

## SLR Digital Cameras

Many of you may recall my first purchase of a digital camera. I wrote about it a little over a year ago in the article titled "42 Pictures of My Dog." If you missed this article the first time, you can find it on the home page of my website at [www.ComputerDepotOnline.com](http://www.ComputerDepotOnline.com) but please be patient as I make updates. Back to the camera. As much as I have loved using this little digital camera, I have always been interested in "real" photography. I have always been fascinated with having the ability to totally control just how the picture comes out. To do this I needed to make an investment in an SLR Camera.

SLR stands for Single Lens Reflex. Although I don't really know what this means, I have found that generally speaking an SLR camera will have removable lens. This allows the photographer to attach specialty lens to the camera body to help produce just the right photo. For example, if someone uses e-bay to sell jewelry it will be necessary to use a macro lens to get a true to size photo of the merchandise. If however, that same person was on vacation and saw a rare bird in the distance they could attach a telephoto lens to the camera's body and get the perfect portrait of the bird.

When purchasing my first SLR camera, I really didn't have a clue as to what features I should be seeking. However, after a little research online I narrowed my choices to two possible cameras. The Cannon D20 and the Nikon D70 both seem to be the popular digital SLR cameras choices but I finally decided the Nikon D70 kit was a better value overall. The Nikon camera is a 6-mega-pixel camera and the kit comes packaged with a fast 3x optical lens.

It's not really a problem if you are not a savvy, knowledgeable photographer when it comes to using a SLR camera because most come with an automatic mode. Even if you don't know how to use the advanced features of an SLR camera, you will likely produce better pictures with an SLR camera in automatic mode because of better quality lenses compared to point and shoot cameras.

If however you are interested in using the advanced features of your SLR camera, I highly recommend that you take some sort of class. I signed up for an 8-night class with the University of Tennessee. Tom Geisler is a wedding photographer that teaches this class not because he needs the money, but because he loves photography and teaching other this art. In his class you will learn the very basics of SLR photography including how to set shutter speed, aperture, and flash settings. If you need to take photographs in extremely light or dark situations it is important that you know how to set these settings manually.

A digital SLR camera will cost you about \$1000 but when used properly has the ability to produce some spectacular photos. If you have any technology-based questions call the expert technicians at the Computer Depot, 947-0749.