

## HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM YOUR NEW DIGITAL CAMERA RIGHT AWAY!

Many people get a digital camera for the first time and have difficulty using it compared to the film cameras or disposable cameras they have used in the past. This is really a shame as digital cameras are actually much easier to use and share pictures with than a film camera. Here are a few problem areas I have seen that may help you.

**IMPORTANT CONCEPT #1** – This is a very important thing to grasp, please read this. For most viewing and sharing of pictures **it is totally unnecessary to print the pictures at all!** This is a big switch in thinking from film. Pictures often look the best on your computer and are extremely easy to share with others by way of email, online albums, message boards, chat rooms, instant messaging and others. Once you learn how easy it is to view and edit your digital pictures on your computer monitor rather than printing them you will likely only print a small percentage. The special pictures you wish to frame or put in a family album etc are the only ones you need to print. You can, however, very easily email pictures to your mom of her grandchildren's Christmas morning within a minute or two of taking them. It is so easy and quick that you could practically email a picture to her of each present they open as it happens. This is one of the great advantages of digital. It is FAR more than just a different way to get some prints.

If you still want prints of everything you take, then that is very easy also and I'll cover that below but most people soon find that printing every single one is simply not needed or desirable.

### GETTING STARTED:

1. **Once you have your new camera** read the manual on how to get started as far as inserting and/or charging batteries, initial set up etc. That varies from camera to camera but is usually straightforward. Don't worry about all the different special settings and features at this point.
2. **Put the camera in totally automatic mode.** Recent digital cameras almost all have excellent automatic focus and exposure settings. Unless you are an experienced photographer you will be unlikely to improve much on the automatic settings at first.
3. **Use the highest quality JPEG setting.** Whether you want to print pictures or edit them for sharing online, it pays to start with the best quality. Especially for printing, the more data the printer has to work with, the better the pictures will be. I know you often read that a particular quality setting is sufficient for smaller prints. What they mean by that usually is that the degradation in quality will not be as noticeable in the smaller print. You can experiment and see if the lesser quality is acceptable to you. If you like the better quality setting but you are still using the small memory card that came with the camera, you may have to compromise. If you're at home or have a laptop, you can simply keep "dumping" the pictures off the card into a folder on your computer to clear space for more pictures. A larger card or multiple larger cards is a better solution.

4. **The one exception** to the going totally automatic is learning to manually set the camera to flash regardless of exposure. If you are in a situation where there is any shadow on people faces such as from a hat or strong light from behind them, use a “fill flash”. This means you need to set a camera to flash even if the auto settings tell it doesn't need to. All cameras should have this feature so look up this in the manual and learn how to set that when necessary.
  
5. **Understanding camera battery life.** Many people get very discouraged when they try to use regular alkaline AA batteries in their camera and it either doesn't seem to be working quite right or the batteries deplete in such a short time that it seems like something must be wrong. Even if nothing is wrong it seems that the cost of and inconvenience of buying that many batteries is going to be prohibitively expensive. So, for normal use **DO NOT USE REGULAR ALKALINE BATTERIES!** Although cameras are getting more efficient, they still drain a lot of battery juice in a hurry. The solution is to either get a camera with long lasting proprietary batteries, usually Lithium Ion, or get **rechargeable NiMH (Nickel Metal Hydride) AA batteries.** Regular alkaline AA batteries do not last long enough, are too expensive and often cannot deliver power fast enough to properly run a digital camera. Save them for emergencies and use NiMH batteries. You should be able to purchase NiMH batteries at most discount stores and all camera stores. Get two or three sets and a charger, which will keep them, topped up without overcharging. Keep one set in the charger all the time. NiMH batteries will slowly lose their charge when not in use. If it has been a few days since using the camera simply switch the batteries in the camera for ones in the charger before using the camera. Fully charged batteries will be fine for several days. If you have a vacation or other trip, charge two or more sets and you should have enough power for a few days. I like the Ray-O-Vac charger. It's very inexpensive and is available from stores like Wal-Mart. If you are giving a digital camera as a present it would be helpful to have freshly charged NiMH batteries available for them when they open their gift.

