

# The Complete Guide to Cameras

for Bloggers



# *The Camera*

In order to improve your photography you need the right equipment.

**The right equipment does not mean the most expensive, it doesn't mean what your neighbor is using, the right equipment fits what type of photography you want to do right now.**

You will continue to improve as a photographer and as you do, your equipment can improve with you.

**There is no reason to go out and spend a few thousand dollars on an amazing camera when what you might need is one that cost a couple of hundred.**

Just an example but there are people making money off their iPhone photos, which is a phone camera...need I say more?





**When it comes to buying a camera there are many choices. I am going to go over a few of those choices with you.**

One type of camera I will not be covering is a point and shoot camera. I wouldn't recommend one especially if you are serious about photography. That's just my opinion though.



There are so many options for camera systems for all price budgets. Buying a camera with the ability to use different lenses can be a wonderful investment. Being able to swap lenses allows for more fun and creativity.

**My #1 recommendation is that you buy a camera that allows you to switch lenses.**

*There are three choices then for choosing a camera:*

## *Film, DSLR, and Mirrorless*

My first camera was a Minolta film camera. I bought it right as DSLR cameras were becoming popular. I went back and forth on which to buy. While many people love learning on a film camera, and some prefer it, I wish my first camera was a DSLR.

While I enjoyed learning on the film, film is expensive. **I felt the speed of my learning was actually faster once I bought a digital camera.**

I eventually did buy a Canon Rebel and later upgraded to a Canon 6D full frame (which I love). Now mirrorless has become popular, and wow, I am in love with it too! Mirrorless cameras are great because they are powerful and small.





## Film

Film cameras have a certain allure if you like vintage, the idea of developing film, and you want to be forced from the get go to really learn the technology side of your camera.



### **Pros:**

You can learn to develop your own film or work in a dark room. You can find cheap film cameras. You will be forced to practice learning the camera's settings. You learn to slow down and frame photos rather than take 10 shots to make sure you get one you like.

### **Cons:**

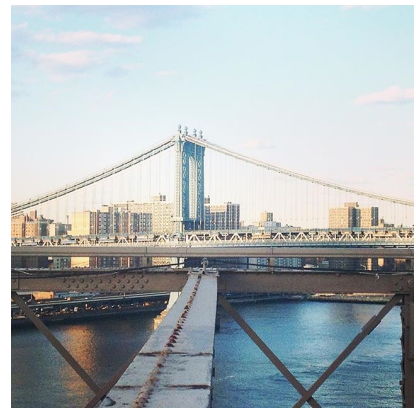
The film can be expensive. When you first start out you can end up getting some black or dark photos if you don't know how to use the camera settings correctly (which is still true for a DSLR camera but there is more trial and error with the film camera).

# DSLR

I recommend starting out with a DSLR camera, you can find some inexpensive yet amazing little DSLR cameras. My first camera was a Canon Rebel and even though I bought it years ago, I still use it today when I need a smaller camera than my full frame. You can get great inexpensive lenses for it.

**Pros:** Inexpensive to expensive cameras with pro capabilities, a variety of cameras to choose from including new and used, and great companies to choose from: Canon, Nikon, Sony, Fujifilm (and more).

