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One of the most difficult parts of getting started with photography is figuring out which camera to buy. Remember, youre not just buying one camera, youre buying into an entire camera system of lenses, accessories, and even potential future camera upgrades that will fit those lenses. So I took that all into consideration when I chose the Nikon Z50 as the best camera for beginners. It has everything a beginner needs to get started with photography and the Nikon Z mount system has some of the best lenses available on the market today. But there are other options you may want, based on your own preferences and budget, so keep reading to check out my breakdown of all the best beginner cameras. Photography Goals uses affiliate links. When you buy products through the links on our site, we may earn a commission. The Nikon Z50 is an excellent crop-sensor camera in the Nikon Z Mount system. In short, this is my top recommendation for beginners because it comes in at a reasonable price point but still has all the features you need to develop good photography skills for shooting just about anything. For more options, check out my picks for the best Nikon Cameras For Beginners. The biggest highlight here is that despite being a crop-sensor camera, it has the exact same Nikon Z mount as the full-frame Nikon Z cameras. There are two benefits to this. First, the Z mount is arguably the best mount on the market today. Its size and design allow Nikon to produce lenses that lead the pack in image quality while also making it easier to build smaller and more compact lenses without sacrificing that image quality. For some great lens options check out my picks for the best lenses for the Nikon Z50. Second, it means that even with somewhat of an entry-level camera, you can start building your kit of full-frame Z Mount lenses and they will work perfectly on this camera. Then, if you add a Z5 or Z6II to your bag, you wont need any new lenses. Even though the Z50 is smaller than the full-frame Z mount cameras, it still has excellent ergonomics. The decently sized grip is welcome and not always found on crop-sensor mirrorless cameras. There are some negatives, though. Because this is a crop sensor camera, the low light performance and dynamic range arent as good as the more expensive Z5 or Z6II cameras. Of course, this is expected given the price difference, but if you want a camera that works great in low-light situations like parties, natural light portraits after sunset, evening street photography, or others, then you may want to check out the Z5 below. If you want the same tech but in a very cool retro style and a screen that flips out to the side then you may want to check out the Nikon Zfc. It is basically the exact same camera as the Z50 but with a very different retro body style. The Canon R10 is also an excellent choice and really more of a second option at the top of this list rather than a runner-up. The main reason I would choose the Z50 over this camera is that I think the Nikon Z system is going to give you higher-quality lenses in the long run and is a better overall system to buy into. That being said, the specs on the Canon R10 actually beat out the Z50 at a similar price point. The R10 comes in at only $25-40 more than the Z50 for the body only. The Dual Pixel Auto Focus on the Canon mirrorless cameras is excellent. Like Nikon and Sony, it has eye autofocus which is really helpful in getting sharp eyes when shooting portraits. It is fast and great at following the action. Some reviewers have said its better than the Z50 but with the latest firmware, I really cant tell a difference between the AF on those two cameras. Like the Z50, I really like the ergonomics on this body. Its got a nice grip and is built like a smaller DSLR which makes it easier to hold and shoot for longer. This is one area where I think the Canon and Nikon crop-sensor mirrorless cameras beat out the Sony options. This camera uses Canons newer RF mount which means that you can use RF-S crop sensor lenses as well as full-frame RF lenses. Similarly to the Nikon Z system, there are more full-frame RF lenses than crop sensor options, but I absolutely expect Canon to start filling out more crop sensor options. In the meantime, there are plenty of crop sensor EF mount lenses that you can use with an adapter. I wouldnt recommend investing too much money in buying new EF lenses at this point but it can be cheaper to pick up one or two to get started on a lower budget compared to a brand-new RF lens. Skip the kit lenses that are offered with the R10. If you are a beginner just learning photography, youd be better off buying the body only and the RF 50mm f/1.8 lens. The wider max aperture will open up more creative options using shallow depth of field and let you shoot in lower light. Probably the best way to save money when buying a camera is to go with an older model and since Sony has had their mirrorless system longer than Canon and Nikon, so they have the advantage of having an older option like the A6000. The specs may not be up to par with the two choices above, but you can save a few hundred dollars and still buy into a decent system that is actively developing new lenses that work on crop-sensor cameras like this as well as the more expensive full-frame options. But that doesnt mean youll lose out on any image quality. The sensor in this camera is very good despite its age. Pair this camera with some higher-quality lenses and youll get great results at a pretty reasonable price. One of the biggest negatives for the Sony crop sensor cameras is the camera body itself. The ergonomics arent the best and the build quality and weather sealing fall behind the Nikon and Canon camera models above. The smaller grip size of this camera can be a bit annoying for anyone with average to large size hands. A smaller grip means you need to hold it a little tighter to avoid dropping it which means more hand fatigue when youre using the camera for a longer time. If you have smaller hands or do most of your shooting on a tripod, though, this is less of a concern. Generally, speaking, I think youll be a little better off long term if you invested in the Nikon or Canon system than Sony, but the differences are pretty minor. All three manufacturers make exceptional cameras and lenses. The Z5 is essentially Nikons entry-level full-frame camera. This is the perfect step up from the Z50 for beginners that have a little extra budget and want to get into a full-frame camera right away. When Nikon introduced the Z5, the goal was to give beginners (and even advanced hobbyists) a less expensive full-frame camera to get started with. At just a few hundred dollars more than the Z50, this is a great value and possibly the most affordable full-frame camera on the market. Because it is part of the Nikon Z mount system, you can save some money on the camera body (compared to a Z6II or Z7II) when youre getting started so you can invest more in lenses (which is a great idea). Check out my picks for the best lenses for the Nikon Z5. Youre going to get the same 24.3 megapixels as the more expensive Z6II but the sensor is not backside illuminated so it falls short of that camera in terms of low-light performance. There are going to be some advantages and disadvantages compared to the Z50, though. The Z5 only shoots 4.5 frames per second. So if you want a solid camera for your kids sports, then this is not the one for you. You would be better off with either the Z50. Overall, this camera is a bit of a mix of entry-level and pro features mixed together by Nikon to keep the price down. Its a great entry point into full-frame but the frames per second and the 1.7x crop factor on video will make you want to upgrade as soon as you can. Fujifilm has been around for a while and has successfully pivoted from popular film stocks to retro-styled digital cameras that use that rich history of film stocks as unique picture profiles that contribute to the popularity of these cameras. But dont let that connection to the past fool you, this camera has a lot of great technology built in. Many photographers love the image quality and color rendition they get from the X-Trans sensor. Fuji makes their sensors a little different from other camera systems and these subtle differences are appealing to a lot of people. I like this for beginners that want to focus on the more creative side of photography and will use the film profiles to feed that creativity. Like all the cameras on this list, the Fuji X-T30 has a great autofocus system including eye autofocus. In terms of video, youll get a very good 4K file from this camera. It records footage that is oversampled from the 6K sensor which does help give you a great quality image. You can also shoot at 240 frames per second in 1080p HD for some really nice-looking slow-motion footage. You can add the film simulations to the video footage as well, but I would recommend doing this kind of color grading in post-production rather than baking it into the video file itself. Overall, I like this camera a lot, but one thing to keep in mind is that Fuji doesnt have a full-frame lineup, only crop-sensor and medium format. So if you have plans to upgrade to full-frame at some point, then the Fuji system may not be a good fit. The Nikon Z30 is a smaller, somewhat stripped-down, version of the Z50 that is designed for vlogging. But that doesnt mean beginner photographers should ignore it. This is currently the least expensive entry point into the Z Mount system, so that alone makes it a great option for many beginners. Check out my picks for the best lenses for the Nikon Z30. As far as image quality, the Z30 uses the exact same sensor as the Z50, so the RAW files youll get from those two cameras will be of identical quality. The main difference between the Z30 and Z50 is that the Z30 has no viewfinder, only the rear screen. So if you are looking for a camera primarily for shooting stills, then the Z30 is going to be a little more difficult to use than the Z50, but overall their stills performance is the same so if you dont care about the viewfinder then you can save a few hundred dollars with the Z30. If you want to shoot some vlogs then I think the Z30 has a bit of an advantage over the Z50 with its side flip-out screen. The flip-down screen of the Z50 was an interesting attempt at innovation, but it really wasnt practical to use for shooting video yourself (I know this from experience). That being said, the video quality itself in the Z30 is identical to the Z50. I added this one to the list mainly because Sony does a great job with video and if you do a lot of vlogging then this is a good alternative to the Z30. This camera is pretty similar to the Z30 above. It is a little smaller and lighter than the Z30 so if weight is a concern and you have no brand preference, then this may be a good option for you. The 24.2-megapixel sensor has 4 more megapixels than the Z30. So while this doesnt make a huge difference, it you want to use this to make larger prints it the extra megapixels may be helpful. In terms of handling, while there is no viewfinder, I do like the ergonomics and handling of this body better than the A6000. It has a larger grip that makes handheld shooting a bit easier. Here are some popular cameras that, although they may be good cameras in general, are options that I wouldnt recommend as good options currently for beginners. One of the most popular cameras I see on lists recommending beginner-level cameras is the Canon M50. A few years ago when it came out, it might have been on this list as well. But currently, I wouldnt advise investing in this camera because of the mount. The M50 uses the EF-M mount, which is a mirrorless version same physical mount as the old EF mount. Its basically an EF mount with some more connectors built in. The problemCanon now has the RF mount for its mirrorless cameras. So I wouldnt expect much research and development to go into new lenses for the EF-M mount. Canon has not officially discontinued EF-M lenses, but I dont think that is far off as they develop new RF lenses. So if youre a beginner looking for your first camera, then buying the M50 means youll eventually have to switch over to an RF camera and change out your lenses if you want to continue shooting Canon. The Sony A6400 is another lens that seems to be popular to recommend for beginners. While it is a good camera, it is not one that I would recommend unless you have a good reason to buy into the Sony system. Ive seen a lot of other sites recommending the D3500 for beginners. I think this is a bad idea. In fact, you probably noticed that I havent included any Nikon DSLRs on this list at all. Nikon has recently stopped making new DSLRs or the F-mount lenses that go with them. So if you purchase a D3500, youll be buying into a system that has effectively been discontinued. In fact, I would avoid DSLRs altogether. Not because they are bad cameras, but because none of the major camera brands will be supporting them with new lenses in the long term as they have all created new mounts for their mirrorless systems. As an active professional photographer and owner of Photography Goals, I get the opportunity to use many different cameras. I teach photography to many beginners and these are the cameras that I recommend to my students. As a beginner, there are certain things you should be looking for when choosing a camera. You want something that is easy to learn on and will grow with you as your skills improve. Here are some of the factors I considered when making this list. For beginners, ease of use is a significant factor. If you are just learning photography then you want as few barriers to that skill development as possible. This is why I never recommend that beginners get the best, most expensive, flagship camera bodies for any manufacturer. Having a million buttons and functions can confuse beginners and prevent them from focusing on the fundamentals of photography that make the most difference in their images. If you are a beginner that wants to learn photography and develop your skills then you dont want to be limited in what you can do with a camera. That is why I recommend that beginners get a camera with interchangeable lenses. The best part of an interchangeable lens camera is that you can try a variety of different types of photography simply by buying or renting a new lens. This is why the point-and-shoot option isnt my top budget pick, even though it is less expensive than the actual pick. Of course, it is entirely possible to learn photography with a point-and-shoot camera like the one above, but it does limit you. Expandability is all about how you can grow with the camera system that you choose as a beginner. Some systems lend themselves to easy expandability where you can grow your camera kit piece by piece and everything is going to work well together. If you choose a good system from the beginning, you never have to go through the hassle and expense of trading in all your gear for a new set. You also have to consider the number of lenses available for a system. While I dont think that DSLR cameras are bad or inherently inferior, the reality is that the major camera brands are putting all their resources into developing new technology and lenses for their mirrorless systems. So theres really no reason why a beginner should get started with a DSLR at this point if they are looking to make a long-term investment and learn photography. Cameras are expensive. Theres really no way around that and whatever your budget is, you should keep within it. You can always upgrade later on. But I also recognize that if you are going to invest in a camera, you want to make sure you are getting your moneys worth. Also, remember that beginners do not need to spend as much money as possible on a camera body. If you have a budget, I would rather see you spend it on adding a 50mm f/1.8 lens to your kit rather than buying a more expensive body. When shooting in low light, your camera struggles to gather enough light to produce a well-exposed image. This challenge often ... Read More Have you ever gotten your photos onto your computer and then realized they werent as sharp as they should be? ... Read More ISO is one of the primary camera settings that you use to control the exposure of your image. It is ... Read More The reciprocal rule in photography is that when shooting a photo handheld, your shutter speed should be the reciprocal of ... Read More Understanding depth of field is one of the keys to ensuring that your photos are always in focus in the ... Read More Strictly speaking, the rule of thirds isnt limited to photography alone. It is directly connected to the Golden Ratio, seen ... Read More Your camera has several markings on them. The main shooting dial on your camera has the markings P, A, S, ... Read More Your digital camera has a built-in system for determining what the proper settings are. Its not perfect, but it does ... Read More If you are just starting in photography you must have come across the term focus or focusing quite a few ... Read More Are you desperate to get out of Auto mode but dont know where to start? Aperture Priority is the next ... Read More Never miss an important step again when you pick up your camera. Want better results in Lightroom, then you need these 11 fundamentals. Want tack-sharp portraits, try these 11 things. These are the important things that professionals know about photo editing. I decided to put together this article on the best camera for beginners after receiving so many emails from Shotkit fans.Although Shotkit is focused more on the professional photographer, it seems that more and more visitors come to the site looking to learn photography.Writing about the best camera for beginners is important to me since I was in the same place as you are now a few years ago. Editor's Choice Nikon D3400 Great image quality, features and value for money make this DSLR an excellent choice for a beginner. Check Current Price Everyone has to start somewhere youll need a suitable camera to help you learn the basics and help you get into photography.Id like to help you choose the best camera for learning photography to make sure you get off to a head start with your newfound hobby.[Related: Get to grips with the basics of photography with these handy cards.] Image Product Details Nikon D3400 with 18-55mm LensOUR #1 CHOICEMegapixels: 24.7Sensor Size: APS-CWeight: 445 g (15.7 oz) View Price Sony a6000 with 16-50mm LensTOP-RATEDMegapixels: 24Sensor Size: APS-CWeight: 344 g (12.16 oz) View Price Fujifilm X-A5 with 15-45mm LensGREAT VALUEMegapixels: 24.2Sensor Size: APS-CWeight: 361 g (12.7 oz) View Price Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark II with 14-42mm LensMegapixels: 16.1Sensor Size: 4/3Weight: 390 g (13.7 oz) View Price 1. Nikon D3400 with 18-55mm Lens Best Camera for Beginners (DSLR) Megapixels:24.7Sensor Size:APS-CDimensions:4.9 x 3.9 x 3 in. (124 x 98 x 75.5 mm)Weight:445 g (15.7 oz) At this point, DSLR cameras are still a very popular choice for beginners. Their main advantages over mirrorless cameras is affordability, battery life and ergonomics.Whilst Id usually recommend mirrorless cameras to beginners who wish to learn photography, due to budget restrictions, its not always possible. Around the $500 mark, its hard to beat a beginner DSLR camera.So if youre looking for the best DSLR camera for beginners, look no further the Nikon D3400 with 18-55mm lens is it. It is a good camera for beginners and even immediately skilled photographers alike.After spending a month shooting with it last year, I felt compelled to write a full review on the Nikon D3400 it impressed me that much! Most notably, I was surprised at how great the image quality was from such a budget camera.