A good source for NiMH batteries is <http://www.aspencer1.com>  
For cameras that use 2 AA batteries I would get this 4 pack (2 sets)  
<http://www.aspencer1.com/showitem.asp?ItemID=10925.1>  
If you camera uses 4 AA batteries get this 8 pack (2 sets)  
<http://www.aspencer1.com/showitem.asp?ItemID=12141.62>  
If you want an excellent charger get this one  
<http://www.aspencer1.com/showitem.asp?ItemID=11064.34>

6. **The other thing you need to get right away is a larger memory card.** You will quickly find that digital cameras make it so easy to take pictures that you start taking lots. The card that comes with the camera is usually completely inadequate to the task. I recommend getting a card that can take a minimum of 50 pictures on the highest quality JPEG setting.
7. Once you have the camera set up with fresh batteries in it and set to auto mode, actually taking pictures is very easy. Just make sure to get in close, use fill flash

if necessary, hold the camera steady for a little longer than with film so that the auto focus has time to work. The only big difference is to take lots and lots of pictures. Once you have rechargeable batteries, taking pictures cost almost nothing. If you take enough shots, a few are sure to be pretty good. For instance, if you are unsure whether fill flash is needed, take a couple with and a couple without fill flash. I go into this concept in much more depth in [“Digital Cameras Made Ridiculously Easy”](#).

**GETTING THE PICTURES ONTO YOUR COMPUTER:** This is generally very simple but can seem a little intimidating at first. There are two primary methods, which I'll outline.

Most digital cameras will have a USB connector, which will connect directly to your computer. Some just plug in and are immediately recognized by your computer as just another drive on your computer. In some cases, especially if you have an older operating system like Windows 98, you may need to install software from the CD, which came with the camera to get the computer to see or transfer pictures to your computer. In either case you should be able to view the pictures in your camera both in small thumbnail size and in full sized on you computer monitor. You can also buy a separate USB card reader into which you can stick the memory card from your camera and read it directly. These generally run in the \$20-40 range. It generally not too much advantage to get a card reader although some can be faster than your camera direct connector and you can use your camera memory card and a card reader just like a USB jump drive for transferring files etc if you want.

At first I suggest simply copying all the pictures from your camera into a folder on your hard drive. I cover how to set up folders and name pictures for easy organization and retrieval in “Digital Cameras Made Ridiculously Easy”. I also cover how to sort through your pictures while still on your camera so that you don't take up so much time and space transferring pictures you'll never use on your computer. For now just copy the pictures to the folder Windows has automatically set up for you called “My Pictures”. It should be in the “My Documents” folder on your hard drive. You can always reorganize and/or delete pictures later if you wish. Now you can delete the pictures on the memory card in your camera so it is ready to take more. The pictures are now on the hard drive of your computer. You can copy them, edit them, print them or put them on a CD to take to the camera store to get prints. You can probably already see that you need a bigger memory card than came with the camera. There are many places to buy new memory cards. Don't always go with the cheapest, there is some variation in quality, performance and durability between brands. I like to buy cameras and components from <http://Newegg.com> but there are many good places.

**GETTING PRINTED PICTURES IN YOUR HAND:** The camera/photo printer combos are popular now and of course that makes it very easy to get prints. As I said above though you may find that you really need to print fewer of your pictures than you thought at first. The other problem with getting prints directly from the camera is that you often have limited or no editing capability before you print. Editing digital pictures to get the best color, framing, brightness etc is much easier than it

looks. It's really no harder than opening a Word document and correcting spelling or deleting a paragraph.