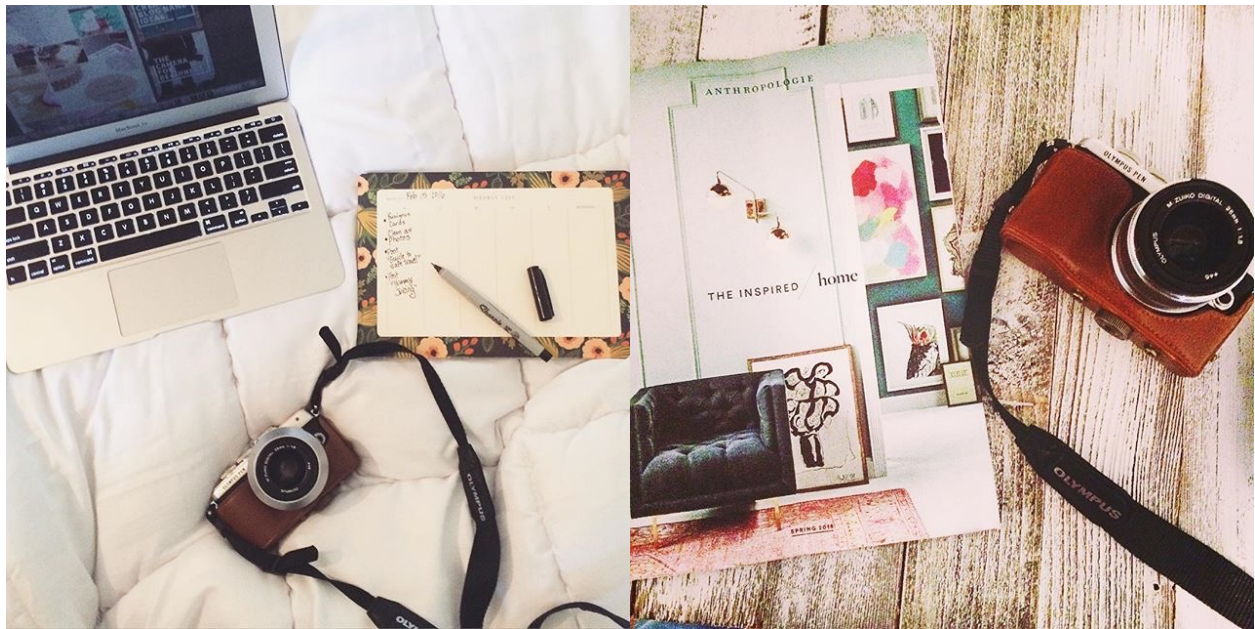
**Cons:** Some DSLRs are big and bulky, other than that not a lot of cons.





# Mirrorless

Mirrorless cameras are just a few years old but already photographers are ditching their DSLR cameras for these powerful smaller cameras. Now you can find a mirrorless full frame camera. Though these cameras are a tiny bit expensive right now, there are some older models that you can find used and get a good deal on.



**Pros:** Mirrorless cameras are smaller than a DSLR because they do not have the mirror box inside the camera like the DSLR. These cameras actually use an electronic viewfinder, which I think is kind of brilliant.

**Cons:** Mirrorless is a newer technology, some systems are lacking in the variety of lenses you can buy. Can be more expensive than the DSLRs.

# Choosing Your Camera System



*Ok so which is right for you? Are you just wanting to get started and need an affordable camera? Go with a DSLR. These cameras are beautiful and take amazing photos, and now are cheaper than ever before.*

Are you a techie and like staying up with the latest technology? Do you want to be discreet when taking photos and don't like to carry big equipment with you? The mirrorless is a good option for you.

You can't go wrong with a DSLR or a mirrorless camera. You need to decide if you want a smaller package (mirrorless) that



delivers the same great results as it's bigger competitors (DSLRs)?

Though right now, I'd say you can get more for your buck with a DSLR camera, and if size doesn't matter to you than a DSLR is perfect.

**What is nice about DSLR photos is they take great photos, and they are affordable.**



*A Note on my photography equipment:*

In order to have a smaller camera for travel I have been trying out the Olympus PL7. I must tell you, I adore this camera. I love the small size. The lenses are tiny too but they create gorgeous colors every time.

**I would say just starting out you can't go wrong with either an Olympus or mirrorless camera or a Canon Rebel.**

# Understanding Basic Camera Specifications:



Now that you have a general idea of what is available, let's go over a few things you should know about camera specifications.