(I also put together a guide to the best Nikon D3400 lenses here.)As for the brand of the camera, theres always going to be a battle between Nikon and Canon. However, at this price point, the question of the which is best DSLR camera for beginners: Canon or Nikon, is answered simply the Nikon D3400 beats the closest Canon rival (the Canon T6) in every regard.Buying into the Nikon brand also opens the doors to endless creative opportunities with a large number of great Nikon lenses on offer. (If for some reason you decide to start with a Canon DSLR, there are obviously many great Canon lenses to choose from too.) As a novice photographer, its confusing enough trying to choose the best camera to learn photography, let alone the best lens. While I do recommend investing in different lenses later down the line, your best bet when just starting out with photography is to stick with the kit-lens.This Nikon D3400 comes bundled with an 18-55mm kit lens, which offers a good range from wide-angle to telephoto field of view. This means youll be able to shoot landscapes (or groups of people), as well as flattering portraits or things at a distance.Aside from offering excellent image quality and a versatile kit lens, the Nikon D3400 is the smallest and lightest DSLR youll come across.As a photography beginner, you should be taking your camera with you wherever you go, and unless its small and light, itll quickly become a burden.The D3400 is a joy to hold or carry, and the button/dial placement is logically and comfortably arranged for any size hand Im 6ft 4 with giant hands and found it fine to use, as did my wife who has much smaller hands than me!Nikon D3400 + 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6G | 1/640 at f/4.8 ISO 800 @18mmOther features that arent necessarily essential to beginners learning photography but do make the shooting experience on the Nikon D3400 more fun include: 5 frames-per-second continuous shooting mode (to shoot a quick sequence of photos); Bluetooth (to quickly share a photo to your phone); 24.2 MegaPixels (in case you need to print a large photo; 60P Full HD video recording, and great battery life (up to 1,200 photos per charge!)What makes the Nikon D3400 stand out the most as a camera for beginners is the inclusion of both manual controls and something called Guide Mode.Guide Mode helps new photographers create better images with proper exposures. Its aimed directly at beginner photographers, helping you to take the guesswork out of camera settings and allow you to focus more on getting the shot.Whereas Scene Modes (i.e. the little symbols on the top dial of most cameras which show icons of fireworks, flowers, people, etc.) are set for you by the camera, Guide Modes are more intuitive, allowing you the photographer to adjust settings its almost like having a photography tutor with you at all times ;-)If youre looking for the best DSLR for beginners that is currently available with a lens for under $400, the Nikon D3400 with 18-55mm lens really is an unbeatable offer. Dont be concerned about the Nikon D5600, D3500 or any newer model the D3400 offers the best bang for the buck.Best Nikon camera for beginners Megapixels:24Sensor Size:APS-CDimensions:1.77 x 4.72 x 2.64 in. (44 x 120 x 191 mm)Weight: 344 g (12.16 oz) If you can stretch your budget to around $550, you can get an the excellent Sony a6000 with 16-50mm lens.Out of all the Sony cameras that are great for beginners, the a6000 is the best value for money.The Sony a6000 is whats known as a mirrorless camera, which brings a huge advantage to beginners in what I call WYSIWIG photography (what-you-see-is-what-you-get).With a DSLR camera, the hole your eye peers through when taking a photo (aka the viewfinder), is basically just like a window youre seeing the world as it is in front of you. With a mirrorless camera, however, youre looking at a tiny LCD screen, which is showing you a digital projection of the world.Heres the key any adjustments you make with your cameras settings show up as exposure adjustments inside that little LCD screen before you take the shot. As a beginner learning photography, this is an invaluable lesson on how ISO, Aperture and shutter speed can change the way a photo looks all in real-time.There are lots of great mirrorless camera available, but unfortunately, most of them are priced outside the budget of beginner photographers.The Sony a6000 however, is the best value for money mirrorless camera, and also happens to be the most popular mirrorless camera ever made. This is the best camera for photography beginners who want to get the most bang for their buck.It may be several years old, and newer models continue to be released, but dont get distracted this is a great camera and one of the best cameras for beginners you can buy this year. If you handled a DSLR in your search for a beginners camera and found it to be a little too bulky, then the svelte Sony a6000 should be perfect.With the versatile 16-50mm power zoom lens attached, its still compact enough to slip into a pocket, and definitely light enough to be carried around all day.The 16-50mm focal length offers great versatility for a beginner and allows you to see the difference between composing with a wide-angle field-of-view vs a tighter telephoto one.There are so many great Sony lenses to choose from when you start getting more advanced with your photography, but this kit-lens is a good place to start for beginners. Trending: Sony Alpha a6000 Lenses ReviewedUsually, I prefer the bulkier ergonomics of a DSLR camera for my professional work, with the more pronounced handgrip and sturdier feel, but I still prefer compact cameras for traveling, or for when I just want something small to slip into my jacket pocket.As I mentioned before, a camera must have a Manual mode to be considered relevant for a beginner to photography. Being able to manually control all the elements of exposure is an essential learning step, and thankfully, the Sony a6000 supports full manual control I particularly liked the ability to control aperture and shutter speed using its dials, which are comfortably placed. This makes it a great professional camera for beginners to start honing their skills with.The area where the Sony a6000 really stands head and shoulders above any DSLR for beginners is in its incredible AutoFocus. With 179 AF points and 11 frames-per-second, you wont be missing any shots of fast moving action.Sony a6000 | 1/320 at f/5.6 ISO 2300Is it essential to have such lightning-fast AF on a camera for beginners? In my opinion, no. Learning the focus and recompose technique is a valuable step, and fast AF isnt necessary here.However, it is a luxury to have such great AF in a camera at this price, so well take it if its there!Other luxuries on the Sony a6000 include 60P full HD recording, WiFi (to share photos) and a tilting LCD display.The tilting display isnt a prerequisite for a camera for beginners either, but I do like its inclusion here. Being able to tilt your cameras rear LCD can encourage exploration of more creative compositions since youre able to get low and high much easier.Finally, I should also mention that in my review of the Sony a6000, I found it to be a hugely fun camera to shoot with. This is a purely subjective statement, but having a fun camera for a beginner is a great thing since youll want to pick it up to shoot with more and more.The only negative of the Sony a6000 is that you may not find it available for much longer since its an older model, theres always a chance that Sony will halt production completely. Id recommend getting one sooner rather than later Megapixels:24.2Sensor Size:APS-CDimensions: 4.6 x 2.7 x 2.6 in. (116 x 67 x 40 mm)Weight: 361 g (12.7 oz) I thought long and hard about whether to include this next mirrorless camera in my selection of the best cameras for beginners.You see, while the Fujfilm X-A5 ticks all the right boxes in the beginner photographer category, it lacks one feature that some diehard photographers consider to be somewhat standard on a camera for someone learning photography a viewfinder!Seeing the world through that small window, be it an actual window (an OVF or optical viewfinder, as found on DSLRs), or an LCD (an EVF or electronic viewfinder, as found on mirrorless cameras), is considered by some to be an important step in learning compositionWith mirrorless cameras though, you could argue that theres actually no difference between seeing the world through that small EVF, or just looking at the rear LCD display both methods show exactly the same digital image.Fujifilm makes excellent cameras, and their Fujifilm X-lenses are some of the best available today. Im also a big fan of the image quality produced by the unique Fujifilm sensor, and also the fun film-look filters that perfectly replicate old film stock.I really wanted to include a camera from Fujifilm in this roundup of the best cameras for beginners, but due to their higher prices, its hasnt been possible until now! Released earlier this year, the Fujfilm X-A5 with 15-45mm lens now gives beginners a great camera + lens combination for a great price. So with a beginner-friendly price accounted for, how are the Manual settings on this dinky pocket-sized camera? Well, as you can expect from a company that made so many great film cameras back in the day, the Manual settings are all there.One neat feature of the X-A5 is the dedicated Exposure Compensation shooting mode, which allows you to adjust exposure using the main dial its kind of a semi-manual mode, which is a good mid-point for when youre comfortable with both the auto and fully-manual modes.Due to the compact size of the Fujifilm X-A5, the buttons are a little closely packed together for my big fingers, and the second dial placement is a little unusual, but all the main buttons/dials are in easy reach and stick out prominently enough from the camera body to allow for easy operation.The 15-45mm lens that comes with the Fujifilm X-A5 is a power zoom, much like the aforementioned Sony. This is a first for a Fujfilm X lens, and basically means you get a small, lightweight lens with a versatile field of view.So having fulfilled my 3 main criteria as a great camera for a photography beginner, what else has the Fujifilm X-A5 to offer? Well, since its the newest camera on this list, it has some features that the others dont.The selfie mode on the Fujfilm X-A5 may seem like a gimmick but for some photographers and vloggers its an invaluable feature.Aside from excellent image quality, 24.2 MegaPixels, Advanced Filters, 4K video, and Bluetooth image sharing technology, the Fujifilm X-A5 is the best camera for selfies in its class, thanks to a touchscreen, 180 degree rotating LCD monitor.While other cameras might offer a 180 degree rotating LCD, its the Portrait Enhancer and Eye Detection AF functionality which makes the Fujifilm X-A5 the best camera for selfies Ive ever seen. Are selfies essential for beginners? No, of course not but they are fun ;-)The way you can view yourself so easily with the rotating screen also makes the Fujifilm X-A5 the best camera for beginner vloggers. Eye Detection will help to ensure your eyes are always in sharp focus, while the background falls out of focus for a more professional-looking video.As I mentioned before, having a fun camera is important for a photography beginner since itll make you want to pick it up and shoot with it more and more. Anything that makes the photography experience more enjoyable for a beginner is a big plus in my book.I should also mention the styling of the Fujifilm X-A5, which will undoubtedly appeal much more to the younger or more fashion-centric generation of beginner photographers.With retro aluminum styling and pink, black or brown leather accents, this is going to be one popular Fujifilm camera for beginners. Megapixels: 16.1Sensor Size: Micro Four ThirdsDimensions: 4.7 x 3.6 x 3.3 in . (119 x 83 x 46 mm)Weight: 390 g (13.7 oz) Remember at the start of this article when I said that theres little point worrying about factors such as megapixels and sensor size when choosing a camera for a beginner? Well, case in point, the Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark II with 14-42mm lens the camera with the longest name and the smallest sensor!It used to be the case that the fewer the megapixels or the smaller the sensor, the lesser the camera. However, this is definitely not the case. With modern sensor technology, the difference in the number of megapixels or sensor size at this price point is largely irrelevant.Long story short, the Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark II has a lot to offer at a great price, making it an ideal camera for a beginner whos just picking up photography, but still offering enough room to grow far beyond that. This is one of if not the best digital cameras for beginners!Dont be alarmed that this isnt the latest model the Olympus EM10 Mark III is also a great camera, but in my opinion, the best bang-for-your-buck is to be had with this Mark II version.The Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark II is a unique form of mirrorless camera called a Micro-Four-Thirds sensor camera (MFT or M4/3). This refers to a sensor thats small enough to be housed in a compact body, while offering the ability to attach smaller/lighter lenses, without sacrificing image quality. I wrote a whole article on the best micro four thirds lenses, but in a nutshell, all the lenses available to Micro Four Thirds cameras such as this Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark II are smaller, lighter and cheaper than the equivalent lenses in other camera systems.In other words, when you want to buy another lens for your camera, you should be able to find a smaller/lighter/cheaper version for this Olympus than you would for the Sony, Fujifilm or Nikon mentioned above.Whether this is a major consideration for photography beginners is questionable, since the kit lenses that come with each camera in this article are more than adequate. However, if you see yourself growing quickly with photography and investing in a lot of lenses, this could be something to think about.The Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark II is a beautifully styled camera. It takes all the best technology from mirrorless cameras and combines it with the ergonomics of a DSLR camera. There are large buttons and dials all over the body, making sure your first Manual Mode experience in photography is a fun one!Its also the only camera in this article that offers two separate top-mounted dials to control aperture and shutter speed. This isnt an essential function by any means, but as a professional reviewing entry-level cameras, I really appreciated this inclusion on the Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark II this being the exact set up I have on my pro-grade cameras.[If youre just getting into photography, you may find this article on what is aperture useful.]Aside from excellent ergonomics and stellar image quality, the Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark II also offers 5-axis image stabilization, which is unusual for a camera at this price point.Olympus O-MD E-M10 Mark II | 1/160 f/1.8 ISO 800This basically allows you to use a slower shutter speed, or lower ISO when shooting handheld in low light like in the photo above. Dont worry if those terms confuse you, youll discover what Im referring to when you start to learn photography.Other great, but non-essential features on the Olympus include 8.5fps burst mode (for freezing fast-moving action), silent shutter mode (to shoot incognito), Wifi (for image sharing), art filters (for that Instagram look!), full HD movie mode, and something called touch-to-shoot.Its this touch-to-shoot thats most exciting for me since it offers such rare functionality for a camera these days I wish all cameras had it! It means that you can simply touch the rear LCD screen to make the camera focus and shoot instantaneously.While its important for a beginner to learn how to focus on subjects using regular AutoFocus, having this touch-to-shoot function is a great short-cut for when youve learned the basics and just want to enjoy what the camera has to offer you to make your life as a photographer easier!As I mentioned at the start of this article, getting a feel for each camera is a very important step in choosing the camera that suits you best as a beginner photographer. The Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark II is like a mini DSLR, but with the advanced technology of a mirrorless the best of both worlds in a body akin to a compact camera.I spent a month shooting with its big brother the OM-D E-M5 Mark II (reviewed here) and was impressed by the image quality. The image sensors in both cameras are the same, meaning the more affordable Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark II represents great value for money. I wouldnt hesitate to recommend it to anyone learning photography. What is the best camera to buy for a beginner photographer?The best camera for beginners is the Nikon D3400, followed closely by the Sony a6000. The Fujifilm XA-5 and Olympus OM-D E-M5 Mark II are also excellent cameras. In all cases, there are newer models available, but choosing a camera from these 4 models offers the best bang for your buck.Is Canon or Nikon better for beginners?The main difference between Canon and Nikon is the number of lenses available Canon tend to cater better to professional photographers who require certain types of exotic glass. For beginners to photography, it really doesnt matter whether you start with a Canon or a Nikon camera, or indeed, Sony, Fujifilm, or any other brand. The main concern is whether the camera suits you and whether the body and the lenses you require are in your price range.What should I look for in a beginner camera?1. PriceAs a beginner buying a camera, the price will be a primary concern. Not spending too much is obviously the goal, but investing sufficient money into a camera that allows you to learn and grow is ideal.2. Manual SettingDiving headfirst into the Manual (M) setting on a camera as a beginner learning photography can be daunting. However, its essential that your first camera has the M setting.3. Interchangeable LensesWhilst point-and-shoots and compact cameras have their place, its much better to get a camera that supports interchangeable lenses when learning photography. Learning about lenses goes hand in hand with learning about cameras.What is the easiest camera to use?Most digital cameras these days have a slight learning curve, but we tend to find the Canon menu system the simplest to understand, followed closely by Nikon, then Fujifilm, then Sony. Some camera bodies have dedicated physical buttons, while other hide options in their menus. One of the reasons we chose the Nikon D3400 as the best camera for beginners is that its relatively easy to use theres even a helpful guide system to walk beginners through the features.Do more megapixels mean better photo quality?No, not necessarily. Beginners neednt be concerned about the number of megapixels that a camera offers. The models weve reviewed for this guide to the best camera for beginners all offer enough megapixels to allow users to print their photos at A4 size (at least), without any noticeable degradation in print quality. There are also some great tools available to enlarge your photos too, such as Gigapixel AI.What you need to know before buying a DSLR camera?Even if you invest in the very best camera for beginners, without the right lenses, youll never be making the most of what youve got. Before buying a DSLR camera, you need to budget for at least one good lens. Its likely that your camera will come with a kit lens, which is fine initially but investing in a prime lens soon after is a good idea.What is a good starter camera? If youre looking for a good starter camera, consider one of the following:Panasonic Lumix G100Panasonic LUMIX FZ80Nikon Z fcNikon D3500Canon EOS R50Canon EOS R10Sony ZV-E10Sony A6100Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark IVFujifilm X-T5 With this article, I tried to simplify the process of finding the best camera for beginners to only 4 models.Im aware that there are other Internet guides on choosing a camera when youre learning photography that include many more options, but Ive deliberately tried to simplify things here on Shotkit.Starting out with photography shouldnt be fraught with numerous buying decisions. Most cameras offer very similar features and having too many options for you to consider can lead to decision fatigue, not to mention an unenjoyable purchasing experience.By whittling the options down to just 4 cameras from 4 trusted brands, Ive tried to offer you as the novice photographer an easier way to choose your first camera.If you can, pick up each beginner camera and see which one feels best in your hands. As long as you find one that feels good to you, you can rest assured that all the other factors have been taken into consideration, and youll be left with the perfect camera to start your photographic journey.You should also check out our guide to the best camera lenses for beginners. Editor's Choice Nikon D3400 Great image quality, features and value for money make this DSLR an excellent choice for a beginner. Check Current Price The use of our website, photographygoals.com, and our tutorials (collectively, the Services) is governed by the following Terms and Conditions of Use(Terms) and privacy policy (Legal Notices). By using our Services, whether you are a registered user or not, you expressly agree to these Legal Notices which are provisioned to protect both you and us. If you disagree with any part of the Terms, then you do not have permission to access the Services. Updated September 24, 2019 From time to time, we may modify or update our Legal Notices. If we do modify or update our Legal Notices, your continued use of our Services after the effectiveness of the modification or update will be deemed to represent your agreement with, and consent to be bound by, the new Legal Notices. Our Service may contain links to third party websites or services that are not owned or controlled by PHOTOGRAPHY GOALS. 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You are prohibited from posting on or transmitting through our website any unlawful, harmful, threatening, abusive, harassing, defamatory, vulgar, obscene, sexually explicit, profane, hateful, racially, ethnically or otherwise objectionable material of any kind that infringes the intellectual property rights or is otherwise injurious to third parties, including but not limited to any material or content that encourages conduct that would constitute a criminal offense, give rise to civil liability or otherwise violate any applicable local, state, national or international law. If you are under 18, please do not attempt to access, post or register on our website. You will retain all