If you want prints and don't have a photo printer you can use a regular color printer and get quite good pictures in most cases or you can take your pictures to just about any place that develops pictures and get them printed. You will need photo paper to get quality prints but that is easily obtained from any office supply, camera store or discount store. I prefer to try and get the same brand of paper as the printer I'm using but that is by no means necessary. When starting to print you usually need to select "photo paper" as the type of paper and "Best" as the quality setting. Some printers let you get even more specific with what type of photo paper you are selecting for. Match the selection as closely as you can for best results. Cropping, dimensions, editing for brightness, color balance, color saturation, sharpness etc will greatly improve the prints you can get either from your own printer or from a camera store. In some cases the quality difference can be dramatic or you can save a picture that "didn't turn out" by the proper editing. Editing digital pictures is amazingly quick and easy and anyone can learn to do the basics. If you can send email or open a word processing program and write a letter then you can edit digital pictures. Much of what used to be only available someone with their own darkroom is now available to anyone digitally. I cover basic, easy photo editing that can achieve startlingly better pictures in ["Digital Cameras Made Ridiculously Easy"](#).

If you have a CD burner then that is probably the easiest way to take your pictures to get printed at a store. Just copy the pictures from your hard drive to the CD and take it to the shop. Instead of making a photo album I suggest just direct copying to the CD. Windows XP's built in CD burning software works great for this. You can also take your memory card to the shop and many photo places have card readers that can copy and print pictures directly from the card in your camera. I still suggest copying the pictures to your computer at some point so you can delete them from the card without losing them. If you have the pictures on your computer and have editing them some and now want to take them to a printer you can still use the card on your camera. Just connect the camera to the computer or put the memory card in a card reader and copy the editing pictures onto the memory card. The computer usually just treats the card in your camera as any other drive on your computer. Now take the card (or the whole camera) to the store to get prints. It is important that the pictures you get printed are proportioned correctly or the photo shop will cut off some of it to make it fit the paper size. If you want to print primarily 4x6 pictures and don't want to do your own cropping and resizing before printing (very easy when you know how) then see if your camera has a picture taking mode with a 3:2 ratio. That is made to fit 4x6 prints. There are very easy ways to get this exact ratio yourself with much more control over cropping and framing so you get exactly the picture you want. I explain this and give you the step by step instructions for this in ["Digital Cameras Made Ridiculously Easy"](#)

**If you want to learn how to take great digital pictures**, easily and quickly edit them so that the subject is framed just right and colors are accurate and vivid, resize pictures so that they are the proper size for emailing, message boards, printing etc., easily organize your pictures using the power of Windows own built in systems, use

Windows to tag pictures so you can easily find them later without having to use proprietary software. All these processes and many more are explained and you are given a clear step by step guide for each one. This is the culmination of years of trial and error with digital cameras and will save you an enormous amount of time. You can **use the same tricks that professionals use**; they are all amazingly easy to do. If you can start a computer and send someone an email, you can use all of these techniques, it's just that easy. Check out ["Digital Cameras Made Ridiculously Easy"](#), you'll be glad you did.

Try Emailing a picture to someone. This is such an easy way to share moments with your family with friends and relatives anywhere in the world almost instantly. It really is almost magic.

**Do any editing you want, make a copy and resize the copy for email. This is very important. Many pictures as they come from the camera are far too big to email. Even if your email program will accept them it may take a very long time to send and to receive, especially on dial up. Then it may be too big to view easily. I feel pictures for email need to be a lot smaller than for message boards. I recommend 350-450 pixels wide and 30-40 KB file size. Bigger pictures are harder to view and really slow down loading. If you attach a big picture just do one per email. If you are unsure how to resize properly almost all cameras come with software for this basic function and it should not be that hard to learn. I also include detailed, easy to follow instructions on how to change both pixels and KB (two different things) as well as a link to excellent free editing software to do this in ["DIGITAL CAMERAS MADE RIDICULOUSLY EASY"](#)**

### **STEP BY STEP FOR EMAILING A PICTURE**

1. Picture must be digitized and on your computer (transferred from your digital camera, scanned or downloaded from the internet).
2. Open your email program. All the email programs I've seen have a provision for adding a file as an "attachment". In Outlook Express you can also insert a picture directly into the body of the email. In any case look for "Insert" or "Attachment" on your email toolbar, click "browse" or otherwise navigate to the folder and picture you want to attach, select the picture and click "okay".
3. Your picture should now be attached and inserted, send the email.

