

# Anyone Bought a New Camera Recently?



Know of a camera that takes great images of your cases? Tell other Townies about it!

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It is likely that early in 2007 I will be looking for a new camera as my old one is starting to show some signs that it might be dying soon. I presently have an Olympus E-10 and am looking for a digital SLR that takes good clinical (orthodontic records) photos. I have a treatment coordinator who takes all of my photos, and ease of use (i.e. easy to get good predictable pictures every time) is important.

I'd like to avoid overbuying for what I need, and I know that there is a ton of great new high-end cameras that have a lot of features/effects that one would never use in the office and would be a waste of money. I thought I'd throw this out there as a potential starting point. ■

DEC 20 2006

**wfbird**

Member Since: 07/28/04

Post: 1 of 24

OK, this is, in my opinion, the best camera for the money. The digital Rebel XT<sub>i</sub> from Canon, plus ring flash 14-Ex, and the 60mm macro (Canon). The camera itself is wonderful, very small, lightweight, one-handed use if you like to hold the retractor yourself, large preview screen, SLR-quality and easy to use. I use mine with auto for face shots, and manual for intra-oral. Let me know if you want example shots. ■ **Marcus Paulson**

JAN 10 2007

**mpaulsondds**

Member Since: 10/15/06

Post: 2 of 24

I have a compact camera, Sony DSCW70.

I think this is a cheap and useful selection for limited budget. ■



SEP 30 2007

**pamir meric**

Member Since: 09/08/06

Post: 3 of 24



I think I'll be getting the Canon Rebel 10 megapixel. Norman Camera has a kit. I don't think it is rock bottom pricing but I've used them before and they are helpful with support. ■

SEP 30 2007

**catch-22**

Member Since: 05/06/04

Post: 4 of 24

This system has been recommended to me as well... Canon XT<sub>i</sub> Digital Rebel, 60mm macro lens and ring flash. ■

NOV 30 2007

**bm10184**

Member Since: 11/28/07

Post: 5 of 24

I love the XT<sub>i</sub> system (body, ring flash and 60mm macro)!

Other pearls:

- Buy 10 or more low capacity (less than 32 MB) CF cards (forces your staff to keep no more than one patient per card), take out the card and place a post-it with patient info on it.
- Buy anterior contrasters from PhotoMed International: <http://photomed.net/contrasters.htm>

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- Buy extra batteries.

Train staff using: [www.aligntechinstitute.com/files/flash/photoshow/index.html](http://www.aligntechinstitute.com/files/flash/photoshow/index.html) ■

AUG 15 2008

**rewdmd**

Member Since: 04/29/08

Post: 7 of 24

I've used the first-generation Canon Digital Rebel system (camera, ring flash, macro/micro lens) for about three years. I take the photos myself (rather than having an assistant do it) and get publishable images that don't need any manipulation or cropping. I just use the software that came with the camera to label and store the images in the My Pictures folder. If you use a mirror for some views, you'll need Adobe Elements (or something similar) to flip the images since they will be reversed for the mirror images.

The camera is set on manual.

The flash is set at 1:2.

Shutter speed at 1/100/sec.

Extra-oral shots: Image size 1:1 – Distance about six feet – F: 8

Intra-oral shots: Image size 1:2 – Distance about two feet – F: 25

The camera connects directly to the computer with the USB cable provided. Make sure you take the first photo of the patient's chart (or something with the name on it) so you know whose photos you're looking at, especially if you do multiple patients before downloading. ■

DEC 18 2008

**qdeath**

Member Since: 09/06/03

Post: 8 of 24

Lester Dine Pentax Optio V10 with Eye-Fi card. ■

DEC 25 2008

**kgmbdm**

Member Since: 03/03/05

Posts: 9 & 10 of 24

Can anyone offer the latest in digital camera advice? My last purchase was from Lester Dine. The camera's pre-settings specifically for ortho were convenient. My oldest camera would lose all its ortho-specific settings when my staff let the batteries drain while it was not connected to its AC adapter. Re-setting was a major inconvenience. Any advice?

[Posted: 1/26/2009 Post: 10 of 24]

Qdeath, what's an Eye-Fi card? Is it cordless beaming of the image like Wi-Fi? ■

JAN 24 2009

**str8wire**

Member Since: 03/03/04

Post: 11 of 24

Kgmbdm, read [www.dpreview.com](http://www.dpreview.com) for comprehensive reviews on the new cameras.

For point and shoots – I really like Fujifilm cameras. They are hard to beat. I've bought four of them in the last couple of years.