these will boast more features, you may not need these whilst only first beginning to learn. If you have the budget and are happy to purchase your first camera in this price range, go for it! You will be getting an excellent camera and it can be a good investment. Three examples from Canons range of varying budgets. The left (Canon EOS 4000D) is an entry level budget camera. Centre is a Canon EOS 2500, a mid-range camera. The far right (Canon 90D) is a high end camera. Learn how to use your camera properly here. The biggest difference you will find between a low and high-end camera is their build. You will find an entry level camera will have a plastic build, whereas a high model will be made of metals, will be significantly more durable and be weather proofed. It's not just build quality that you pay more for. Its the computer processor too. The faster the processor, the more it can do. Examples being fast continuous shutter bursts and pro filming features like 4k slow mo. Just like how a computer runs faster with a better processor, or a car drives faster with a more powerful engine, cameras run along this theme too. Think you might want a more robust model that can take a knock or two? It might be worth investing in a more expensive camera, as this is what you pay for. However, its just for learning a lowest cost model will do the trick. Dont stress if your budget doesnt meet the cost of a high-end camera. A low cost beginner camera is perfectly capable of covering what you need while you are learning and you can always upgrade at a later date.Remember- a more expensive camera will not make your photography better if you dont know how to use a lower-end/budget camera. If you are looking for a beginner camera, you will achieve the same results with a budget camera as you would a high-end whilst learning.More money doesnt equal better photos! If you want proof of this, see our other blog 3,800 vs 150 is it worth it? Next, youll want to consider what type of beginner camera youre looking for. Cameras typically fall into these three categories:COMPACT- a compact is typically a point and shoot camera, small enough to fit into your pocket. These have a fixed, non-interchangeable lens and will typically have automatic settings. These arent recommended if you want to learn the ins and outs of photography. Whilst they can be a good beginner camera, they will typically have smaller sensors, and so compromises quality in low light settings (more on this later!) An example of a compact camera, known as a point and shoot. BRIDGE-a bridge camera is similar to a compact, due to both having fixed, non-interchangeable lenses. However, with a bridge comes some more advanced features. One of the most noticeable differences between a bridge and a compact is the power of the zoom, which is what makes the bridge less of a compact beginner camera. A handy beginner camera but limiting in its image quality and learning prospects. We dont recommend a bridge camera for learning as its aimed at the point and shoot type person, not someone who wants to take control of the visual effects of photography via manual settings and other lenses. An example of a bridge camera DSLR/MIRRORLESS- These are what we highly recommend be your choice for a beginner camera. With interchangeable lenses, manual settings and all-round better features for a beginner, a DSLR or mirrorless is the best place to begin learning photography. This camera would give beginners more control, a better sensor and the interchangeability between lenses. An example of a DSLR camera As long you have a camera with an interchangeable lens and the ability to go fully manual, you have the right beginner camera to learn with and take control of the visual effects of photography.Check out our Recommended Cameras here Whilst on your search for the best beginner camera 2023 has to offer, youve likely seen the term mirrorless and wondered what it meant? A mirrored camera has a mirror inside that allows light to bounce and reflect into the viewfinder. This in turn gives you a live view of your subject. With a mirrorless camera, these mirrors are removed, which enables the camera body to be more compact. The viewfinder is a digital representation of the scene rather than a live view of it. Similar to looking at a TV projection of what the sensor is seeing. This electronic viewfinder can mean a delay in the view, but does mean a smaller camera body can be produced. An example of a mirrored (left) camera and a non-mirrored camera (right). Pros of DSLR cameraOptical viewfinders, therefore no delayUsually have longer battery livesTypically cheaper than a mirrorlessCons of DSLR cameraThey are heavier and bulkier Pros of Mirrorless cameraLighter and more compactAn electronic viewfinder means a more accurate preview of image exposureSilent shooting modesCons of Mirrorless cameraA shorter battery life More expensivePotential delay in viewfinderAn LCD display can be problematic when outside in bright light How much are you willing to carry around with you? Remember, the camera itself is not the only factor to consider here. The camera body, lenses, tripod, camera bag- these are all largely dictated by the size of the camera. The cameras size is largely directed by the size of its light sensor. Camera equipment laid out showing how much can go into a kit. To break it down, a sensor is a light sensor within the camera body, and this is what captures the light and gives you an image. The common sensor sizes are:- Full frame sensor (35mm)-Crop/APS-C sensor (22mm) - Micro 4:3 (17mm) A diagram showing the size differences between a Full Frame, Crop and Micro sensor, as well as their sizes Take a look at these two cameras below. The Canon on the left is significantly larger than the Olympus on the right, and this is due to the Olympus having a micro 4:3 sensor, whereas the Canon has a full frame sensor. A camera with a full frame sensor (left) vs a camera with a micro 4:3 sensor (right) Next, take a look at this Fujifilm below (centre), a cropped sensor camera. Whilst initially they look similar, the differences come when you begin to use lenses. The Micro 4:3 sensor camera (in this case, the Olympus) will hold lighter and smaller lenses, whereas the crop sensor camera will require bigger lenses, with the full frame camera needing even bigger lenses. Three cameras showing size differences based on sensor sizes; Full frame (Left, Canon), Cropped (Centre, Fujifilm), and Micro 4:3 (Right, Olympus) Remember, the larger the sensor, the larger the lenses and camera body. The larger the camera, the heavier the tripod. The weight and size of your camera kit very quickly adds up!Learn more about sensor sizes Now weve discussed the different sensor sizes, its time to consider the image quality and the purpose of your photos. The bigger the sensor size, the better the image quality will be. Bigger sensors perform better at higher ISOs needed for low light photography. However, there is a trade off to that- the bulkier camera.When deciding which sensor size is right for you, consider the following pros and cons.Full Frame Sensors ProsBigger sensors mean more detail Comes into effect if printing very big images or doing high end retouching and digital manipulation. Better in low light situations A bigger sensor has bigger pixels which means each pixel can capture more light and this creates less noise at higher ISOs. To learn more about ISO and noise, click here. ConsBigger camera bodies and bigger lenses Full frame sensor kits are a lot larger and heavier. Dont forget, the bigger the camera the bigger the lenses and tripod needed. When you start carrying around a full frame camera, 3 lenses and a tripod that will take its weight, youll notice the difference believe me! Expensive Full frame cameras tend to be more expensive. Not only this but the lenses and accessories for full frames are also more expensive so make sure you have deep pockets!APS C and Micro 4:3 SensorsPros Smaller kit- in contrast to the above these kits are a lot smaller and lighter, particularly the Micro 4 3 system. If you want to carry around a small kit with a light tripod, then this will be the way to go. Cheaper in general smaller sensor cameras are cheaper, particularly the APS C system. The APS C (crop sensor) system is the most common and therefore there are a lot of camera brands competing for your money and thats where bargains can be had. The most cost-effective system is the starter camera kits most of the big names offer. Remember, its not what youve got its what you can do with it so dont be fooled by spending big money to get great shots!Cons Lower quality than full frame But lets be clear on this, because APS C or Micro 4 3 is lower quality than full frame, doesnt mean its low quality. These days all of these cameras produce fantastic results. See below examples of photographs taken with a Full Frame and Micro 4 3 sensor. More noise at higher ISO Smaller camera sensors tend to perform worst at high ISOs. This will come into play in low light situations.At the end of the day just figure out what it is you will be using your camera for. Will you be printing big prints? Will you be retouching or doing heavy manipulation to your photography? How much money do you want to spend? And how much you want to carry around with you?Answer those questions and chose your system around that. As mentioned previously Its not what youve got, its how you use it. A good photographer will be able to take good pictures with any camera. For proof of this, click here. When it comes to a beginner camera, the brand quite simply doesnt matter. One brand over another wont make your photography better, and they will all always be competing to offer the latest feature. Maybe one offers Bluetooth connection to your phone for transfer of photos? Maybe another connects to Wi-Fi for direct posting. Regardless of these features, the photography aspect remains the same. What we would suggest is to ask your photographer friends. What camera brand do they have? When beginning your photography journey, its always good to have a friend who is into photography a phone call away to answer any questions you might have about the camera. For instance if you have a friend that uses Fuji cameras, maybe thats the brand you want to go for. Then when looking for that auto focus setting you cant find, you can give them a bell and ask where it is. Some of the many different camera brands you can choose from. The other thing you might consider is what deals are being offered. Dont forget you will also need a camera bag, SD Card, tripod etc, so if theres a good bundle deal going, theres your answer!Best Beginners Photography Equipment Whether youre a film student, vlogger, or just want to film some family memories, you can now get amazing quality from a DSLR camera. But which beginner camera can best film?Take a look at the specs. We would recommend something that can film in 4K and shoot at 60fps. Whilst not necessarily essential, its a really good feature. Buying second hand can be a really cost effective entry into photography, and potentially a great way to start your beginner photography journey. However, as with all second hand purchases, there are a few risks involved.Here is what we would recommend looking for when browsing the second hand market: -A low shutter count. Just like how you look at mileage on a car, look or ask what the shutter count is. This is easy and simple to find, and a great way to judge the life of the camera.- The history of the camera. Just like the used car scenario, ask about the history, how many owners has it had? If the current owner bought it new and it has a low shutter count, youre likely to be getting a decent camera. If they dont know the history or the age, proceed with caution.-The seller. If in doubt, check out a reputable seller such as camera shops or websites. These will often have a second-hand section, with professionals testing and making sure the camera is in good working order. These may sometimes also include an extended warranty with the shop and offer you a little more protection. Just be aware, with these advantages will come a slightly higher price tag than places such as a local selling group or auction site.Amongst the vast world of second-hand cameras in 2023 lies refurbished cameras, another good route to get yourself a great beginner camera and save some money.A refurbished camera is where a customer has bought the camera and then returned it. This can be for a whole range of reasons, such as a fault or simply not wanting it anymore. Whats great about a refurbished camera is that the company the camera is sent back to will check the camera over, fix the fault if needed and make it as good as new to resell. Youll also likely get a years warranty. Buy second-hand equipment UK - Buy second-hand equipment USA Budget! Stick to your budget. When youre starting more money does not mean better photography!Do you want a better build quality or invest your money in the future?You will need a camera that goes fully manual and a lens is interchangeable. Size! If size is really important, then consider the sensor sizes! Consider image quality- not shooting at high ISOss or printing large? Then a smaller sensor is fine! Wanting the complete opposite? Go for the full frame sensor. And of course, you have the crop sensor for a happy medium.Brand- You could go for the cheapest, this is fine! Alternatively, you can go for a more familiar brand to your photography friends in order to share knowledge Filming- Will you be filming with your camera? If so, try to at least get a 4K filming camera, with 60fps as a great bonus. Brand new or second hand? Buying second hand can be a great option, albeit a slightly riskier one. Just consider our points above! Im Marc Newton and Im a photographer, educational speaker, author, teacher of photography and the founder of The School of Photography. Follow my personal work on Facebook, Instagram and Vero. The School of Photography Welcome to The Photography Goals Podcast! Heres where you can find it: I started this podcast to talk about all the photography topics that dont work too well on the website or YouTube. I also wanted to be able to have conversations with some great people in the photography world and share their insights and knowledge with you. Looking for the best cameras for beginners? Our list will have you shooting in no time.For the longest time, many people didnt think they could ever get into photography either as a profession or as a hobby. This is because many people saw the amount of gear you might have to buy if you wanted any kind of quality picture. Thankfully, the days of hundreds of dollars in tech keeping those interested away are gone. The tech remains, but not everyone is looking to be a professional or a serious hobbyist. For those looking to take quality pictures using something other than their smartphone, we have some good news.We heard your plight and wanted to help provide you with some help if youre just beginning to explore photography. With our list of the Best Cameras for Beginners in 2025, we think we can help get you started. Choosing a camera can be a daunting process, and there can be a lot of options to choose from. If you look online, the number of choices can be staggering. To clear the confusion, our list has what we consider the best cameras for beginners so you can start taking amazing pictures right away. If youre looking for a film camera, see our feature on the best film cameras for beginners. And check out our list of the best photography courses to help with your learning journey. If budget is of concern, see our post on the best cheap cameras for photography. The Nikon D3500 is the best camera for beginners overall its as easy to use as a point-and-shoot camera and has a bigger sensor than cell phone cameras. However, check out our comparison table to see what camera is best for your needs. Best Overall Best Budget Best Compact The best selfie camera Best For Travel Best For Vlogging Nikon D3500 W/ AF-P DX NIKKOR 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6G VR Black Fujifilm X-T200 Mirrorless Digital Camera w/XC15-45mm Kit - Dark Silver Panasonic LUMIX ZS100 4K Digital Camera, 20.1 Megapixel 1-Inch Sensor 30p Video Camera, 10X LEICA DC... Nikon Z 50 with Two Lenses | Compact mirrorless stills/video camera with wide-angle and telephoto... OLYMPUS OM-D E-M10 Mark IV Silver Body with Silver M.Zuiko Digital ED 14-42mm F3.5-5.6 EZ Lens Kit... Sony Alpha ZV-E10 - APS-C Interchangeable Lens Mirrorless Vlog Camera - White Rangefinder-style mirrorless 3.5-inch, -90 to +180 degree rotatable, touch Best Overall Nikon D3500 W/ AF-P DX NIKKOR 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6G VR Black Best Budget Fujifilm X-T200 Mirrorless Digital Camera w/XC15-45mm Kit - Dark Silver 3.5-inch, -90 to +180 degree rotatable, touch Best Compact Panasonic LUMIX ZS100 4K Digital Camera, 20.1 Megapixel 1-Inch Sensor 30p Video Camera, 10X LEICA DC... The best selfie camera Nikon Z 50 with Two Lenses | Compact mirrorless stills/video camera with wide-angle and telephoto... Best For Travel OLYMPUS OM-D E-M10 Mark IV Silver Body with Silver M.Zuiko Digital ED 14-42mm F3.5-5.6 EZ Lens Kit... Best For Vlogging Sony Alpha ZV-E10 - APS-C Interchangeable Lens Mirrorless Vlog Camera - White Rangefinder-style mirrorless Lets start by taking a closer look at what you should be looking for in a first camera. When you start shopping for a camera, it can be very daunting looking at all of the different options out there. To help, we wanted to highlight some areas for you to pay attention to when you choose a camera. You didnt think that cameras were free, did you? Unfortunately, not yet. The easiest way to determine how much to spend is to come up with an overall budget and narrow the window as much as you can. For example, if you want to spend less than $1,000 on a camera, youre going to run into a lot of options and get overwhelmed easily. If you narrow that down further, you can find a more specific selection of cameras for you to select from. Overall, the different types of cameras can be broken down into three options: Point-and-shoot, mirrorless, and DSLRs. While these are pretty defined types, they can blur from time to time. Lets take a closer look:Point-and-shoot cameras are the most compact and convenient option on the list. These types have a constant lens that is built into the camera. While the lenses arent interchangeable, the zoom range is pretty wide. The quality of these cameras can run from inexpensive to some higher-price options.Mirrorless systems are the most popular camera option out there, and most will have interchangeable lenses like a big DSLR but at a smaller size. While some can provide high-resolution images, mirrorless systems are a good compromise between versatility and quality.DSLRs are fancy-looking, classic-design cameras that come with all the buttons as well as the big lenses from time to time. While DSLRs on the lower end can offer you good quality and provide you with a ton of control, the assortment of lenses and flashes available can be a bit overwhelming. This, plus all the other gadgets available for DSLRs, can help you achieve all kinds of creative effects. When the cameras went digital, the sensor replaced the film. These sensors can differ in size and resolution, which is measured in megapixels as well as sensitivity to light. Of course, the biggest sensors with a high resolution tend to be pricey. The majority of cameras use either a smaller sensor, known as a cropped frame, or a full frame. The easiest way to know how your cameras megapixels will affect your images is to think of it as the resolution on your television. A higher resolution means a better image, and the same is true with the number of megapixels your camera has. If you have ever used a camera with film, you may be familiar with this term. This is the measurement of the sensitivity that the sensor has to light. For shooting in low-light conditions, you will want to look at options that not only shoot at a high ISO of 1600 or more but still produce decent pictures. One of if not the most important parts of the camera is the lens. For the picture you are taking to get to the sensor, it needs to pass through the lens first. If a point-and-shoot camera is a way you are going, compare the zoom range across several choices, but be warned that big zoom numbers may not be worth it if another camera has the features you need. Big zoom numbers often mean compromises in light sensitivity and definition. If you choose a DSLR, the options you have in terms of lenses are almost endless, but the price rises accordingly. As you are likely upgrading from your smartphone camera, you should be looking for a user-friendly option such as an entry-level DSLR, mirrorless camera, or a decent compact camera with good performance. This way, you wont be spending a lot of money on a high-end camera and will be getting the basic features you need to learn photography. Megapixels are one of the primary selling points of camera brands. You might have noticed some cameras offering up to 80-90 megapixels. But do you really need all those megapixels? Huge megapixel cameras let you produce big prints with a lot of details and help you get a magnified view. But these are not great for capturing photos in low light. Moreover, if you are not really looking to capture such gigantic prints, then you can opt for a decent one. Nikon D3500. Image credit: Nikon / AmazonThe best all-round camera for beginnersTypeDSLRSensorAPS-CMegapixels24.2MPScreen3.0-inch, 921k, fixedViewfinderPentamirrorLens (effective)27-82.5mmContinuous shooting speed5fpsMax video resolution1080pIf you have never used a camera before, using the D3500 from Nikon is the perfect option, as the entire design gets you up and running right away. With an intelligent fully automatic mode, wide-ranging scene mode, and numerous effects we can choose from, the Nikon DSLR D3500 provides everything we need to get started.From our experience, it has a high-performance 24.2MP sensor and processor, as well as a large ISO range and a high-resolution LCD screen. These features show off the cameras quality to take stunning point-and-shoot pictures that will look better than a cellphone camera. While the LCD isnt a touch screen, the overall package makes this Nikon DSLR worth looking at.Cons Excellent default JPEG processing Doesnt support WiFi connectivity Decent burst speed of 5fps for an entry-level DSLR camera Doesnt support 4k video Guide mode for beginners Average continuous AF for moving subjects Latest Price on Amazon: Sale Nikon D3500 W/ AF-P DX NIKKOR 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6G VR Black A DSLR that's as easy to use as a point and shoot cameraCompact, comfortable design that's great for travel and special eventsImage sensor that's 15x larger than those used in typical smartphones for sharper, clearer picturesWorks with Nikons snap bridge app for sharing photos with a compatible smartphone or tablet1080p full hd videos with monaural sound at the touch of a button. Bluetooth version 4.1 Want a closer look at this fine camera? Check out this Nikon D3500 review video:Video credit: Jared Polin/YouTube Canon EOS Rebel SL3. Image credits: Canon / Amazon.The best DSLR camera with 4K videoType: DSLR | Sensor: APS-C | Megapixels: 24.1MP | Display: 3-inch vari-angle LCD touchscreen, 1,040K dots | Maximum shooting speed: 5 FPS | Viewfinder: Optical | Maximum video resolution: 4KWhile DSLR cameras are being slowly phased out by their new and shiny mirrorless counterparts, many photographers still prefer working with a DSLR because of its wider selection of interchangeable lenses, better low-light performance, and a more comfortable size and grip. If you fall in this category, the Canon EOS Rebel SL3 is the perfect entry-level DSLR camera.This camera packs a powerful punch with its 24.1 megapixel APS-C CMOS sensor and DIGIC 8 image processor, which will game up your photography. The stills churned out are amazing, with plenty of details and rich colors, but the 4K video it shoots is just as impressive. It also packs a fast and accurate Dual Pixel CMOS AF with Eye Detection AF, so you get the perfect shot on your first try.But what we consider the best part is that the Rebel SL3 makes photography easy and fun! Its vari-angle LCD touchscreen makes it easy to take selfies and shoot from unique angles, while the guided creative assist interface will help us get creative and explore different shooting modes. And with the optical viewfinder, we can easily tweak settings and preview how our images look in real-time. Add to that access to EOS software, which offers free creative tools and lets us control our camera remotely, plus built-in Wi-Fi connectivity and easy touchscreen controlsand were ready to start turning heads with our photographs!ProsConsDecent