**Here are some of the subjects covered in this ebook,  
DIGITAL CAMERAS MADE RIDICULOUSLY EASY**

**BASIC CONCEPTS AND ORGANIZATION OF PICTURES:**

The Most Important Basic Concept to Understand about Digital Photography

How Does a digital Camera Take a picture? How is that different than Film?

How do I find digital camera reviews and comparisons?

What digital camera review sites are the best?

How do I use and interpret digital camera review sites?

How do I know how "independent" a digital camera review site is?

How do I shop for a digital camera and what features are most important?

What About Digital Zoom?

What Accessories Do I need Right Away?

Which digital camera review sites cover accessories too?

What Do I Need To Know About Battery Types? (Important!)

What About Memory Cards? Type, Capacity, Brand?

Why even an amateur needs a tripod?

Camera Cases

WHERE to buy digital cameras and accessories

Glossary of Digital Terms

Buying From Ebay, What's good to buy there and what isn't.

Getting Really Good Pictures With a Digital Camera, what's different than film.

Getting the Pictures Onto Your Computer

No Strain Ways of Keeping Track of All Those Pictures - without expensive proprietary software.

Easily Creating and Organizing Your Own Albums Using Windows

Ultra Fast ways to Make Copies of your Pictures

Tagging Pictures for Easy Locating, Using Windows

Time Saving Steps for Organizing Pictures, As You load them to the Computer.

Easy and Effective Techniques for Archiving and Backing Up Your Pictures

How To Easily and Reliably Save Your Pictures, Albums and Picture Organization When Upgrading Your Computer or Operating System.

## **EDITING AND SHARING PICTURES:**

Why you always edit copies, not originals

Free and Inexpensive Photo Editing Software and where to get it.

Simple Picture Resizing, basic concepts, best sizes for printing, internet, email

Advanced Picture resizing, for proper prints, better quality. Easy Instructions for the very powerful "Save For Web" technique.

Pixels vs KB in Resizing, Quality vs Load Time and why it's Important. How to get the best balance of both.

How to Email a picture

How to Insert a Picture Into a Document

Complete understanding and Step by Step Instructions for Posting Pictures on Message Boards

What photo Hosting Sites are best, free sites vs paid sites

Simple Photo Editing

Cropping - The Important first Step in Editing. Step by Step Instructions for Three Different Programs

Getting Rid of RED EYE! (Step by Step)

Easy Step by Step Instructions for enhancing color, brightness, contrast,

Easy Step by Step to fix Shadowed Faces etc.

How To Make Unwanted objects in a picture "disappear" This is much easier and more straightforward than it seems.

Turn a Color Picture into a Black and White Picture. This is Dead Easy and takes about 20 seconds!

Simple, easy use of "Layers" in editing and why they are so useful for an amateur.

How to use the famous "Clone Stamp" tool in Adobe. (Step by Step)

How to get rid of "noise" (graininess) in a picture.

**This is not one of those Ebooks that was written in a few hours. This represents an enormous amount of time and can save you the same amount.**

## **HERE IS MY GUARANTEE**

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## **HERE IS THE BOTTOMLINE**

**Digital Camera Reviews WILL sell this Ebook for \$47 dollars in the near future.**

As an introductory offer, I am going to sell this ebook for **\$19.95 ONLY until Dec 31st, 2004**. I'm serious, this is not just some sales gimmick here, on Jan 1st 2005 **the price is going up**. This book just took too long to put together and research to sell very many at this price. For anyone who wants to get

deeper into digital photography but can't afford the time usually required to learn it, this book is worth far more than \$19.95

[BUY THIS BOOK NOW](#)

### **BONUS #1 IF YOU BUY NOW:**

I will include this **special technique** to retain the most quality when you resize you pictures for internet and email. This is a fantastic technique and will greatly improve the look of of your resized pictures. In my opinion this one technique is worth the price of the book. In addition it is very easy to do and only adds an extra 1-2 minutes to the resizing process. I have not seen this technique offered for sale anywhere else and I am including this for FREE with your purchase.

Most people complain about how much definition and quality they lose when they resize their pictures to message board or email requirements. Now you can retain much of that quality with this simple technique.

[ORDER NOW](#)