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Pocket Edition

Digital Cameras & Equipment

FOR

DUMMIES®



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Digital Cameras & Equipment For Dummies[®], Portable Edition

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Introduction

It's official: Digital photography is no longer considered a fleeting fad or solely a game for techno-types. Today, everyone from preteens to great-grandmothers is recording their memories with digital cameras, abandoning their old film models to the attic, the basement, or worse.

This growing enthusiasm for digital photography is for good reason, too. The features and quality packed into today's digital cameras are nothing short of astounding. Tiny, fit-in-your pocket cameras are now capable of producing images that, in some cases, surpass those of professional models from five or six years ago — and at prices that were unheard of in years past. Digital SLR models, which accept interchangeable lenses, are now remarkably inexpensive, too, making the step up to semi-pro features much more accessible to enthusiastic shutterbugs.

For many people, though, figuring out how to use all the features offered by today's cameras, let alone how to download, organize, and share digital photos, is an intimidating proposition. First you have to deal with all the traditional photography lingo — *f-stop*, *shutter speed*, *depth of field* — and on top of that, you then have to decode a slew of digital buzzwords. Just what *is* a megapixel, anyway? If your professional photographer friend keeps talking about “shooting Raw,” does that mean that you should do the same — whatever it is?

In easy-to-understand language, with a dash of humor thrown in to make things more enjoyable, this book spells out what you need to know to choose the right digital

camera for you and how a few accessories can make a dramatic difference in the quality of your photos.

What's in This Book?

This book helps you assess your current digital photography needs and determine the best gear and products to suit your style.

Here's just a little preview of what you can find in each chapter of the book:

Chapter 1 provides an overview of the latest and greatest camera features, explaining how they affect your pictures and your photography options.

Chapter 2 introduces you to some cool (and useful) camera accessories, picture-storage products, and computer software that enables you to do everything from retouching your pictures to making them look like watercolor paintings.

Chapter 3 shows you exactly why digital SLRs can do things that other types of picture-shooters (both film and digital) cannot.

Chapter 4 discusses what you can do with interchangeable lenses available for digital SLRs.

Chapter 5 describes ten critical steps you should take to protect and maintain your gear — and also offers advice about what to do if disaster strikes.

Icons Used in This Book

Like other books in the *For Dummies* series, this book uses icons to flag especially important information. Here's a quick guide to the icons used in this book:



This icon represents information that you should commit to memory. Doing so can make your life easier and less stressful.



Text marked with this icon breaks technical gobbledygook down into plain English. In many cases, you really don't need to know this stuff, but boy, will you sound impressive if you repeat it at a party.



The Tip icon points you to shortcuts that help you avoid doing more work than necessary. This icon also highlights ideas for creating better pictures and working around common digital photography problems.



When you see this icon, pay attention — danger is on the horizon. Read the text next to a Warning icon to keep yourself out of trouble and to find out how to fix things if you leaped before you looked.

What Do I Read First?

For Dummies books are designed so that you can grasp the content in any chapter without having to read the chapters that came before it. So if you need information on a particular topic, you can get in and out as quickly as possible.