image qualityLimited AF pointsExtremely lightweight and compact for a DSLRCropped 4K videoVari-angle touchscreenErgonomic designWiFi as well as Bluetooth connectivityCreative Assist Latest Price on Amazon: Fujifilm XT-200. Image credit: Fujifilm / AmazonThe best mirrorless camera for beginners on budgetType: CSC | Sensor: Copper-wired APS-C | Megapixels: 24.2MP | Screen: 3.5-inch, -90 to +180 degree rotatable, touch | Viewfinder: Electronic | Lens (effective): 15-45 mm | Continuous shooting speed: 8fps | Max video resolution: 24MPThe list of best cameras for beginners without the mention of the Fujifilm X-T200 would be an injustice. Succeeding its predecessor X-T100, the X-T200 is one of the most budget-friendly mirrorless cameras available in the market. Unlike its precursor, the X-T200 promises a better response rate and comes loaded with more amazing features.From our experience, the Fujifilm X-T200 stands out because of its highly accurate face and eye detection algorithm, advanced image processing with a copper-wired processor (which reduces noise levels, increases readout speeds, and thus, camera performance), and a widescreen -90 to +180 degree rotatable LCD touch screen.ProsCons WiFi and Bluetooth connectivity Doesnt offer sensor shift image stabilization Supports 4k (UHD) video Poor battery life Vlogger-friendly LCD screen Lacks environmental sealing Latest Price on Amazon: Fujifilm X-T200 Mirrorless Digital Camera w/XC15-45mm Kit - Dark Silver X-T200 is equipped with a vari-angle 3.5-inch/ 16:9 Aspect Ratio widescreen LCD touch-screen can be opened and closed between 0 to 180 degrees and rotated between -90 to +180 degree. It also provides...The use of on-sensor phase detection pixels across the sensor and an improved prediction algorithm means focus can be achieved quickly and in a variety of imaging environments. The updated Face/ Eye...Fujifilms legacy in color science has given it legendary status among image-makers across the world. During its 85 years in the industry, it has been responsible for some of the most iconic...The new HDR Video function makes recording footage in high contrast situations much easier and more practical, while its in-camera video editing functions allow for clips to be trimmed and right-sized...Video Capture Resolution: 4K DCI 2160P Canon EOS R100. Image credit: Canon / AmazonThe best user-friendly mirrorless camera for beginners Type: Mirrorless | Sensor: APS-C CMOS | Megapixels: 24.1MP | Screen: 3.0-inch fixed | Viewfinder: EVF | Continuous shooting speed: 6.5fps | Max video resolution: 4K UHDWhile wed have loved to see a non-fixed screen with touch input, the D-pad at the back of the camera still makes it easy to navigate menus and settings. It has simple controls and a guided user interface that beginners might appreciate.It also has Canons advanced Dual Pixel CMOS AF system with face tracking and eye detection for photographs. Add to that its 24.1MP sensor, this product will deliver amazing image quality for both stills and videos.A slight downside is that Canons RF mirrorless mount is currently one of the newest lens formats on the market so there arent a lot of native lenses available. Instead, this camera can be compatible with Canons EF DSLR mount.ProsCons Advanced shooting modes Fixed screen but not touchscreen Compact body Latest Price on Amazon: Canon EOS R100 Mirrorless Camera RF-S18-45mm F4.5-6.3 is STM Lens Kit, 24.1 Megapixel CMOS (APS-C)... Stellar Image Quality: Canon EOS R100 4K digital camera with 24.1 megapixel CMOS (APS-C) sensor for superb image clarity and detail can capture images with natural bokehCompact Design: Compact, lightweight EOS R series 4K camera with an affordable price; smallest and lightest camera body in the EOS R series built for excellent mobilityPowerful Image Processor: DIGIC 8 image processor allows for improved shooting functionality and 4K video capability; EOS R100 is a great starting point for users looking for mirrorless cameras with...High-Speed Shooting: Capture HD video at up to 120 frames per second, Full HD video at 60 fps, and 4K video at up to 24 fps an excellent entry-level choice of 4K camera for video recordingAdvanced Autofocus: Dual Pixel CMOS AF covers a wide area up to 143 zones with human face and eye detect AF; modern AF for stills and video with animal and vehicle detect AF; continuous capture of up... Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark IV. Image credit: AmazonThe best beginners camera for travelSensor: Live MOS | Megapixels: 20 MP | Lens (effective): 14-42mm | Continuous shooting speed: 15 fps | Max video resolution: 1080pOlympus OM-D E-M10 Mark IV is a good camera for beginners with solid support for swappable lenses and a stabilized micro four-thirds sensor. The mirrorless camera seamlessly records videos at 4K quality and is equipped with a lot of in-camera filters to let creatives and photographers get the best out of this camera. It offers Bluetooth and wi-fi as well for remote connectivity and provides almost 360 shots between two charges. With 20MP of the resolution, you can smoothly capture beautiful shots and videos. So, if you are setting your foot in the world of photography, it is a good and affordable pick.ProsCons 5-axis sensor stabilization Contrast focus is not ideal for action photography 20MP Micro Four Thirds imaging Slower 5fps burst shooting 4K video Built-in flash In-camera USB charging Slim, stylish body Latest Price on Amazon: Nikon D5600. Image credit: Nikon / AmazonThe best beginners camera for wildlife photographyType: DSLR | Sensor: APS-C | Megapixels: 24.2MP | Screen: 3.2-inch, 1,040k, pivot, touch | Viewfinder: Pentamirror | Lens (effective): 27-210mm | Continuous shooting speed: 5fps | Max video resolution: 1080pTaking photos of wildlife can be one of the most exhilarating experiences you can have as a photographer, but it can also be difficult with the wrong camera. This isnt the case with the D5600 from Nikon, which has an advanced 39-point autofocus system that boasts auto-area, dynamic-area, and 3D tracking modes. As one of the lightest and most compact DSLRs on the market, you wont feel weighed down when youre sitting in the woods waiting for that perfect shot.ProsCons Quick and reliable 39-point AF No aperture control Fully-articulated touchscreen AF works well with stills but not with video Excellent battery life Latest Price on Amazon: D5600 DX-format Digital SLR Body 24.2MP DX format CMOS sensorEx peed 4 image processor; approx.; 0.82 x (50 millimeter f/1.4 lens at infinity, 1.0 meter (1))3.2 inches 1.037 meter dot VARI angle touchscreen. Max video clip length: 1920 x 1080: 29 minutes, 59 secondsFull hd 1080p video recording at 60 fps. Bluetooth version 4.1Snap bridge Bluetooth and Wi-Fi with NFC Panasonic Lumix. Image credit: Panasonic / AmazonThe best compact camera for beginnersType: Compact | Sensor: 1.0-type | Megapixels: 20.1MP | Screen: 3.0-inch 1,240k, touch | Viewfinder: Electronic, 1,166k | Lens (effective): 25-250mm | Continuous shooting speed: 10fps (4k 30fps) | Max video resolution: 4kWhen you look at the ZS100K from Panasonic, dont look at its small size as a negative, as the camera has some big features and specifications within its shell. With a sensor thats large for a compact camera, the ZS100K contains a 20.1 MP 1.0-type sensor while providing relatively noise-free image quality even when the ISO settings are high. The camera even has an electric viewfinder as well as a high-res 3-inch rear screen fit into its small body.Able to shoot 4K UHD for both video and stills while having a frame rate of up to 30fps and a burst rate of 10fps for full-resolution stills. The ZS100K from Panasonic is, in our opinion, a DSLR camera in a compact cameras body, making it a great option if you dont want to carry a bulky camera around all day.ProsCons Quick autofocus and shooting speed Non-tiltable LCD Raw and JPG capture capability Good, high-ISO performance and have a Leica lens Latest Price on Amazon: Panasonic LUMIX ZS100 4K Digital Camera, 20.1 Megapixel 1-Inch Sensor 30p Video Camera, 10X LEICA DC... POINT-AND-SHOOT CAMERA: Large, 1-inch 20.1-megapixel MOS sensor plus 10X zoom LEICA DC VARIO-ELMARIT lens (25-250mm) and HYBRID O.I.S. (Optical Image Stabilizer) delivers brighter, more colorful...EYE-LEVEL ELECTRONIC VIEWFINDER AND LCD DISPLAY: High-resolution 1,166k-dot viewfinder and rear touch-enabled 3-inch LCD display (1040K dots) are clear even in bright sunlight4K VIDEO CAPTURE: 4K QFHD video recording (3840 x 2160), plus exclusive LUMIX 4K PHOTO and 4K Post Focus with internal Focus Stacking allows you to record photos up to 30fps and set your desired focus...LENS-MOUNTED CONTROL RING: Manual lens-mounted control ring brings DSLR-like exposure control to a compact point-and-shoot camera body; Temperature: 23 C (73.4 F) / Humidity: 50% RH when monitor...USB CHARGING AND WI-FI CONNECTIVITY: Enjoy travel ready technologies like USB charging and Wi-Fi connectivity to your mobile device; micro-HDMI type D (3) and USB 2.0 micro-B provide additional... Sony Cyber-Shot DSC-RX100. Image credits: AmazonThe best bridge camera for beginnersType: DSLR | Sensor: APS-C | Megapixels: 20.2MP | Screen: 3.0-inch, 1,080k, pivot, touch | Viewfinder: Pentamirror | Lens (effective): 28.8-88mm | Continuous shooting speed: 5fps | Max video resolution: 4kSony DSC-RX100 Digital Camera (Black) features a 20.2 megapixel Exmor CMOS image sensor that gives crystal clear pictures in ultra low-light situations. It has an F1.8 Carl Zeiss Vario-Sonnar T Lens and an integrated pop-up flash. You can click awesome pictures with this camera. You can capture ultra-high-definition still images in JPEG, RAW, or both formats at the same time. With this camera, 1080p, Full HD video can be captured at 60 frames per second (fps)Cons Fits in your pocketLens cant be changed Supports 4k video Expensive Compact and lightweight Latest Price on Amazon: Sony Cyber-shot DSC-RX100 Digital Camera (Black) DSCRX100/B (Renewed) This Certified Refurbished product is tested and certified to look and work like new. The refurbishing process includes functionality testing, basic cleaning, inspection, and repackaging. The product...20.2MP 1" Exmor CMOS Low-Light SensorCarl Zeiss Vario-Sonnar T LensXtra Fine 3" LCD Display with WhiteMagicOptical 3.6x Zoom & Digital 7.2x Zoom Nikon Z5. Image credits: Nikon / Amazon.The best full-frame camera for beginnersType: Mirrorless | Sensor: Full-frame | Megapixels: 24.3MP | Display: 3-inch tiltable touchscreen, 1,040K dots | Maximum shooting speed: 4.5 FPS | Viewfinder: EVF OLED, 3.69 million dots | Maximum video resolution: 4KNikons cheapest full-frame camera, the Z5, is the perfect camera for beginner photographers looking to make the jump to full-frame photography. It offers a solid set of specs and outstanding image quality and is easy to use with a comfortable grip, an intuitive layout, and a simple menu.The Z5 boasts a high-resolution 24-megapixel sensor that produces stunning images, even in low light conditions, with an ISO that is expandable to 102,400. It also features a fast 273-point autofocus system, allowing you to quickly and accurately focus on your subject. The camera offers a wide dynamic range and excellent color reproduction, making your images look life-like and vibrant.Using this camera is simple, with multiple creative filters and an electronic viewfinder that offers a high-resolution preview of your shots before they are taken. The impressive VR image stabilization system eliminates camera shake and produces sharp, stable images, even when shooting handheld.With the Nikon Z5, you also get dual card slots, which provide ample storage space for your photos. And with WiFi plus Bluetooth connectivity, it can quickly share your photos and videos across multiple devices and double up as a webcam.Another pro of the Nikon Z5 is its compatibility with a vast array of Z-mount lenses, which means you can easily upgrade your lens selection anytime. Whether youre interested in portrait photography, landscape photography, or anything in between, you can find a lens for the Z5 that will suit your needs.With this versatile full-frame camera, youll be well on your way to capturing stunning images and making a name for yourself in the world of photography.ProsConsOne of the most affordable full-frame cameraxExpensiveHigh-resolution EVFUnderwhelming 4.5 fps shooting speedRobust build quality and comfortable gripCropped 4K videoStunning image qualityIBISReliable battery lifeVR image stabilization systemGreat autofocus systemDual card slots Latest Price on Amazon: Sale Nikon Z 5 | Our most compact full-frame mirrorless stills/video camera | Nikon USA Model 24.3MP Full-Frame Mirrorless Camera | Nikons most compact, lightweight full-frame interchangeable lens Z series cameraOutstanding Image Quality | Sharp, lifelike details, vibrant colors and great low-light performance4K/30p and 1080/60p Video Recording | Crisp, smooth videos with shallow depth of field; USB power delivery; HDMI outputEye-Detection Autofocus | Automatically locks onto the eyes of people, dogs and cats and tracks them as they move around the frame5-Axis In-Body Image Stabilization | Capture steady handheld videos and sharp photos; shoot at slower shutter speeds in low light without causing camera blur Sony A6000. Image credit: Sony / AmazonThe best hybrid AF camera for beginnersType: Compact | Sensor: APS-C CMOS| Megapixels: 24.3MP | Screen: 3.0-inch | Viewfinder: Electronic (color)| Continuous shooting speed: 11fps | Max video resolution: 4kWhile the Sony NEX series departed from the companys mirrorless cameras lineup, it paved the way for the Sony A6000. Coming with a similar feature set as the Sony NEX-6, Sony did a good job on this model by adding a few remarkable features. The feature that stands out in the Sony A6000 is its Hybrid autofocus system for added precision and quicker response when shooting fast-moving subjects. With the Sony A6000, you can capture the most fleeting of moments with its 11fps continuous shooting.ProsCons Excellent high-ISO performance LCD is not a touchscreen Fast Hybrid AF Continuous AF doesnt work well with fast-moving objects Good battery life No standard microphone input Latest Price on Amazon: Canon EOS M50 / Mark II. Image credit: Canon / AmazonThe best vlogging camera for beginnersType: Mirrorless | Megapixels: 24.1MP | Screen: 4.0-inch 460k | Viewfinder: None | Lens (effective): 15-45mm | Continuous shooting speed: 10fps | Max video resolution: 4kBesides being a compact and sleek entry-level mirrorless camera, Canon EOS M50 / Mark II didnt fail to impress us, especially those into vlogging and video content creators, with its cool features. The camera is a video creators delight offering in-camera YouTube live streaming, vertical video filming in 4k, and wireless connectivity with smartphone and cloud.Visual storytelling becomes easy with the Canon EOS M50 / Mark IIs vari-angle LCD monitor and easy connectivity, eliminating the need for a streaming unit.ProsCons Face tracking and eye detection in stills and video Poor AF for 4k shooting External microphone support Rear controls are congested Compact size No USB charging Latest Price on Amazon: Canon EOS M50 Mark II + EF-M 15-45mm is STM Kit Black 24.1 megapixel (aps-c) cmos sensor with iso 100-25600 (h: 51200).Digic 8 image processor with auto lighting optimizer.Improved dual pixel cmos af and eye detection af (still/movie servo af support).4k uhd 24p and hd 120p for slow motion.Vari-angle touchscreen lcd convenient for vlogging and various composition. Polaroid Now+ Black (9061). Image credits: AmazonBest for Polaroid Photos Type: Polaroid | Sensor: APS-C | Megapixels: 24.1MP | Screen: 3.0-inch, 1,040k, pivot, touch | Viewfinder: Pentamirror | Lens (effective): 28.8-88mm | Continuous shooting speed: 5fps | Max video resolution: 4kOne of the most creative cameras, an analog instant camera called the Polaroid Now+, has extra artistic features. Get five new lens filters and access to tripod mode and aperture priority in the Polaroid mobile app. Try manual mode, double exposure, light painting, and other techniques. The original Polaroid square format frame also comes with a tripod mount to help you keep your thoughts steady. Added fun controlsImages cant be previewed in the mobile app Supports 4k video Cant save digital copies Latest Price on Amazon: Polaroid Now+ Black (9061) - Bluetooth Connected I-Type Instant Film Camera with Bonus Lens Filter... POLAROID NOW+ : It's the Polaroid camera you love PLUS so much more. Our Bluetooth-connected app features full manual control - double exposure - light painting - noise trigger - and more!BONUS GIFT: The Polaroid Now+ includes a bonus lens filter kit. Includes 5 creative lens filters Starburst, Red Vignette, Orange, Yellow and Blue.DUAL LENS AUTOFOCUS: Get the perfect shot, automatically. The Polaroid Now+ feature a dual zone (Close-Up & Standard) auto-switching hyperfocal optical lens system.CONNECTED ANALOG CAMERA: The Polaroid Now+ is our most creative camera yet. Unlock even more creative tools with the Polaroid App and easy to use Bluetooth connection. App available for iOS and...FULL FEATURED: Tripod mount ready, Micro USB powered rechargeable battery, auto-focus dual lens system, Accurate Flash, Bluetooth connected App and bonus 5 lens filter kit. Plus, the original Polaroid... Panasonic Lumix G100. Image credit: AmazonThe best camera for stillsType: Mirrorless | Megapixels: 20.3MP | Screen: 3-inch vari-angle | Viewfinder: | Lens (effective): EVF, 3.69m dots | Continuous shooting speed: 10fps | Max video resolution: 4K UHDPanasonic Lumix G100 is an excellent choice for creatives, vloggers, and Youtubers. For the price range and weight category, you wont find a better-specced camera. For photographers looking to capture fascinating shots while traveling, this camera has a lot to offer, with 4K video recording and an articulating screen. It is also the first mirrorless camera with Nokia Ozo audio to pick up crystal-clear sound from every angle. In a compact design, this camera offers all the necessary buttons, controls, and performance to take your photography and vlogging game to the next level.ProsCons Vertical filming possible No earphone jack Great audio Not particularly weather-resistant Compact and lightweight Excellent grip Built-in flash Latest Price on Amazon: Panasonic LUMIX G100 4k Mirrorless Camera for Photo and Video, Built-in Microphone with Tracking,... Feature-Packed Camera: Why trust your memories to a phone. With exceptional performance and versatility, the LUMIX G100 captures life in crystal-clear 4K photo, 4K 24p 30p video, and advanced audioGrows as Your Skills Grow: iA (intelligent auto) mode gives the perfect shot every time, or use manual modes as your skills sharpen; Micro Four Thirds system is compatible with all LUMIX lenses for...Use as a Webcam: Easily connect the G100 to your computer so that your web calls, livestreams, interviews, and media all look crisp, bright, and professionalShoot, Transfer, Edit, Share: Features guide you at every stepframe marker for social media aspect ratios; facial recognition; blur-free dual image stabilization and V-Log L recording. Upload to...Advanced 360-Degree Sound: High-perform