They have a unique type of octagonal CCD matrix – that provides superior color, clarity and ISO sensitivity over competing designs.

Some of the newer cameras also have image stabilization (either in-lens or in-camera) which can give you an extra couple of stops of light in difficult situations. ■



JAN 26 2009

**ahayes**

Member Since: 01/20/06

Post: 13 of 24

I think there are some great things about the point and shoots and some compromises. I have four of the previous cameras. Dine was selling as their "digital dental solution" before the Pentax they are selling now.

I would take great pictures with them but the staff is very streaky. It's unbelievable that people can't understand how to use AF properly or to hold the camera far enough away from the object before shooting. Today's cameras meter almost too well and you get focusing on cheek retractors or it just can't focus on the finer areas. Also, the depth of field is small and mirror shots are just OK sometimes.



With the price of some of the smaller DSLRs, if I were buying new that's what I'd be looking at. I use a Nikon D40 and D60 at home and I've been taking a lot more pictures at the office with them lately.

I snapped three examples this morning.

Buccal shots are easy with any camera at this magnification but the focus is balanced throughout.

For my staff, with point and shoot cameras occlusal shots are hit or miss and oftentimes these are out of focus – it doesn't make much of a difference when printed out, but there's very little diagnostic value. The shot is much more predictable from a DSLR and you can zoom in on just about any given tooth to see things like pit and fissure staining.



One of the biggest advantages is the depth of field! Not only can I see the end of the cantilever wire but I can see the buccal tube and read the writing on the mirror. You can only do this at very small F-stops (large F-number like F-22).

What I think is interesting is that none of these were done with dental equipment. I didn't even put a macro lens on. It's just the stock lens and an inexpensive ring flash from Amazon. I bet you could put together the entire kit for close to \$500 now. ■ **andy**

JAN 27 2009



The main advantage of today's point and shoots is the high megapixel sensors.

Allows you to crop out most of the stuff you don't want in the picture (i.e. retractors/mirrors/fingers) and still have a useable photo with good resolution in the end.

Technology still will not correct the basic principles of taking pictures though.

- 1) You must have enough light.
- 2) You must use the correct ISO.
- 3) You must hold the camera steady when you take the picture!

Number three is the most common error with amateur photographers. ■

JAN 27 2009

I just bought the 12MP Pentax sold by Lester Dine as their "Dine Digital Solution" at the Greater New York meeting. I love the pictures I get with our Canon DSLR from PhotoMed at one of my associate offices, but I know I will need a dummy-proof camera in my office. No one at that office ever really knows how to fix the DSLR when one of the settings goes awry. I've been trying to take photos at one office that doesn't own a camera, with my Nikon P5100 point and shoot, but they don't come out well and I don't have time to mess with the settings to figure it out. So I'm hoping Dine's camera will really be a solution for me. ■

DEC 8 2010

We had Rita Bauer come spend a day with us recently. She is awesome and can recommend a setup to you. She has great pointers on what mirrors and retractors to get also. With all the focus on cameras you forget there are other items to consider. Also, I've heard she can come and teach your assistants how to take a consistently great photo.

I have a Nikon D40 with Sigma ring flash and I use the kit lens (18-55mm). It works well, however, I just got a Canon T2i with ring flash and a 100mm macro lens (as a gift). It takes bet-



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#### **str8wire**

Member Since: 03/03/04

Post: 14 of 24

#### **nysent**

Member Since: 10/10/05

Post: 17 of 24

#### **amalgamator22**

Member Since: 09/15/07

Post: 20 of 24

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ter photos and the nice thing about a fixed focal length lens is that all your photos will be the same zoom and you can compare instead of "eyeballing" it and cropping and zooming, however it is a little more technique-sensitive and takes a little more muscle to hold it steady, but it takes beautiful photos that I would be proud to use for boards.

I would e-mail Rita Bauer or ask her at the AAO. ■

DEC 8 2010

**fesdds**

Member Since: 05/22/08

Post: 21 of 24

I have used Canons for almost seven years. I much prefer using a 60mm macro lens. It is much smaller and lighter for the staff. ■

DEC 9 2010

**akmal**

Member Since: 06/24/08

Post: 22 of 24

How could you get these nice photos with a compact camera? ■

DEC 10 2010

**BW'Braces**

Member Since: 06/22/09

Post: 23 of 24

A Canon G11 or G12 will accept a ring flash. It produces very nice photos without the weight. You also don't have to look through the viewfinder to focus. ■

JAN 17 2011



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