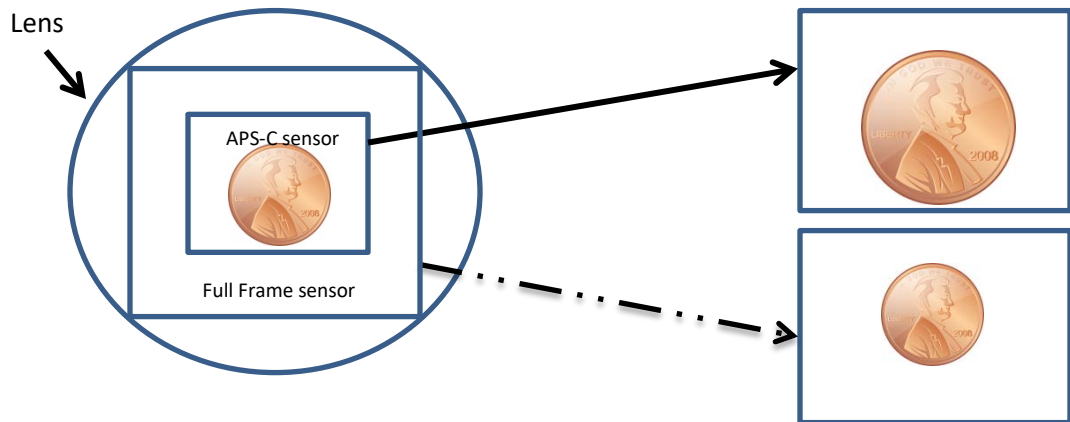
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These notes are available at www.thenerdworks.com

- What do you like to photograph? Landscapes? Portraits? Close-ups? Action?
- **Factors to consider**, a) size & weight, b) controls accessible, c) ruggedness, d) speed of shooting
- Are you **willing to carry** all that gear around with you?
- Are you willing to take the time and make the effort to learn the “Exposure Triangle” of Shutter Speed/Aperture & ISO?
- When you buy a dSLR you are buying into a product “Family” of bodies, **lenses & accessories**.
- Does your **budget** include: Camera Bag? 2nd Battery? Extra Memory Cards? Flash? Tripod? Polarizer?
- Factors favouring dSLRs are a) versatility; and b) image quality

Versatility	Image Quality
Types of Lenses for various subjects	jpeg and RAW Show RAW Sample Images
Filters Show Polarizing Sample Images	Larger Sensor
Accessories like Flash and Remote Triggers	A Better Lens is a BIG EXPENSE

- Full frame or Cropped Sensor (APS-C)? – crop factor... -



- Levels of dSLRs: **Canon - Consumer** (Rebel T6 \$950), **Enthusiast** (80D\$1,650), **Pro** (5d MkIV \$5,950)
- **Sample Images:** Camera **Shutter Speed for Motion**, Lens **Aperture for Depth of Field**
- **Image stabilization** – Optical (lens based) or Mechanical (sensor based)
- **LCD screen features:** Live view detail, articulated or not, touchscreen or not
- Video capabilities and Manual Focus abilities of the user
- Is the Diopter of the viewfinder easy to adjust?

Lens attributes:

- **Focal length** – describes the magnifying power of the lens (referring to full frame sensors!)
- **Aperture** - describes how much light the lens gathers
- **Image Stabilization** - some lenses include optical stabilization units to counteract hand shake
- **Format** - the sensor size the lens is designed to work with. Full Frame vs APS-C sensor size
- **Lens mount** - determines whether the lens will physically fit your camera

The manufacturers label their **APS-C sensor format** SLR lenses as follows:

- **Canon** - EF-S, **Nikon** – DX, **Pentax** – DA, **Sony** – DT, **Sigma** – DC, **Tamron** - Di II, **Tokina** - DX

Avoid features like in camera “Special Effects”, those are best done on your computer.

Buy from a Camera store like Don’s, Henry’s or Photo Central

Mirrorless ILC (Interchangeable Lens Cameras)

If you don’t really need to take rapid bursts of pictures, which is part of what makes a dSLR so popular, then perhaps a Mirrorless ILC would be a better choice?

Mirrorless ILC advantages

- The body is small and lightweight
- Lenses are also smaller and lighter
- Video modes are the equal of an SLR
- Rich with features to make shooting a breeze
- Excellent LCD Live View

Mirrorless ILC disadvantages

- Smaller sensor makes creating shallow depth of field a challenge.
- The performance of Auto-Focus can be challenging with moving subjects or in low light
- Some Live View screens are not as good as a good Optical viewfinder of an SLR

NOTE: The technology of Mirrorless ILC’s is changing incredibly quickly...so six months can make a huge difference in not only what is available, but also in terms of the quality of what is available.

Camera and Lens reviews should be done diligently before any purchases are made.

www.dpreview.com is an excellent source of pre-purchase information.

www.cambridgeincolour.com provides wonderful photography tutorials.

Class Evaluation: Please keep in mind **the value of your time** in being here. Was tonight worth your time? Constructive feedback is both encouraged and greatly appreciated, as it will help to improve future classes!