can achieve with your kit lens, so I can't stress enough to go for a camera with a good lens range behind it. Indeed, maybe identify the next lens or lenses that you might need, and pick a camera based on that.Simple controls: All these cameras have automatic modes that will help you build your confidence, along with manual controls for when you get more ambitious.Megapixels: Megapixels aren't everything, but they do have an impact on image quality. However, almost all beginner cameras are in the 16-24MP range, and you won't see colossal differences in the results.Sensor size: People get hung up on this, but it does make a difference. Essentially, the larger the sensor the higher the image quality it can achieve (since larger sensors can gather more light, and each pixel is bigger, so the fidelity is better) but there is more to it than that. Smaller sensors mean smaller bodies and lenses, and with the appropriate technique you can achieve images that are every bit as good as larger sensors.(Image credit: Rod Lawton/Digital Camera World)FAQsI'm always asked about DSLRs vs mirrorless cameras and which are better, especially for beginners. Well, both will give you a great start in photography. DSLRs are bigger, have better battery life, and are chunkier but cheaper but are increasingly hard to find. In fact, I've only made one DSLR recommendation on this list: the Canon EOS Rebel SL3 / Canon EOS 250D. Mirrorless cameras have surpassed DSLRs in almost every way and are smaller, lighter, better for video, and show you exactly what your finished image will look like while you're taking it. This makes them a better choice for beginners, as you can see in real time how changing the settings affects the exposure (rather than having to guess, and then check the back of the camera after you've taken a shot).For a mirrorless option, I'd choose between the Canon EOS R100 and the Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark IV. The R100 is essentially the mirrorless replacement for the SL3 / 250D, but is remarkably more advanced, and will get you started in Canon's brilliant ecosystem. However, my personal recommendation would be the fantastic little Olympus. It offers some clever computational tricks, has built-in image stabilization (to correct camera shake and help you shoot in low light), and it's the most compact and lightweight system on the market I used to own one of these, and I loved it.Traditionally many beginner photographers gravitated towards the traditional "big two" camera brands, Canon and Nikon, and tend to favor DSLR cameras for their combination of competitive price and capable performance. In particular, the Canon EOS Rebel SL3 / Canon EOS 250D.But the number of budget DSLRs available is reducing rapidly, as manufacturers concentrate on the newer mirrorless camera design of interchangeable lens cameras. There are some great mirrorless models at affordable prices now - and models that have impressed us recently include the highly-affordable Canon EOS R100, the retro-styled Nikon Z fc, and the multi-featured and attractively priced Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark IV. The best camera phones are a great place for photographers to cut their teeth, as they're a straightforward way to teach basics like composition. However, to truly learn the craft of photography, a traditional DSLR or mirrorless camera is the best way to understand fundamentals such as aperture, shutter speed, and depth of field. Camera phones also tend to lean heavily on assisted processing of images, and most camera phones lack the ability to manually choose camera settings in the default camera application. (Image credit: Future)Yes, while full-frame cameras are often described as professional cameras, there's no real reason for this association besides the price. Aside from this, there's no reason why you shouldn't start with a full-frame camera. Generally speaking, you will get a sensor with higher resolution, better image quality, and the ability to produce a shallower depth of field (for those blurry backgrounds). This is a tricky question. Does a beginner need an expensive camera? No. But then, neither does an experienced photographer! Used well, even a beginner camera can deliver professional imagery. For a long time the camera industry was dominated by the "big two": Canon and Nikon, which ruled the roost with a market-leading range of cameras. So it was traditionally assumed that a good camera had to come from one of these brands. Those days are long gone, though, and today there's a much more even spread of great camera manufacturers so there are great beginner cameras from Sony, OM System (Olympus), Fujifilm and others.Still, if you really want to choose between Canon and Nikon, it's really down to personal preference. While you can't go wrong with either option, Canon has a better selection of beginner cameras, such as the Canon EOS R100 and Canon EOS R50.How we test beginner cameras Our lab team tests camera resolution, dynamic range, and noise under scientifically controlled conditions using two key testing tools: Imatest Master and DxO Analyzer. All DSLRs and mirrorless cameras are subjected to these tests and, in some instances, high-end compact cameras:1. Resolution (ISO-12233): We use a resolution chart based on ISO-12233 from Applied Image inc to indicate the limit of the cameras vertical resolution at the centre of the frame. The higher the value, the better the detail resolution.2. Dynamic range (DxO Analyzer): This is a measure of a cameras ability to capture detail in the highlights and shadows. We use DxOs transmissive chart, which enables us to test a dynamic range of 13.3 stops.3. Noise (DxO Analyzer): We use the dynamic range transmissive chart to analyze the signal-to-noise ratio for RAW and JPG files at every sensitivity setting using DxO Analyzer. A higher value means the signal is cleaner.These lab results are an important part of evaluating every camera, but real-world use and usability is every bit as important. While it's important that a camera offers great performance, it's no good if it's too complex for a beginner to use!Before my time on Digital Camera World I used to teach newcomers on photography workshops so I've spent a lot of time with beginners and have a good understanding of what's important to them. So my recommendations in this guide are based on what the cameras are capable of, as well as how suitable they are for beginners who may never even have used a camera before.Find out more about how we test and review on Digital Camera WorldToday's prices compared Welcome to the NEW Photography Goals Online Community! Were still working on building this up to be an amazing source for all your photography questions. Youll find community forums for discussing the latest photography news and connecting with other photographers as well as free resources to help fast track your improvement as a photographer. Make sure you are logged in to access all of the free areas of the site and enroll in our various courses to get all the benefits Photography Goals has to offer. Join a community of photographers just like you and get real constructive feedback on your photos and learn new skills. Learn More #ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid{grid-template-columns:repeat(3,minmax(0,1fr));}#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item > .post,#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item .content{display:flex;flex-direction:column;height:100%;}#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item .content > *:last-child{margin-top:auto;}#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item .content .entry-title,#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item .content .entry-title *{}#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item .content .entry-title{}#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item .content .entry-title *{}#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item .content .entry-content{}#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item .content .entry-content *{}#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item .ribbon{}#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item .ribbon,#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item .ribbon *{}#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item .icon{}#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item .icon,#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item .icon *{}#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item .button,#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item .button *{}#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item .button,#ld-cg-luewtw54g4 .grid > .item .button *{} If youre buying a camera for beginners or your first real camera there are several key factors to consider. You want something thats naturally easy to use, even if you have never held a camera before. It should be affordable: the best cameras for photography are becoming synonymous with the latest mirrorless tech, and they deliver a superb performance, but are designed and priced for enthusiasts and professionals. A good beginners camera should not break the bank, yet be able to take great pictures ones that represent a significant step-up in quality from those you get with a smartphone. Here are our favourites. Weve picked for this guide a selection of cameras that weve reviewed and feel are a worthwhile investment for new photographers. There are choices across a range of prices: rather than just picking the cheapest models, weve been careful to select cameras we believe are worth the money. Included are cameras you can buy new, and some older models that are only available second-hand. Weve focused on interchangeable-lens models as these give new shooters a better platform from which to learn. For a camera with a fixed lens, check out our guide to the best compact cameras. Our list is reflective of the current state of the camera market, so youll see a lot more mirrorless cameras than DSLRs, as this is simply where all the latest and greatest developments are happening. Some photographers do prefer DSLRs, and you can see our rundown of DSLRs vs mirrorless for the main differences between the types. Also, if youre unsure about all this technical terminology, scroll to the bottom of this page for a quick rundown of key specs to look out for when buying a beginners camera. Best camera for beginners overall: Canon EOS R50 Buy now Best camera for beginners on a budget: Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark III Buy now Best DSLR for beginners: Canon EOS 250D / Rebel SL3 Buy now Best Fujifilm camera for beginners: Fujifilm X-T30 II Buy now Best mirrorless camera for beginners: Canon EOS R10 Buy now Best Micro Four Thirds for beginners: Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark IV Buy now Best budget vlogging camera for beginners: Panasonic Lumix G100 Buy now Best vlogging camera for beginners: Sony ZV-E10 Buy now Best Nikon camera for beginners: Nikon Z30 Buy now Best Sony camera for beginners: Sony A6400 Buy now Best budget DSLR for beginners: Pentax K-70 Buy now Looking for the best deal on beginners cameras? Not only will you find the best cameras for novices/rookies, but also some of the best camera deals, as our Buy now buttons are setup to automatically take you to the best prices from trusted retailers. There is also a list of other retailers below each camera, so you can find the right deal for you. We also have guides to the best DSLRs and the best mirrorless cameras if you already know which type you want. At a glance: Mirrorless camera 24.2MP APS-C sensor Canon RF/RF-S lenses 4K video $748 / 649 body only, $749 / 685 with 18-45mm lens Canon has increased its range of affordable APS-C EOS RF mount mirrorless cameras. The EOS R50 is not the cheapest thats the Canon EOS R100 but its the cheapest to use Canons most up to date sensor and autofocus technology. We also like the somewhat more advanced EOS R10, but the EOS R50 really hits the sweet spot for beginners, combining features, performance and value. Also, second hand models can be found now, too. The only issue for new users right now is that Canon has been slow to bring out RF-S lenses for this new format. At the time of writing there is no wide-angle option, though by the time most beginners have reached the limitations of the standard 18-55mm kit lens, that situation may have changed. For its price, the EOS R50 is designed with appealing features: a very good 24-megapixel sensor, excellent autofocus and terrific burst shooting capabilities for such an entry-level camera. Read our Canon EOS R50 review At a glance: Mirrorless camera 16MP Four Thirds sensor Micro Four Thirds lens mount 4K video From $420 / from 320 used, body-only The second-hand market holds some real value in quality budget-friendly cameras. Those like the Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark III, released in 2017, can be found with hundreds shaved off their initial asking price. And guess what? They still take excellent pictures. The Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark III isnt the newest in its line youll meet the Mark IV version a little later in this guide but it still ticks plenty of boxes for beginning photographers and video shooters. It captures 16MP images, which may sound a little low if you compare it to the latest releases from Sony, but realistically is plenty for most purposes. Images at this resolution will look great on screens, and can be printed to a decent size. The camera is oriented towards beginners, with a control layout and menu system that are intuitive and easy to understand. Something we particularly liked when we tested the camera in our full review was the AP (Advanced Photography) mode on the dial, which allows the user to easily put useful shooting modes on the touch menu, along with a handy explainer of each one. This is a fantastic way to learn new techniques like double-exposure, HDR, autoexposure bracketing and more. As youll be buying this camera second-hand, youll likely be getting it body-only. This means youll also need a lens or two to go with it the E-M10 Mark III uses the Micro Four Thirds lens mount, meaning you have plenty of affordable options. Our guide to the best Micro Four Thirds lenses includes some great cheap optics to get you started. Read our full Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark III review. Find the Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark III used on MPB At a glance: DSLR 24.2MP APS-C sensor Canon EF/EF-S lenses 4K video $649 / from 380 body only, $749 / 596 with 18-55mm IS lens If you feel for the good old clunking shutter of a DSLR, then the Canon EOS 250D is one of the best entry points. Positioned between the entry-level EOS 2000D and mid-range EOS 850D models, the 24.2MP EOS 250D is Canons smallest DSLR and comes with some key features not found on the EOS 2000D. These include Canons Dual Pixel AF technology that speeds up focus performance when the camera is in live view, 4K video recording, plus a vari-angle touchscreen LCD display. The intuitive control layout makes it easy to use, while Canons guided user interface helps beginners learn the main settings. If youre considering the 1300D/2000D but have a little more to spend, the 250D is well worth a look. Read our Canon EOS 250D / Rebel SL3 review. Fujifilm X-T30 II at a glance: Mirrorless camera 26MP APS-C X-Trans CMOS sensor Fujifilm X lenses 4K video $899 / 799 body only Fujifilms X-T30 II updates the popular X-T30. Whats great about the Fujifilm X-T30 II is that it features the same impressive 26MP APS-C X-Trans CMOS sensor that appears in several of Fujifilms flagship cameras (until they started sticking 40MP chips in the top models, anyway). This means you get excellent image quality, great noise performance, and for those who like manual controls, there is direct access to camera settings. Theres also 4K video recording, and a range of Fujifilm X-Mount lenses available, it has a metal camera body, and high-speed shooting. All in all, this camera provides terrific scope and potential. Read our Fujifilm X-T30 II review. At a glance: Mirrorless camera 24.2MP APS-C sensor Canon RF/RF-S lenses 4K video $879 / 999 body only. $999 / 1,099 with 18-45mm lens To help people jump into its fast-growing EOS R line of mirrorless cameras, Canon has introduced several smaller, more affordable models into the line. While the EOS R10 is on the expensive side for a beginners camera (and youll find plenty of more affordable options further down this list), its an excellent investment for anyone who wants to dive seriously into image-making. It has an APS-C sensor, which is smaller than the full-frame sensor of the bigger EOS R cameras, but it uses the same lens mount. This means you can take advantage of all the excellent Canon RF lenses that it is currently pouring its R&D budget into the range is small right now, but we expect it to grow with time (which is not something we can say for the DSLR EF lenses, or for the poor, sad EF-M mirrorless range). In our review, we praised the EOS R10 for its satisfying handling and reliably excellent image quality. We just have to hope that Canon has learned its lesson from the ill-fated EOS M series, and keeps introducing native RF-S lenses to suit this cameras smaller sensor. Read our Canon EOS R10 review. At a glance: Mirrorless camera 20MP Four Thirds sensor Micro Four Thirds lenses 4K video recording $700 / 649 body only Based around a 20MP sensor, the Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark IV mirrorless camera offers excellent JPEG image quality with extremely attractive colours. The design is stylish and the ergonomics are well laid-out, while extremely effective in-body stabilisation keeps pictures sharp. You also get a good set of useful advanced features and the camera is supported by a fine set of small, affordable Micro Four Thirds lenses. Youll also find the camera offers Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity, as well as 4K video recording. With In-Body Image Stabilisation, it offers great value for money. Read our Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark IV review. At a glance: Mirrorless camera 20MP MFT sensor Micro Four Thirds lenses 4K video from $680 / from 620 used with 12-32mm lens The Panasonic Lumix G100 is sometimes overlooked as a beginners camera, but it has a lot to offer. Its very compact, but still packs in an electronic viewfinder and a vari-angle rear screen, and it uses the Micro Four Thirds lens mount, which means there is a wide lens choice from Panasonic, Olympus and independent makers. Its designed very much with vlogging in mind, with an advanced in-camera audio system, though most vloggers will probably swap to an external microphone at some point. The G100 does have a couple of limitations, however, including no in-body stabilisation and a 10-minute recording limit when filming in 4K Having said that, its design and lens choice make it a terrific camera for stills photography too, and at todays prices the Lumix G100 delivers an awful lot of camera for the money, especially beginners interested in hybrid content creation. Its also undergone something of a price slash recently, and can currently be picked up with a lens very reasonably. Read our Panasonic Lumix G100 review At a glance: Mirrorless camera 24MP APS-C sensor Sony E lens mount 4K video $698 / 549 body only The Sony ZV-E10 was the second of Sonys ZV-series vlogging cameras. It can be used for stills photography too, but the lack of a viewfinder and limited external controls could hold you back. It also uses technologies from Sonys older A6000-series cameras, so while its autofocus system is right up to date, the sensor is a little prone to rolling shutter effects. There are two very appealing things about the ZV-E10 for beginners, however. One is that there is a wide range of E-mount lenses for this camera, including lenses designed specifically for its APS-C sensor format. The ZV-E10 has a clear advantage over its Canon and Nikon mirrorless rivals in this respect. The other advantage is the price, as this is the cheapest route into Sonys E-mount camera system. Other features included a full-articulating rear screen and a clip on wind shield to reduce buffeting in outdoor shots. Its usually sold with a very compact 16-50mm power zoom kit lens which, while not the best optically, is perfect for newbie filmmakers. Read our Sony ZV-E10 review At a glance: Mirrorless camera 20MP APS-C sensor Nikon Z lens mount 4K video $557 / 699 The Nikon Z30 is the cheapest Nikon Z camera so far. The lack of an electronic viewfinder deters many photographers, but it does have a fully-articulating rear screen, and anyone upgrading from a smartphone will be used to no viewfinder anyway. The Z30s design certainly doesnt rule it out for stills photography, but it is clearly designed with vloggers and content creators in mind. Like Canon, Nikon has little bit slow to bring out lenses for its new APS-C mirrorless format, but has made great strides recently, notably with the release of a new 12-28mm power-zoom lens, a wide-angle zoom that offers an equivalent 18-36mm zoom range. This, and the power zoom lever, make it a great lens for vlogging. Theres no image stabilisation built in, but many of Nikons Z DX lenses are equipped with VR, and you can use electronic stabilisation for video. The features are what we would expect from a mirrorless camera at this price, but the Z30s build quality is impressive. Its an affordable route into vlogging with the Nikon Z system, and a nice camera to use. Read our Nikon Z30 review At a glance: Mirrorless camera 24MP APS-C sensor Sony E lens mount 4K video $748 / 749 The Sony A6400 has been around for some time and as the original A6000 has become unavailable, its more or less become the base model. Its a good camera for beginners who want to get serious about both photography and video, though if video is your main interest, the ZV-E10 is both more up to date and a good deal cheaper. For beginner photographers, though, the Sony A6400 has a lot to offer. It has a compact, well-made body with a built in electronic viewfinder and features, and controls that will satisfy many enthusiasts too. Like the ZV-E10, it has access to a wide range of APS-C Sony E-mount lenses, and you can also fit full frame Sony FE lenses, though these are likely to prove quite heavy and cumbersome on the A6400s compact body. Image quality is excellent, as is the A6400s autofocus system. It might be one of Sonys older models, but you wouldnt know it. The A6400 does hold its price well, though, so its no cheap option. Its also not without its flaws, including a rather small rear screen and indifferent handling. Read our Sony A6400 review At a glance: DSLR 24MP APS-C CMOS sensor Pentax K-mount lenses Full HD video around $500 / 365 body only, used Pentax has gained a deserved reputation for producing cameras that provide great value for money, and the entry-level K-70 DSLR is no exception. Built around a 24.2MP APS-C CMOS sensor, notable highlights are a large, bright pentaprism viewfinder with 100% coverage, full weather sealing and an in-body image-stabilisation system none of which youll find on the K-70s direct rivals from Nikon and Canon. Other features include ISO sensitivity of ISO 100-102,400 and 6fps continuous shooting. For the price, its easy to recommend. Read our Pentax K-70 review. A good beginners camera should offer adegree of manual control, so that you can learn how the different settings affect a final image. Its important to think aboutsensor sizeas well; in this guide, weve dealt with APS-C and Micro Four Thirds, as these generally suit beginners. APS-C sensors are larger, which improves image quality, but they also require larger, pricier bodies to house. Video features are also something you may want to look at. Do you want the option to shoot 4K video? Then theres also the autofocus system the camera uses, as well as its maximum burst speed (measured in frames per second). Both of these are important if you want to shoot fast action or wildlife. If, however, you prefer to shoot landscapes or portraits, you may want to prioritise sensor resolution, measured in megapixels. If this is your first camera, and youre still unsure which camera is right for you, have a read of our guide to different camera types. Once youve chosen your camera from these options, you may want to look at some of the accessories that can help you get the most out of your kit, so make sure you have a look at the Top 10 Essential Camera Accessories for beginners. Have a look at more buying guides here! Follow AP on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and TikTok.Finding the best camera for beginners is difficult, even with many available. The best option is to buy a camera thats easy to use and produces good results to fuel enthusiasm. The camera should be affordable, and you might also want additional features like time-lapse and video.The Canon EOS R100 is our choice as the best camera for beginners. It hits all of those objectives. Young and inexperienced photographers can pick it up and take great pictures immediately. It has an excellent collection of features. And its one of the most affordable mirrorless cameras on the market.But if thats not the one for you, keep reading to see all the best cameras for beginners. Our Top 3 Choices for The Best Cameras for Beginners ShopOffers Unavailable ShopOffers Unavailable ShopOffers Unavailable What Is the Best Camera for Beginners?The best camera for beginners should be easy to use, affordable, and full of features to help you get started. Thats why our top choice is the Canon EOS R100. But the Nikon Z50 and the Sony ZV-1 Mark II are other solid options if you prefer a different camera brand.As technology advances, digital cameras become