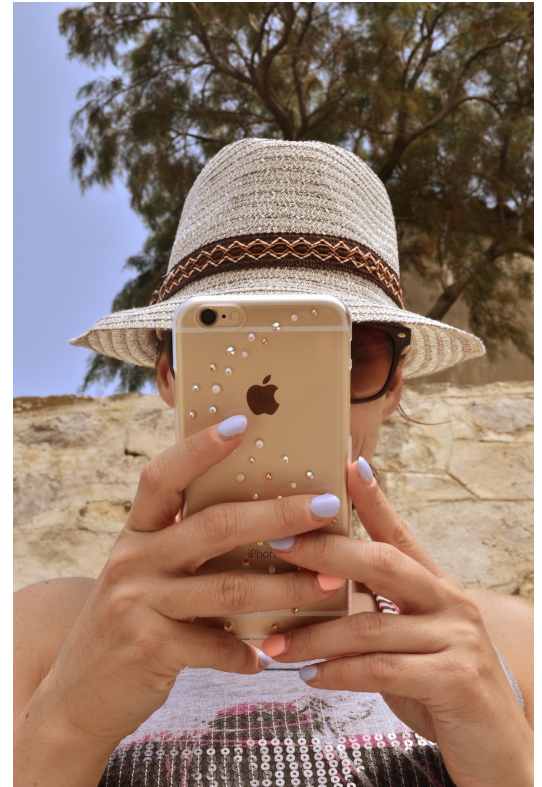
Let's first start with the camera sensor. The camera sensor is kind of a big deal. Camera sensors come in different sizes. The amount of light coming into your camera depends on the size of its sensor.

**The more light the sensor takes in the better the pictures can be, generally.**



***iPhone cameras are wonderful, but they have tiny sensors.***

You can create beautiful images with them but you are still limited, especially in low light (my small Olympus Pen will outshine the iPhone every time). Having a bigger sensor allows you to create higher resolution photos, and when you have more megapixels packed into your camera this can be important for photos that you are going to blow up bigger than a piece of 8 1/2 X 11 size paper. But it is not always necessary to have a full frame camera if you are not going to blow your photo up to a size larger than a standard piece of paper.



*Camera sensor:*

**Generally, the bigger the sensor the better the photos will be.**

But that doesn't mean you can't get great photos with a small sensor. It will, however, make a big difference when you are in low light. For example my Canon full frame camera does a lot better than my little mirrorless Olympus Pen, when I am taking photos in a room with poor lighting.

My Olympus Pen has a Micro 4/3 sensor vs my Canon 6D's full frame sensor. The Micro 4/3's system that Olympus uses is smaller and can't handle low light like my Canon 6D, even with the 1.8 lens I have for it.

**Sensors that are smaller than a full frame will automatically crop the photos you take.**



This means you will not be getting the full use of your lens as you would be with a camera with a full frame sensor. Is this a big deal? Many people think so, but when most of my photos end up online, it's not a big deal to me.

**Sensor size matters more when you have a photo you want to do a giant print of, one you might hang somewhere like in a studio, or in a home.**



## Megapixels:

Think of this as the detail in the photo. The more megapixels your camera has the more detail you will see in photos, but at some point you can actually have too many megapixels. My Olympus has 16mp and I've found that 16MP works great. My full frame has 20.2MP and I am happy with it has well.



**You want at least 15MP and if you have more than 26MP you probably don't need it.**

The human eye can only see so much detail, that's why I could take the same photo with my Olympus which has 16MP and my

Canon 6D that has 20.2MP and you won't be able to tell much difference as far as detail.

**For most photography a camera with 16MP is sufficient.**

One way it makes a difference is if you are going to crop at 100%, and you aren't going to do that. So without getting too techie on you, if you find a camera with 16MP and you plan on just uploading your photos online, you have enough megapixels in order to get good results.





## JPG vs RAW:

JPGs are the type of photo you are going to want most of the time, especially if you do a great job of taking the photo with correct white balance and will do minimal editing to the file. A RAW photo is a much larger file than a JPG that's because the RAW keeps all the detail of the photo in the file, so when you edit it you do not do any damage to the file.



**Shoot in RAW if you plan to do a lot of editing.**

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