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CR Quick Recommendations

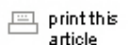
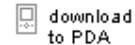
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CR Quick Recommendations *DIGITAL CAMERAS*

Based on our judgments of uncropped 8x10-inch prints, all the cameras produced images that were very good or excellent. But if we had used only a small portion of the original image and enlarged it to 8x10, the higher-megapixel cameras would have produced better results than the others. As the photos on the facing page indicate, camera size and shape can vary considerably, even within a category.

The **Ratings** list models by overall performance. **Quick Picks** considers factors such as features and price.

Quick Picks

Best values for most people; all are CR Best Buys:

- 1** Canon, \$180, CR Best Buy
- 9** Kodak, \$180, CR Best Buy
- 16** Olympus, \$160, CR Best Buy

All have excellent print quality and are very low priced for 3- or 4-megapixel compacts. The Canon PowerShot A510 (**1**) has manual controls and a 4x zoom but is the bulkiest. The Kodak EasyShare CX7430 (**9**) and Olympus D-580 Zoom (**16**) have long battery life, but they both lack manual controls.

For additional flexibility:

- 2** Kodak, \$250
- 3** Olympus, \$250
- 13** Canon, \$270

All have excellent print quality, manual controls, and 4- or 5-megapixel resolution. The Kodak EasyShare Z700 (**2**) and Olympus C-5500 Sport Zoom (**3**) both have a 5x zoom lens. The latter has an image stabilizer but also a long next-shot delay. The Canon PowerShot A95 (**13**) has very long battery life.

For a camera that fits in a purse:

- 37** Canon, \$310
- 39** Sony, \$240
- 49** Nikon, \$350

All of these are small and light, with excellent or very good print quality and good battery life, but they lack manual controls. The Canon PowerShot SD300 (**37**) has a short next-shot delay. The Sony Cyber-shot DSC-L1 (**39**) is low-priced for a subcompact, but its flash range is just 7 feet. The Nikon Coolpix 7900 (**49**) is relatively high priced but has 7-megapixel resolution.

For an advanced compact camera:

- 62** Fujifilm, \$300
- 63** Olympus, \$390
- 65** Canon, \$360

All have excellent print quality and manual controls. The low-priced Fujifilm FinePix E550 (**62**) is relatively light, with a short next-shot delay. The bulky Olympus C-7070 Wide Zoom (**63**) has 7-megapixel resolution, very long battery life, a very wide-angle lens, and image stabilizer. The Canon PowerShot S60 (**65**) is low-priced, with a very wide-angle lens.

For a long zoom range, consider:

- 74** Panasonic, \$420
- 76** Olympus, \$270

77 Canon, \$270

The Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ5 ([74](#)) has a 12x zoom and image stabilizer, excellent battery life, and a short next-shot delay. The Olympus C-765 Ultra Zoom ([76](#)) is low-priced and relatively light, with a 10x zoom. But its battery life was the among the lowest for super-zoom models. The 3-megapixel Canon PowerShot S1IS ([77](#)) is low-priced and has a 10x zoom and stabilizer, but also a long next-shot delay. It records video up to the memory card's limit, as can the high-priced Sony Cyber-shot DSC-M1 ([42](#)), not a Quick Pick.

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