more complicated. That can seem like bad news for beginners and the less tech-savvy among us. But thankfully, some fantastic entry-level cameras are just right for beginners.When looking for a camera, ease of use is always important. Young and old novices should be able to pick up the camera and start shooting within a few minutes. A good manual read is always advised, but you shouldnt have to trawl through it for hours before taking your first picture.The best beginner cameras also produce good results. You might be tempted to get a second-rate camera online because its cheap, but that kind of camera wont satisfy beginners for long. But a good mirrorless camera from a proper photography brand produces encouraging and exciting results.Its also best to consider the price. We just advised against buying a bargain bucket camera because of its poor quality, so you must increase your budget slightly. But as youll see from our list, there are excellent beginner cameras at very reasonable prices.Check out our selection of the best cameras for beginners in the table below. The section after has a more detailed description of each camera. If you need more information before you buy, we have a beginner camera buyers guide at the end of our article. High-quality images with 24.1 MP sensor Advanced Dual Pixel CMOS AF for perfect focus Captures up to 6.5 shots per second Compact and lightweight for excellent mobility Versatile RF-S 18-45mm lens included ShopOffers Unavailable Best for Content Creators 20.9 MP sensor ensures stunning, sharp pictures Superior image quality with large Z-mount system Eye-detection AF for impressive portraits Compact and lightweight for easy portability Instant photo and video transfer via SnapBridge app ShopOffers Unavailable Compact size for easy transportation Fixed 18-50mm lens with f/1.8-4.0 max aperture Eye-detection and tracking autofocus Webcam functionality Built-in 3-capsule microphone with sound muffler 4K video at 30 fps and 120 fps in Full HD ShopOffers Unavailable Best Micro Four Thirds Camera 20 MP 4/3 Live MOS sensor for high-quality images Handheld High Res Shot and Live ND Pro Capture records up to 120 fps with half-press shutter Superior dustproof, splashproof, and freezeproof design Compact and lightweight for easy portability ShopOffers Unavailable Best Retro Design and Controls High-quality 20.9 MP photos and 4K Ultra HD videos Compatible with Nikon Z and F-mount lenses Vlogger-friendly with flip out screen and full time AF Easy image sharing with Nikon SnapBridge app Classic design meets modern technology ShopOffers Unavailable High-quality 24.1 MP sensor Easy for first-time users and lightweight Powerful 45-point all cross-type AF system Built-in Wi-Fi and Bluetooth for easy sharing 4K video capability, vertical video support ShopOffers Unavailable Rugged, waterproof, dustproof, freezeproof, crushproof Fixed f/2.0 lens with 4x zoom range Five underwater shooting modes including underwater HDR Macro modes with 0.4 inch / 1 cm min focus distance 4K video with high-speed frame rates and vertical mode ShopOffers Unavailable 8 Best Cameras for BeginnersNow, we look closer at each camera to help you find the best camera for beginners. Weve included compact and affordable mirrorless cameras. We even have one of the last entry-level DSLRs being produced.We have cameras for photographers, vloggers, and video makers. And these cameras can do almost anything. If youre an absolute beginner hungry to pick up a camera, the Canon EOS R100 is the camera for you. Its a true entry-level camera that is super easy to use and produces impressive results.First, the R100s main camera body size is compact, even for an APS-C camera. Its Canons smallest mirrorless camera to date. Its lightweight, which is a bonus for everyone. But this also makes the camera more usable for smaller hands, letting younger photographers get started.Despite its small size, it still delivers beautiful 24.1 MP images. Thats better image quality than most smartphones, with clear details and lovely rich colors.Canons patented Dual Pixel CMOS autofocus system provides excellent AF support. It works well with moving subjects and even tracks them when they move. It also has eye-detection technology, helping you shoot portraits.While you can start shooting in auto mode, this beginner Canon camera has other modes to help you develop. You have Shutter Priority, Aperture Priority, and Program modes. And when youre ready, you can go fully manual.With its 6.5 frames per second (fps) burst mode, you can try shooting action photography. It isnt a record-breaking continuous shooting speed. But its good enough to try shooting wildlife, sport, or action photography.A mirrorless camera isnt complete without video features, and the R100 lets you record impressive 4K videos. When shooting in full resolution, the videos are cropped. But you can switch to Full HD for uncropped footage with a 60 fps frame rate.You can also increase the video frame rate to 120 fps. This gives you stunning slow-motion videos, which are great for recording sports or fast action.Its easy to see why weve picked the Canon EOS R100 as the best camera for beginners. We havent even mentioned the price. With a kit lens included, its a bargain for beginner photographers! Plus, you have tons of budget Canon lenses to choose from.Read our article on the best beginner Canon cameras if you want more options from this brand. The Nikon Z50 is a small yet feature-packed mirrorless camera. Its simple enough to learn to use and has tons of features that beginners can get excited about.Its an APS-C mirrorless camera with Nikons Z lens mount. That means its compatible with all the best Nikon Z lenses. There are plenty of options to choose from. But you can also buy the Z50 with a handy kit lens.With a 20.9 MP image resolution, you get sharp, true-to-life photographs. The low-light performance is excellent for an entry-level camera. And you have a mix of auto, semi-auto, and manual controls for experimentation and development.Its vibrant 4K video recording makes this a great option for young moviemakers. You can also shoot slow-motion footage at 120 fps with a Full HD resolution. And the Z50 has a built-in 4K time-lapse photography mode.The flip-down LCD screen is a bonus for shooting selfies or vlogs. You can see yourself while filming, which can help you create the content you want.You can also edit your photos in-camera. This beginner Nikon camera has a wide selection of filters and effects built-in. So you can edit your picture without using photo editing software.Thanks to Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity, sharing your edited images is easy. You can transfer images and videos wirelessly to other devices. And you can take a picture and share it on social media in seconds.The Nikon Z50 is the perfect camera for a young, enthusiastic content creator. Whether they want to make a splash on social media or pursue a career in digital marketing, the Z50 is a fantastic camera for beginners. Compact cameras are a great place for beginners to start. And if this beginner loves creating video content, the ZV-1 Mark II is the best beginner camera for them.As a compact camera, the ZV-1 II has a fixed lens. Its a zoom lens with an 18-50mm zoom range, which gives you good flexibility when framing shots. And its a Zeiss lens, so theres no doubt over the quality.While only having a one-inch sensor, you still get lovely still images. The max resolution is 20 MP, which outperforms most smartphones by some distance.But most people will opt for this beginner Sony camera for the video features. It gives you smooth and sharp 4K video footage. You can shoot with a vertical orientation, which is perfect for social media.The camera also has built-in cinematic settings. Its proving popular with live streamers and YouTubers as a high-resolution webcam.The flip-out touchscreen makes video production easier, especially if youre shooting vlogs or streaming. And it also has a built-in three-capsule mic. So you can record high-quality audio without an external microphone. It also comes with a wind muffler for recording outside.The Sony ZV-1 II is the perfect starter camera for video makers. Whether streaming, vlogging, or making movies, this compact camera has everything you need. While lightweight and compact, the Olympus OM System OM-5 is bursting with high-tech features. That might sound daunting for new photographers but fear not. The OM-5 is beginner-friendly for most adults.A Micro Four Thirds (MFT) sensor makes the camera bodymore compact than most ASP-C mirrorless cameras. It fits in any of the best camera bags without issue.The MFT sensor might be small but still packs a 20 MP punch. The images are rich in color and detail. And if that isnt enough for you, theres a high-resolution shot mode. It gives you incredible 50 MP images by compositing several exposures together.OM Systems AF features have come on leaps and bounds. The 1,053-point focus system in the OM-5 is outstanding. Its accurate when identifying and locking subjects. And the tracking is reliable even with rapid movements.4K video at 30 fps makes this a mean video camera. This Olympus OM System camera has a vertical video mode for optimized social media content. You can also use it as a webcam for conference calls or live streaming.Additional creative features include time-lapse and long exposure modes. You get specialist modes for astrophotography, which is usually a complicated field. And you can create composite images in the camera. You dont need any photo editing software.The OM System OM-5 is one of the pricier beginner cameras on this list. And its one of the more advanced. But its still a great option for beginners. Its easy to use. And the features will fuel a beginners creativity in photography and videography. With a stylish retro design, the Nikon Z fc is a great camera for getting started in photography. But this camera isnt just stylish; it has excellent features too.First, the APS-C sensor gives you a 20.9 MP image resolution, so your photos look fantastic. And you have on-camera exposure control, similar to old film cameras. Its a great way to learn the basic camera controls and develop your skills.Taking selfies and shooting vlogs is made easier with the rotating touchscreen. And the electronic viewfinder is bright and accurate.4K video recording means the Z fc is a great option for movie enthusiasts and vloggers. The camera has a built-in stereo mic to record audio and video without extra gear. But there is a port for external devices if you want to use an external microphone.It also has webcam functionality. So you can use it for live streaming or conference calls. Wi-Fi connectivity also makes transferring media to other devices wirelessly easy.The retro design with tactile controls makes the Nikon Z fc a brilliant gateway camera. It looks great, has a full set of features, and helps you learn the basics. The Canon EOS Rebel T8i would have been much higher on this list a little while ago. But DSLR cameras are a dying breed. The Rebel T8i (850D) remains one of the few in production. Even so, its still one of the best cameras for beginners.A 24 MP sensor delivers beautiful images with well-rendered colors and accurate details. The camera has a healthy 100 to 12,800 ISO range, giving it plenty of wiggle room for varying light conditions.The fully automatic controls are perfect if youve never used a digital camera. But you also have a good range of semi-auto modes to help you improve your skills. It wont be long until you go fully manual.With a 45-point cross-type autofocus system, you get excellent focus support. It gives you near-full frame coverage. It has eye-detection abilities. And it can track moving subjects as they move within the frame.A 7 fps burst mode isnt groundbreaking. But it does let you try your hand at action, sports, and wildlife photography.This beginner Canon DSLR also records 4 K video. It is cropped and has a limited frame rate of 24 fps. But you can shoot in vertical video mode for social media content. It also works as a webcam for high-resolution streaming.This DSLR also has an excellent ergonomic design. It is slightly more chunky than most mirrorless APS-C cameras. But it fits nicely in your hand without being heavy or cumbersome.The EOS Rebel T8i remains one of the best cameras for beginners. DSLRs may be on the way out. But this camera is perfect for photographers still learning the ropes. Again, you also have tons of Canon lenses to choose from. Cameras arent tougher or more rugged than the OM System Tough TG-7. Its a pocket-sized point-and-shoot camera with excellent photography features. And its also one of the most durable cameras.Its completely waterproof down to 50 ft (15 m). And its not just waterproof. Five underwater shooting modes let the camera capture incredible images when fully submerged.The Tough TG-7 is also dustproof, shockproof, and crushproof. It can also be used in freezing temperatures down to -10 C. So its perfect for your next snowboarding, skiing, or arctic adventure.The one-inch sensor gives you a 12 MP resolution. That is limited compared to other modern compact cameras. But it still gives you gorgeous images that match or are better than many smartphone cameras.With specialist macro modes, you can also try close-up macro photography. And you dont need to buy any pro-level macro lenses. The all-in-one camera has everything you need inside.Its a great option for recording action videos. It has 4K recording with a 30 fps frame rate. And you can shoot slow-motion footage in Full HD. Thats perfect for recording yourself mountain biking or kayaking.The Olympus OM System Tough TG-7 is ideal for the adventurous beginner. Its as durable as a brick but has fun features that new photographers will enjoy. Buyers Guide for Cameras for BeginnersFinding the best camera for beginners isnt easy. Photography can be a complex and confusing topic, and a lot of jargon is associated with it. But once you master the basics, a new world of creativity opens up.We guide you through some camera basics. After a quick read of the information below, youll better understand photography. This will help you make a more informed decision when buying a beginner camera.What Do I Look for in a Beginner Camera?There are three general features for beginners to look for in a camerausability, performance, and price. You also want decent sensor resolution, a wide ISO range, reliable autofocus, and good video resolution. Lets look at each one for buying a beginner camera.Ease of UseA camera for beginners must be easy to use. With advanced technology, cameras have become increasingly complicated. And for beginners, a high-tech, complex camera with many functions isnt very inviting.A new user should be able to pick up an entry-level camera and start shooting within minutes. They might start on an automatic mode. But the main thing is that they can take pictures and create something immediately. Without that, enthusiasm quickly fades away.That means a good Auto mode is important. But you also want other modes to help you develop your skills. Beginner cameras often have Shutter Priority and Aperture Priority modes. These semi-automatic modes help you take more control without throwing you in at the deep end.Guide modes are also helpful. They are less common now. But true beginners cameras still have them. They are a great way to learn if youre an absolute beginner. For instance, the R100 has a Mode guide and Feature guide that displays helpful information about the chosen mode or function.Good PerformanceA camera that produces bad results is another way to kill a beginners enthusiasm. If they dont like any of the pictures they take, it wont be long before they put the camera down for good. Getting a camera that delivers excellent photos and videos is worth it.A few specifications indicate how the camera will perform before you use it. Some of these are image resolution, ISO range, and video resolution. We look at these specs in more detail below.Decent PriceEverybody loves a bargain. But in photography, there are limits on how low you can go. You might be tempted by a cheap, unbranded camera online. But we advise against these cameras of dubious quality.First, they always overpromise and underdeliver. Second, they never last long. So even though you save in the short term, it costs you more in the long run.We are not saying you must spend thousands of dollars on a new camera. But spending a bit more on a camera from a trusted photography brand is better.And there are still bargains to be found. Many of the cameras on our list are affordable, have a brand warranty, and produce results that will fuel your photography fire.Buying a camera is a long-term investment in the joy of taking pictures or creating videos. For some, it could even be the start of a new career. Jakob Owens Beginner Camera Specifications to Look ForNow, we look at some of the main specifications for buying a new beginner camera. These specs indicate how the camera performs, set your expectations, and help you evaluate whether its worth the price.High Sensor ResolutionThe resolution of a cameras sensor is measured in megapixels. This is usually denoted as MP. As a general rule of thumb, the more megapixels the sensor has, the better the image quality.This isnt always true, as other factors affect picture quality. But the megapixel number does give a good indication of the image quality a camera can produce.An entry-level camera should have around 20 MP. Considering the latest iPhone has a default 12 MP camera, you can expect a noticeable jump in image quality.Anything higher than 20 MP is excellent. And as weve seen, most of the best cameras for beginners meet this requirement.Wide ISO RangeISO is one of the three key exposure controls in photography. Along with aperture and shutter speed, ISO makes up the exposure triangle.ISO refers to how sensitive the sensor is to light. The higher the number, the more sensitive it is. But that higher sensitivity comes at a cost to picture quality. The higher you go, the more digital noise you see in the image. This is a grainy quality that detracts from the photo.A wide ISO range gives you plenty of freedom to shoot in different environments. The higher settings let you shoot in dark situations or at night. The low settings help you maximize photo quality when shooting in bright sunlight.A 100 ISO option is a good minimum setting on a beginner camera. It gives optimal quality for amateur photography. And at the other end, beginners wont need much more than a top setting of 12,800. But the Nikon Z50 and Nikon Z fc have the highest native ISO of 51,200.Reliable Autofocus (AF)A reliable autofocus system is a vital part of any camera. And its not something you should overlook when buying an entry-level model.Generally, the more focus points an AF system has, the better. More focus points give you more accuracy when finding the subject and more reliable subject tracking.Other AF features can also help beginners. One of the main ones is eye-detection capabilities. This is where the camera targets your subjects eyes, making sure its the point of focus. You never have faces with this feature.The Canon EOS R100 and Canon EOS Rebel T8i have excellent AF systems.Good Video ResolutionModern digital cameras are used for video just as much as for photography. That means you should always check the video specs before you buy a new camera.The maximum video resolution is the best indicator of a cameras video recording quality. Full HD gives you excellent video quality thats good enough for casual social media users. But these days, you should expect 4K even from an entry-level camera.The frame rate also affects video quality. Faster frame rates, like 30 fps, give smoother video footage. And frame rates as fast as 120 or 240 give slow-motion videos.Best Cameras for KidsIf your beginner is too young for the cameras on this list, you can try a specialist kids camera. The best cameras for kids are simple cameras that let young children enjoy picture-taking.Many have fun designs that get kids engaged straight away. There are designs for boys and girls. And there are plenty of unisex options any child can have fun with.The Seckton Kids Selfie Camera is our choice as the best kids camera. Its simple and fun to use, with different color options. And it produces quality images that keep children engaged and motivated.If you want more options, check out our full article on the best cameras for kids. Conclusion: The Best Cameras For BeginnersThe best camera for beginners lets you take fabulous photos even if youve never used a camera before. They should also be affordable. Plus, an entry-level camera should help you progress and develop your skills.The Canon EOS R100 is the best camera for beginners. It has everything a beginner needs to get started and go further. And the affordability means you dont need a big budget, even if you buy it with one of Canons excellent kit lenses. Its a bargain for beginners! Our Top 3 Choices for the Best Cameras for Beginners ShopOffers Unavailable ShopOffers Unavailable ShopOffers Unavailable Youre just seconds away from the essential training, skills, and support you need to become an expert photographer this year. Are your photos not living up to expectations? Maybe you spent a lot of money on a new camera and lens but the end result iswelljust boring. You can take decent-looking photos but they never have that look of a professional photo that just seems to convey drama or excitement and just pops off the screen. Professional Photographers Know That You Cant Master Photography ONLY By Watching Videos The reality is that great photography isnt about 1 secret or a few simple hacks. Its a collection of little things that pros do right that makes their photos amazing. You watch end

shooting sessions.Example: The Fujifilm X-T5 shines with IBIS, weather sealing, and tactile dials, making it a favorite for beginners aiming for professional results. Choosing the Right Lens: A Beginners Guide to Professional Photography LensesYour camera body is just the start lenses define your style and image quality.Lens Types ExplainedPrime Lenses: Fixed focal length (e.g., 35mm, 50mm). Sharp, fast apertures, great for portraits and low light. Zoom Lenses: Variable focal length (e.g., 24-70mm). Versatile for events and travel. Wide-Angle: For landscapes and architecture. Telephoto: For wildlife and sports. Macro: Close-up photography.Starter Lens Recommendations50mm f/1.8 (Nifty Fifty): Affordable, sharp, and excellent for portraits. 24-70mm f/2.8: The workhorse zoom for professionals. 35mm f/1.4 or f/2: Great for street and environmental portraits.Lens Compatibility Tip: Make sure your lens mount matches your camera (e.g., Canon RF for mirrorless, EF for DSLR). Mastering Camera Settings: Tips for Professional Photography BeginnersMastering your cameras settings is like learning the language of light and motion.Step-by-Step to Manual MasteryUnderstand Exposure Triangle: ISO, shutter speed, aperture. Start in Aperture Priority Mode: Control depth of field while the camera handles shutter speed. Experiment with Shutter Priority: Freeze or blur motion. Use Manual Mode: When confident, control all settings yourself. Learn Metering Modes: Evaluative, center-weighted, spot metering for tricky lighting. White Balance: Adjust for accurate colors or creative effects. Shoot RAW: Gives you maximum editing flexibility.Pro Tip: Practice shooting the same scene with different settings to see their effects firsthand. Nothing inspires like real-life journeys. Heres what some of our Camera Brands pros say:Starting with a Nikon D3500, I learned patience and composition. Upgrading to a Canon 6D Mark II felt like a leap into the big leagues! Sarah M., Wedding Photographer The Fujifilm X-T5s tactile dials helped me understand exposure better than any tutorial. James L., Street Photographer Shooting film with a Pentax K1000 taught me to slow down and really see my subject. Emily R., Fine Art PhotographerTheir advice? Dont rush gear upgrades. Master your current camera first, and the rest will follow. Join Our Community: Connect with Fellow Professional Photography BeginnersPhotography is more fun when shared! Join our thriving community at Camera Brands to:Share your photos and get feedback Ask questions and get expert advice Participate in monthly photo challenges Access exclusive tutorials and guidesJoin here: Camera Brands Community Inspiring Photography Websites and Resources to Fuel Your CreativityFeeling stuck? These sites will spark your creativity and help you learn: Bonus: Follow our own Camera Brands Blog for insider tips and gear comparisons. Conclusion: Your Path to Professional Photography Starts HereSo, whats the final verdict after our deep dive into the best cameras for professional photography beginners? Whether youre drawn to the tactile charm of the Fujifilm X-T5, the classic reliability of the Canon 6D Mark II, or the rugged simplicity of the Pentax K1000 film camera, each offers unique strengths tailored to different learning styles and shooting preferences.Positives: Fujifilm X-T5: Exceptional image quality, intuitive manual controls, weather sealing, and film simulations that speed up your workflow. Canon 6D Mark II: Full-frame sensor with excellent low-light performance, durable build, and user-friendly features like Wi-Fi and GPS. Pentax K1000: Perfect for those wanting to learn the fundamentals of exposure and composition with film, offering a hands-on, analog experience.Negatives: Fujifilm X-T5s battery life is decent but not the longest, so carrying spares is wise. Canon 6D Mark II is bulkier than mirrorless options and lacks 4K video. Film cameras like the Pentax K1000 require patience and additional costs for film and development.Our Confident Recommendation: For most beginners aiming to master professional photography, the Fujifilm X-T5 strikes the perfect balance between learning tools, image quality, and portability. If you prefer a traditional DSLR feel with full-frame advantages, the Canon 6D Mark II is a solid choice. And if you want to embrace the art of film, the Pentax K1000 remains the gold standard.Remember, the best camera is the one that inspires you to shoot consistently and learn passionately. Now that you know what to look for and where to find it, its time to grab your camera and start capturing those unforgettable moments! CHECK PRICE on: Recommended Books for Beginners:Understanding Exposure by Bryan Peterson Amazon The Digital Photography Book by Scott Kelby Amazon Film Is Not Dead by Jonathan Canlas Amazon FAQ: Answering Your Burning Questions About Cameras for Professional Photography BeginnersWhat are the key features to look for in a professional camera for beginners?When starting out, focus on cameras that offer:Manual control dials for ISO, shutter speed, and aperture to learn exposure fundamentals. Good autofocus systems with face and eye detection to help nail sharp portraits. In-body image stabilization (IBIS) to reduce blur from hand shake. Weather sealing for durability during outdoor shoots. Articulating screens for creative angles and vlogging. Connectivity options like Wi-Fi and Bluetooth for easy sharing and remote control. Battery life sufficient for your shooting style.These features help you learn faster and shoot more confidently.What is the best camera brand for professional photography, and why is it preferred by beginners?Canon, Nikon, and Fujifilm are the top brands favored by beginners for different reasons:Canon: Known for user-friendly ergonomics, excellent color science, and a vast lens ecosystem. The Canon 6D Mark II is a popular beginner full-frame DSLR. Nikon: Offers rugged build quality and great image quality, with models like the Nikon ZF mirrorless gaining traction. Fujifilm: Praised for tactile controls, film simulations, and APS-C sensors that punch above their weight, especially with the X-T5.Beginners prefer these brands because they balance ease of use with room to grow into professional features.How much should I expect to spend on a professional camera as a beginner photographer?Professional-grade beginner cameras typically range from mid to high hundreds up to around two thousand dollars for the body alone. Keep in mind:Entry-level DSLRs and mirrorless cameras like the Nikon D3500 or Canon EOS Rebel T7 are budget-friendly. Mid-tier models such as the Fujifilm X-T5 or Canon 6D Mark II offer more advanced features and better image quality. Dont forget to budget for lenses, memory cards, and accessories.Buying used or refurbished gear can save you significant money without sacrificing quality.What are some essential accessories that I need to get started with professional photography as a beginner?Starting strong means having the right accessories:Extra batteries and charger: Never miss a shot due to power loss. Memory cards: Fast and reliable cards with ample storage. Camera bag: Protects your gear and keeps it organized. Tripod: Essential for long exposures and stable shots. Lens cleaning kit: Keep your glass spotless. External flash or reflector: Improve lighting in tricky conditions. Comfortable camera strap: For long shooting sessions.These accessories enhance your shooting experience and protect your investment. For more in-depth guides and comparisons, explore our Camera Buying Guide and Camera Comparisons at Camera Brands. Ready to take the leap? Your perfect camera awaits and were here cheering you on every step of the way! We started testing photography kit around 20 years ago. Beginner cameras have changed a lot in that time, but the best options still do fundamentally the same thing: make it easy for new photographers to learn the ropes. With more than 1000 camera reviews under our belt, we know what a good entry-level camera looks like. Weve drawn on that experience to create this guide.We think the Canon EOS R10 is a great example of a camera for beginners in 2025. Based on our in-depth review, it strikes a fantastic balance between simplicity and performance. Its easy in the hand and straightforward to use, yet also delivers consistently excellent stills. Its a fantastic starting point for learners.Whether youre picking up photography for the first time or looking to upgrade from one of the best camera phones, our guide highlights the best cameras to get you started. Our expert team has evaluated each model, with a focus on accessibility for beginners. Whatever your budget, every recommendation below is guaranteed to help you build confidence as a photographer.Top 3 picksWant a shortcut to the best beginner camera for your needs? Use our summary round-up below to quickly identify your ideal entry-level camera, then jump down to our full write-ups using the links beneath each entry.Written byWhy you can trust TechRadarWe spend hours testing every product or service we review, so you can be sure you're buying the best. Find out more about how we test.Below you'll find full write-ups for each of the best beginner cameras in our list. We've tested each one extensively, so you can be sure that our recommendations can be trusted.The best beginner camera overallImage 1 of 5(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)Canon EOS R10 sample imagesImage 1 of 3Canon EOS R10 with RF 85mm f/2 Macro IS STM, 1/1000 sec at f/4, ISO 320(Image credit: Future)Canon EOS R10 with RF 85mm f/2 Macro IS STM, 1/1000 sec at f/4, ISO 250(Image credit: Future)Canon EOS R10 with RF 85mm f/2 Macro IS STM, 1/500 sec at f/4.5, ISO 160(Image credit: Future)Buy it if: You like photographing sports and wildlife: It's a pricier option in this list but the R10 comes with impressive action specs and autofocus performance. You want decent video quality too: Primarily a a stills camera, the EOS R10 also shoots crips 4K video with auto color.Don't buy it if: You want a good choice of lenses: Years after Canon's first RF-S cameras and there's a distinct lack of native APS-C lenses. You want a vlogging camera: The EOS R10 shoots lovely video, but the Sony ZV-E10 is a better choice if vlogging is a priority.Setting a fresh bar for entry-level camera performance, the Canon EOS R10 comfortably eclipses contemporary smartphones. Equipped with a speedy Digic X processor, this mirrorless model benefits from the latest autofocus abilities.In testing, we found its AF tracking impressively intelligent and intuitive for beginners. Claimed burst speeds of 15fps with the mechanical shutter also proved accurate during our time with the R10. Together, those skills mean its fast enough to capture fleeting action, which you cant say of every beginner camera. Whats more, the lightweight chassis is comfortably familiar even for novices, with an articulating touchscreen offering useful accessibility.The compact form factor makes it easy to wield when trying new techniques, while dual control dials mean its simple to tweak settings. A lack of in-body image stabilization does limit the R10s abilities after dark, but image quality is decent enough, with plenty of detail to pull out of the shadows. So its not a revolutionary model, but its specs and control setup put the R10 top of our list for beginners. Heres hoping Canon adds more native APS-C lenses to sweeten the deal.Save on top-quality cameras and accessories with our latest Canon discounts. Find great deals on gear for every shot.Read our in-depth Canon EOS R10 reviewThe best value beginner cameraImage 1 of 5(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark IV sample imagesImage 1 of 5The E-M10 Mark IV's HDR mode can be useful in mixed lighting situations like this...(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)Buy it if: You're going to buy accompanying lenses: With more than 10 years of investment there's literally hundreds of native micro four thirds lenses to choose from. You don't like the idea of a tripod: Decent in-body image stabilization can keep your handheld shots sharp even in low light.Don't buy it if: You want a truly hybrid camera: You'll get decent video quality from the E-M10 IV, but there's a few missing features for vlogging. You want the very best autofocus: Phase detect autofocus, found on the likes of the Fujifilm X-T30 Mark II, is better than the contrast system used here.If youre looking for a simple, compact mirrorless camera that consistently captures attractive images, the OM-D E-M10 Mark IV definitely deserves a spot on your shortlist. Designed primarily for smartphone switchers, its ergonomic grip, approachable button layout and handy flip-down touchscreen give it good versatility, without cluttering the classically styled shell.It might lack some of the more advanced features of its pricier rivals including microphone and USB-C ports but it does a brilliant job as a stills camera. In fact, we found that it's the most photo-centric camera in its category, delivering great stills during our tests.An Advanced Photo mode makes it easy to have a go at advanced techniques such as long exposures, while the in-body image stabilization system borrowed from the flagship E-M1 is superb. The sensor resolution is decent at 20.3MP and, because its a Micro Four Thirds camera, it has one of the widest lens catalogues on the market. It might not grab headlines, but the Mark IV is a fantastic first camera for beginners.Read our in-depth Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark IV reviewThe best premium camera for beginnersImage 1 of 5(Image credit: Future / Chris Rowlands)(Image credit: Future / Chris Rowlands)(Image credit: Future / Chris Rowlands)(Image credit: Future / Chris Rowlands)(Image credit: Future / Chris Rowlands)Nikon Z50 II sample imagesImage 1 of 5(Image credit: Chris Rowlands)(Image credit: Chris Rowlands)(Image credit: Chris Rowlands)(Image credit: Chris Rowlands)(Image credit: Chris Rowlands)Buy it if: You want flagship autofocus: Driven by an Expeed 7 processor, the Z50 II has subject detection autofocus performance to match the top-shelf Nikon Z9. You plant to shoot some video: Hybrid specs include 4K/30p footage oversampled from 5.6K, plus support for N-log 10-bit recording.Don't buy it if: You want the most detailed images: While the Z50 II is capable of sharp stills, its 20.9MP resolution is bettered by others, including the Canon EOS R10. You need in-body image stabilization: Like most entry-level cameras, theres no optical image stabilization built-in, so youll need a VR lens for shake reduction.An entry-level camera with enthusiast aspirations, the Nikon Z50 II impressed in testing with its supercharged performance: thanks to an Expeed 7 processor, it offers flagship subject detection skills. While its 20.9MP resolution isnt the sharpest out there, its fast, accurate autofocus gives beginners a good chance of snagging sharp stills.In our review, we also commented on how nice the Z50 II feels in the hand. It balances tidy dimensions with a deep grip and the right amount of controls, plus a useful vari-angle touchscreen. The result is a camera that makes it easy and comfortable for beginners to learn the ropes of photography. It helps that the interface is quick. A Picture Control shortcut also gives quick access to a library of preset profiles, making it easy for newbies to experiment.This is also a capable hybrid, with support for uncropped 4K/30p video and 10-bit N-log recording, as well as a Product Review mode for influencers. We think this makes the Nikon Z50 II a great camera to improve with: its capable of quality stills and video straight out of the box, while also offering the legroom for users to develop their creative skills.Read our in-depth Nikon Z50 II reviewThe best beginner camera for videoImage 1 of 5(Image credit: Future / Tim Coleman)(Image credit: Future / Tim Coleman)(Image credit: Future / Tim Coleman)(Image credit: Future / Tim Coleman)(Image credit: Future / Tim Coleman)Fujifilm X-M5 sample videoBuy it if: You want budget-friendly 6K: Despite its entry-level price tag, the X-M5 offers an impressive video feature set, including open gate 6K recording in 10-bit. You want a compact camera: The X-M5 is one of the lightest mirrorless cameras. Paired with a pancake lens, its dimensions make for a tiny package.Don't buy it if: You want a proper hybrid: The X-M5 is primarily designed for video. With no viewfinder, this is a camera for occasional stills rather than regular photography. You have large hands: Its dimensions might make the X-M5 pocketable, but they also mean its controls are too tightly packed for big hands to easily use.If you fancy getting into videography, you wont find a camera with better specs for the price of the Fujiiflm X-M5. Despite its entry-level status, this is a camera that can record sharp 6K video using the full sensor, with 10-bit color depth. Its features are also filmmaker-friendly: the ports are positioned away from the flip-out touchscreen, for example, with the mic input right beneath the hot-shoe. Theres also a mode for capturing 9:16 vertical video without rotating the camera, perfect for creating social content.With compact dimensions and a lightweight build, this is a properly tiny camera. Based on our review, this makes it a very easy one to travel with, even if tightly packed controls can be tricky for big hands to navigate. While theres no viewfinder, we think it also works for occasional street photography with a lens like the XF 27mm f/2.8.Some areas do signal cost-cutting. You dont get in-body image stabilization, while the touchscreen resolution is lower at 1.04m dots than other Fujifilm models like the X-S20. Still, if its video that youre into, we think this is very capable little camera for content creators.Read our in-depth Fujifilm X-M5 reviewThe best DSLR camera for beginnersImage 1 of 3(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)Nikon D7500 sample imagesImage 1 of 5Buy it if: You want chunky DSLR handling: With a deep grip, good ergonomics and rugged build, the D7500 offers all the hallmarks of classic DSLR handling. You want a DSLR to grow with: Thanks to reductions since its launch, youre getting an enthusiast-grade shooting experience at an entry-level price.Don't buy it if: You need the cutting-edge autofocus: Its 51-point system does well enough, but it cant compete with the latest subject-tracking skills of mirrorless rivals. You want a pocket-friendly camera: DSLR cameras like the D7500 are great in the hand, but large dimensions mean theyre less portable than others here.DSLRs might be a dying breed, but we think the format still has a lot to offer for beginners who want to get their hands around a chunky camera with good ergonomics. Thats exactly what youre getting with the D7500. With a weighty frame and weather-sealing, its a robust camera to learn with.When it launched in 2017, the D7500 was pitched firmly at enthusiasts. Since then, its price has dropped to beginner-friendly territory, yet its still got the performance to keep up with newer models. It uses the excellent sensor from the D500 to shoot detailed stills at 20.9MP. Together with a capable autofocus system and burst speeds of up to 8fps, our review found the D7500 a DSLR that can comfortably compete with the best entry-level cameras of today.We did note a few reservations in our review. While its tilt-angle touchscreen is useful, the resolution is low by modern standards. Youre also limited to just a single SD card slot. Its 51-point autofocus system doesnt have the latest AI-powered subject tracking smarts, either. Even so, with an ever-falling price, we think the D7500 is the best DSLR camera for beginners.Read our in-depth Nikon D7500 reviewThe best retro camera for beginnersImage 1 of 5(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)Nikon Z fc sample imagesImage 1 of 5(Image credit: Future)The new Nikkor Z 28mm f/2.8 SE lens is an aesthetic pairing to the Z fc and provides a full-frame equivalent focal length of 42mm. Combined with the f/2.8 aperture and it is well suited for environmental portraits.(Image credit: Future)A resolution of 20.9MP is competitive rather than class-leading, but is more than enough to get good size prints, wide dynamic range and solid control over noise in a variety of shooting scenarios.(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)Buy it if: You want the best-looking beginner camera: The Z fc is head-turning gorgeous. Enough said. You'd like to eventually take manual control: For the price, no other mirrorless camera has the number of exposure dials for direct manual exposure control.Don't buy it if: You need a rugged camera: The Nikon Z fc isn't the toughest beginner camera; something like the Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark IV feels sturdier. You'd like a developed system: Nikon hasn't put the same energy into developing its APS-C system with new lenses like it has full-frame.At its heart, the Nikon Z fc is the same as the Nikon Z50. Thats good news, because its 20.9MP APS-C sensor and hybrid autofocus system are capable of producing detailed stills and solid 4K footage at 30fps. What sets the Z fc apart is its body, which has been designed in honor of the classic Nikon FM2. It has broadly the same dimensions as its analogue ancestor and no shortage of retro style to suit its Eighties origins.Those thoughtful throwback cues mean the Nikon Z fc is a distinctive camera. Its also even better for beginners than the Z50, thanks to a vari-angle display which makes creative framing more flexible. Its not weather-sealed (not that youd want to risk using such a stunning camera in inclement weather) and it also lacks the deep grip of the Z50.If you regularly fiddle with exposure settings, we found the dedicated exposure dials to be a more intuitive method than generic command dials, once you have the hang of it. The dedicated dials for ISO, shutter speed and exposure compensation look great too it's what has set Fujifilm apart before. Native lenses also offer a lens control ring that can be customized between focus and aperture control. Combine that with the Z fc's auto ISO with shutter speed control, you'll be good to go in no time, accommodated to your shooting style.Read our in-depth Nikon Z fc reviewThe best compact camera for beginnersImage 1 of 5(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)Ricoh GR IIIx sample imagesImage 1 of 5The macro focus distance ranges from 0.12 to 0.24m. Combined with the 40mm lens and especially the 71mm crop mode, it is possible to create dreamy macro scenes with lovely bokeh at f/2.8.(Image credit: Future)A tilt screen would make shooting at awkward angles like this with the GR IIIx a whole lot easier.(Image credit: Future)40mm is a good all-purpose focal length be it landscapes, portraits, every day scenes, and even macro.(Image credit: Future)Low-key is a popular shooting style with the GR IIIx and highlight weighted metering does the trick for this look.(Image credit: Future) A reasonable amount of detail can be pulled from shadow areas in underexposed images.(Image credit: Future)Buy it if: You want to develop your creative eye: With a fixed focal length lens, exposure tools and a wide range of in-camera edits, the GR III X encourages creativity. You want a smartphone step up: It's small enough to slip in the pocket like a phone, but the GR IIIx's image quality is outstanding, while it's handling is intuitive.Don't buy it if: You want a versatile camera: The GR IIIx is as niche as they come. Fixed lens, fixed focal length, modest video specs. This is aimed at a certain type of photographer. You shoot video a lot: Tech-wise, the GR IIx is way behind today's smartphones for video recording, being limited to Full HD resolution and mono in-camera audio.The best camera phones might have cut through the point-and-shoot market, but there are good reasons why you'd buy the Ricoh GR IIIx in 2025. A pocket-friendly camera with a 24MPC APS-C sensor and sharp 40mm f/2.8 lens, we found in our review that it's capable of excellent image quality. It's also intuitive to handle and offers a focal length ideal for street photography. If you want a wider perspective, the otherwise identical GR III has a 28mm f/2.8 lens that's just like the main camera of your phone.We think there's a strong case for buying a Ricoh GR IIIx instead of a smartphone upgrade: it's a superb everyday camera for capturing decisive moments, with a host of excellent customization options as you get to grips with what's possible with this highly capable shooter. There are some drawbacks: there's no built-in flash, battery life is poor and the touchscreen is fixed. Still, if you want the best possible image quality in your pocket, the GR IIIx is right up there.Read our in-depth Ricoh GR IIIx reviewThe best instant camera for beginnersImage 1 of 5(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)Fujifilm Instax Mini 12 sample imagesImage 1 of 5(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)(Image credit: Future)Buy it if: You love vintage prints: Fujifilm Instax prints have a lovely vintage feel to them. You want physical prints: Instant cameras encourage you to capture and share the moment in a way digital cameras don't.Don't buy it if: You'd like a retro instant camera: There are other Instax cameras for similar money that have the old school looks. You prefer Instagram-style prints: Instax Mini film is cheap but it's half the size of Instax square and prints can feel cramped.If you want to experience the no-frills fun of instant photography, the Fujifilm Instax Mini 12 is our favorite instant camera. Basic and affordable, the Mini 12 makes it easy for anyone to frame and shoot vibrant prints. Because of this, its a great choice for beginners who like the idea of creating vintage party snaps.Although we found its handling a little slippery in testing, its still a comfortable and straightforward camera to use, with a simple point-and-shoot interface. It turns on intuitively with a twist of the lens, while pulling the lens out engages close-up mode. Thanks to parallax correction, the viewfinder now gives a more accurate picture of what will be printed, compared to the Instax Mini 11.Based on our tests, the Mini 12 does have a habit of overexposing images in bright conditions. Some users may also find its prints a little on the small side. But given the lower cost of Instax film refills compared to rivals, the Mini 12 is a more accessible instant camera for learners and one that produces richly colorful prints.Read our in-depth Fujifilm Instax Mini 12 reviewWe've reviewed a whole range of beginner cameras in every category, which means there are plenty more entry-level options that almost made it into this list. Here are a few honorable mentions to consider.Best everyday Fujifilm X-T30 II: Combining good shooting skills with a compact design thats easy in the hand, the X-T30 II is capable all-rounder for first-time buyers. Its retro design wins plenty of style points, while an upgraded tracking algorithm delivers more hits than misses, even in lower lighting. The X-T50 is more powerful, but the X-T30 II is the more affordable choice for beginners.Best for video Sony ZV-E10: A video-focused hybrid with compact proportions, the Sony ZV-E10 is a fantastic option for fledgling content creators. Lightweight and pocket-friendly, it works best when paired with one of Sonys many compact lenses. 4K tops out at 30p and theres some rolling shutter. Still, the ZV-E10 is versatile tool for newbies who want to hone their video skills for a fair price.Best second-hand beginner Nikon D3500: If video specs arent a priority, the Nikon D3500 is a fantastic, low-budget beginner camera. Equipped with a top quality 24.2MP APS-C sensor, it can capture rich, detailed images. The D3500 is also fairly compact for a DSLR, yet still offers intuitive controls and ergonomic handling. It lasts for ages on one charge, too. Youll find plenty of good examples available second-hand.Best mid-range hybrid Fujifilm X-S20: If youre a beginner looking for a mirrorless camera to learn and grow with, we think the Fujifilm X-S20 is a fantastic long-term choice. It doesnt come cheap, but youre getting a lot of features for the price. Automated modes and simplified manual controls make it accessible, while advanced video modes mean you can experiment with hybrid shooting.Best small APS-C Sony A6100: Technology has moved on since the Sony A6100 launched five years ago, but its tech spec still holds up well for learners today. It was our favourite beginner mirrorless camera for a long time. With a reduced price and good second-hand availability, we think it still represents good valueBest full-frame Canon EOS RP: Not every newbie needs a full-frame camera. If you do, we highly rate the EOS RP. It has a compact build, strong autofocus performance and a responsive interface, as well as a 26.2MP sensor thats perfectly capable for the price. We think the RP is great value for beginners.Best vlogging compact Sony ZV-1: If you want an entry-level camera for recording vlogs, we think the ZV-1 is a great choice. With a 1-inch sensor, excellent autofocus and useful 24-70mm zoom range, its a versatile compact that easily fits in a pocket. The ZV-1 II is newer, but a price hike means the original ZV-1 is better value.How to choose the best beginner camera for you(Image credit: Future)Here are five things to look for when choosing a beginner camera:1) ResolutionReferred to as megapixels or MP, resolution indicates the maximum size of images that a camera can capture. The higher the number, the higher the resolution. For this reason, a lot of camera brands use megapixels to attract customers, but resolution isnt the whole story. 12MP is more than enough to produce a high quality print at A3 paper size.2) Design and buildAs the clich goes, the best camera is the one you have with you which means theres no point in buying one that you dont want to take out and use frequently. Perhaps you want a larger camera with physical controls. Or maybe a smaller camera with a touchscreen would make you feel more at home.3) Sensor sizeNot all sensors are created equal. Unlike megapixel counts, the larger the sensor, the better the image quality generally speaking. Smaller sensors arent as good at gathering light, which means more noise (image grain) will show up in images captured in low-light. Larger sensors typically produce more attractive tones and depth. But they also come at a cost; both financial, and in terms of the camera system's size. The narrower angle of view of smaller sensors can also be beneficial if you're shooting distant subjects, as the diagram above shows.4) ConnectivityAll of the best beginner cameras offer some way to connect to your smart device or favorite social media apps. The cameras in this list all benefit from Wi-Fi, Bluetooth or NFC connectivity, or a combination of all three.5) LensesA decent quality lens is critical for capturing good images. All of the best beginner cameras come with a kit or fixed lens, which offer a standard focal length (zoom range). Interchangeable lens cameras come with kit lenses, which can be changed to suit your needs. Fixed lens cameras appeal to people who dont want to carry extra lenses.(Image credit: Canon)As youll see in the list above, theres no single right answer when it comes to which camera a beginner should start with. Much will depend on what type of technology youre already familiar with, as well as how you like to shoot. Some learners like the certainty of physical buttons, for example, while smartphone users might prefer a camera with a touchscreen interface. Luckily, there are plenty of both styles available and the best beginner cameras tend to offer a combination of control systems, like the Fujifilm X-T30 II.DSLR cameras are often easy cameras for beginners to use and adapt to. Because they are bigger than most compact and mirrorless models, theres more space to spread out buttons on the body (and to label them for ease of understanding). Plus DSLR cameras tend to feature large, sculpted grips for more comfortable handling, which is important if youre planning to get a lot of practice in. Take a look at the Nikon D3500, for example.Equally, some beginners will find that a smaller camera is easier to get to grips with. Even if youre only just starting to take photography more seriously, theres a good chance you might have used a point-and-shoot compact camera at some point in your life. If so, you might find that a premium compact like the Panasonic Lumix ZS99 / TZ99 provides a familiar experience. And because there are no interchangeable lenses to worry about, you can focus on improving other aspects of your photography, such as framing.(Image credit: Future)When you get into photography, youll quickly encounter a number of terms and acronyms that might be unfamiliar. To help you navigate this technical language, weve briefly explained some of the more important terminology below.DSLR: Digital Single-Lens Reflex, a type of digital camera that uses a mirror mechanism to reflect light from the camera's lens on to a digital sensor.Mirrorless camera: A camera that doesn't use a mirror. Light passes directly through the lens to the sensor, which displays a digital preview of the image on the camera's screen or electronic viewfinder (EVF).Point-and-shoot: Compact cameras designed for portability and ease of use. They typically feature automatic settings, making them ideal for casual photographers or beginners looking for maximum simplicity.Megapixel (MP): A unit of measurement for the resolution of digital images, representing one million pixels. A higher megapixel count generally results in a sharper, more detailed image.Sensor size: The dimensions of a sensor, typically measured in millimeters. Larger sensors generally result in better image quality, including improved low-light performance, dynamic range and depth of field control.ISO: International Standards Organization, a unit of measurement for a camera sensor's sensitivity to light. Higher ISO settings allow for better performance in low-light conditions, but can introduce grain in the image.Aperture: The opening in a camera lens through which light passes. Aperture size is measured in f-stops, with lower f numbers indicating larger apertures, allowing more light to enter the camera.Shutter speed: The length of time a camera's shutter remains open to expose the sensor to light. Faster shutter speeds freeze motion, while slower speeds create motion blur.Lens mount: On cameras that support interchangeable lenses, the mount is where the lens attaches to the body. Different manufacturers have their own systems.Zoom range: The range of focal lengths covered by a lens, usually expressed in millimeters (mm). Focal length determines the magnification of the lens. For example, a lens with a range of 24-70mm can zoom from a wide-angle view (24mm) through a standard view (around 50mm) to a slightly zoomed view (70mm).Image stabilization (IS): A feature that helps reduce the blurring caused by camera shake when shooting handheld. It can be implemented either in the lens or within the camera body itself.Autofocus (AF): A feature that automatically adjusts the camera's focus to ensure that the subject appears sharp in the final image.RAW: A file format that retains more image information from the sensor and offers greater editing flexibility compared to JPEG files.JPEG: A compressed image file format commonly used in digital photography. JPEG files are smaller in size, but offer less flexibility for editing than RAW files.Viewfinder: A viewing window that gives the photographer a preview of a scene before capturing the image. It can be optical (OVF) or electronic (EVF), depending on the camera type.Memory card: A card used to store image files captured by a camera. Common formats include SD (Secure Digital) and CF (CompactFlash).Hoteshoe: A mounting point on the top of a camera used for attaching external accessories such as flash units, microphones or external viewfinders.(Image credit: Future)Meet the teamOur team of reviewers has amassed many years of camera experience and testing, covering all of the latest and greatest cameras in the last 20 years, and can all appreciate the benefits of a dedicated camera like a digital compact versus simply using a smartphone.How we test beginner cameras(Image credit: Future)Why you can trust TechRadar 100s of cameras reviewed 15 years of product testing Over 16,000 products reviewed in total Nearly 200,000 hours testing techWhile most of the cameras in this list are relatively affordable compared to the latest professional mirrorless models, they're still a big investment so every camera in this list have been tested extensively by us to make sure it deserves its spot. For this particular guide, we've also approached the cameras from the point of view of someone starting out in photography or filmmaking, taking into account user interfaces, handling and general ease of use.The latter are particularly important factors for starter cameras, but we've tested all the fundamentals too, so you can be sure each model has the capacity to grow with you. These days, real-world tests are the most revealing way to understand a camera's performance and character, so we focus heavily on those, along with standardized tests for factors like ISO performance.After testing the camera's start-up speed, we'll move onto performance. We use a formatted SD card and shoot in both JPEG and raw (if available). For burst shooting tests, we dial in our regular test settings (1/250 sec, ISO 200, continuous AF) and shoot a series of frames in front of a stopwatch to see if it lives up to its claimed speeds. We'll also look at how quickly the buffers clears and repeat the test for both raw and JPEG files.(Image credit: Future)Where applicable, we also test the camera's different autofocus modes in different lighting conditions (including Face and Eye AF) in single point, area and continuous modes. We also shoot a range of photos of different styles (portrait, landscape, low light, macro/close-up) in raw and JPEG to get a sense of metering and its sensor's ability to handle noise and resolve fine detail.If the camera's raw files are supported by Adobe Camera Raw, we'll also process some test images to see how we can push areas like shadow recovery. And we'll also test its ISO performance across the whole range to get a sense of the levels we'd be happy to push the camera to.Battery life is tested in a real-world fashion, as we use the camera over the course of the day with the screen set to the default settings. Once the battery has reached zero, we'll then count the number of shots to see how it compares to the camera's CIPA rating. Finally, we test the camera's video skills (where necessary) by shooting some test footage at different frame rates and resolutions, along with its companion app.We then take everything we've learned about the camera and factor in its price to get a sense of the value-for-money it offers, before reaching our final verdict. The Nikon Z30 is a compact mirrorless camera that is designed for someone who shoots stills and video and wants a compact kit. If that sounds like you then youve got the right camera and these lens choices are going to be perfect. If you want the short version, my top pick is the Nikon Z 28-75mm f/2.8 this lens works perfectly with the Z30. Its compact, has a versatile focal range, and the f/2.8 maximum aperture is great for shooting video. But if you want more info and other options, keep reading Photography Goals uses affiliate links. When you buy products through the links on our site, we may earn a commission. The 28-75mm f/2.8 lens in the Z mount lineup is quite impressive. It packs a wide max aperture into a compact body and still delivers exceptional image quality. While it does lag behind the much more expensive and larger 24-70mm f/2.8 Z lens in terms of pure sharpness and image quality, its the size and cost that vaults this lens to the top pick on this list. Also, the biggest benefit of the bigger and more expensive version is the sharpness around the edges of the frame even at wide apertures. But if youre using this lens on a crop sensor camera like the Z30, then you probably wont notice any difference. There are a lot of similarities to the Tamron 28-75mm f/2.8 for Sony cameras. So much so that it seems likely that Nikon collaborated with Tamron to adapt the lens to its Z-mount lineup while maintaining the Nikon branding. However, it happened, its a great option for Z30 shooters. If you add the Nikon Z 17-28mm f/2.8 lens below then you have the perfect combo of lenses for the Z30 that covers a huge focal range with an f/2.8 max aperture. This makes for a perfect small and lightweight kit for vlogging and stills shooting. This might be my personal favorite lens to carry around with me on a regular basis. Its small and lightweight enough that pairing it with the Z30 makes for a very small kit that is perfect for everyday shooting. On the crop-sensor (DX) camera the focal length equivalent is 42mm which puts it close to having a nifty-fifty on a full-frame camera. This is a great focal length to carry around while traveling, shooting street photography, or just going out with friends. I especially like this lens for vloggers. Its the lens I use to shoot a lot of the video content for Photography Goals. The image quality is great and the focal length is perfect if you dont want to be too far away from the camera while youre talking. The 35mm f/1.8 is the lens I recommend for almost anyone with a crop sensor camera as the next one to get after they get frustrated with their kit lens. Its inexpensive and compact. Plus, the f/1.8 aperture opens up an entire world of possibilities compared to most kit lenses. The big factors for choosing this as a great next step are the aperture and cost. Of course, the Z-mount version is more expensive than most 35mm f/1.8 lenses but still on the lower cost end. The f/1.8 aperture is often a massive difference for anyone thats never used a lens with a wide maximum aperture like that before. It will allow you to experiment with shallow depth of field as well as shoot in low light. If you plan to use your Z30 for everyday photography like photographing your kids or get-togethers with friends and family, youll be thankful to have the option to use f/1.8, especially in indoor situations. Youll find that indoor lighting is often far darker than you perceive it with your eyes. So if you want a little more low light capability than the two options above, then I highly recommend checking out this 35mm lens. I put this lens on the list because its a versatile all-around lens, similar to the 28-75mm above. It has a smaller max aperture at f/4 but better sharpness across the frame and optical performance in general. Its also around the same price as that lens but comes in slightly lighter in weight, but not by much. This is a good option if you dont see yourself needing the f/2.8 aperture very much and want improved image quality. For instance, if you plan on using this zoom lens for landscape photography, then the image quality is far more important than the wide max aperture and youll enjoy having the extra 4mm at the wide end. I would also recommend this lens over the 28-75mm if you plan on using it on a full-frame camera in addition to the Z30. This lens has better sharpness and less chromatic aberration around the edges which will show up more on full-frame than the crop-sensor Z30. This lens is the wide-angle companion to the top pick above. Its lighter, more compact, and less expensive than the other wide-angle Z mount options. These things all make it a solid option for your Z30. The reasons it works well with the Z30 are the same as the top pick, just with a wider angle of view that is perfect for the landscape shooter. Youll save on the cost of the lens, but there are compromises with cost as you would expect. However, these compromises are minimized when used on a crop-sensor camera like the Z30. While this lens is quite sharp overall, the place where it falls short of the other wide-angle Z-mount options is around the edges. But heres the good news Because this is a full-frame lens, your Z30 is only going to be using the center part of the lenswhere its at its sharpest. So youll get the benefit of a very sharp lens, lower cost, and compact designand you can still use it on full-frame Z bodies if you upgrade in the future. If youre looking to build out the perfect Z30 kitI highly recommend combining this lens with the 28-75mm f/2.8 lens above to cover a large focal range without adding much weight to your bag. This combo may be one of the best travel kits you can put together. This is the only dedicated crop-sensor (DX) lens on this list for a couple of reasons. First, Nikon doesnt have many DX options in their Z lineup. Second, many of their full-frame lenses (like the ones above) are light, compact, less expensive, and pair perfectly with the Z30. I think you get a lot more value for your money when you go with one of these options rather than a dedicated crop-sensor lens that is often of lesser quality (if the F-mount options are any indication). So why this lens? The 250mm long end of the focal length in this lens can be very useful for a variety of different situations that suit the Z30. If you are taking advantage of the excellent autofocus system on the Z30 to shoot your kids sports, then having a 250mm reach is going to get you up close and personal with the action. The shots you get will blow away the cell phone photos of the other parents and even shots from those all-in-one superzooms. This lens will also work great for casual nature photography. The f/6.3 aperture at 250mm wont be great in low light but for