

AFFORDABLE DIGITAL SLRs

Now that you can buy a very capable, almost professional standard, digital single lens reflex (SLR) camera for between R6,000 and R25,000, you can benefit from a large selection of lenses, sophisticated and wider ranges of camera functions and greater quality photography than would be available with a compact digital camera.

Nikon D70s

You can tell that Nikon engineers responded to Canon's first-to-market Digital Rebel. The newer Nikon D70s is a well-deserved equal to the improved Canon 350D. The CCD sensor and processor combination allows high speed buffer memory handling and CF card access. Overall the sensor is less noisy in RGB noise compared to Canon and very vivid with pure colours. The 0.6kg black body is plastic but sturdy. Recent lenses are compatible, but only brand-new SB600 and SB800 flashes will work its advanced TTL / i-TTL flash control. The camera body alone will set you back R8,000 and a 18-70 mm lens will cost you about R3,500 more.

Technical Specs

Effective pixels: 6.1 million CCD (D70 sensor)
Shutter Speeds: 1/8000 to 30 sec.
Continuous shooting speed: 3 frames per sec.
Buffer: 14 exposures
Mass: 0.6 kg (without battery and lens)
ISO: 200 - 1600
Flash: Built-in i-TTL flash
Flash Sync: 1/500
Power on: almost instant
Shutter: very fast
Storage: CF, FAT16/FAT32
White Balance: Auto, 6 preset, manual
Status LCD: Top of camera + backlit
LCD: 2" 130 000 dot TFT LCD
Compensation steps: 0.5 or 0.3
Effective image crop: 1.5
Spot metering: Yes
Depth of field preview: No
Noise: Slightly less than 350D at large ISO values
Release: April 2005



Canon EOS 350D

Canon's groundbreaking Rebel (300D) put much of the performance of expensive digital SLRs in an affordable package. The new 350D includes all-round improvements such as a user-friendly interface, software upgrades, a wider range of functions and it is available with a capable 18-55 mm EF-S starter lens for only R2,800 more. The 350D is fast and has the newest generation sensors and processors inside. It is compatible with all Canon's top EF and EF-S lenses based on the EOS system and with Ultra Sonic Motors for snapping some serious pics. The Canon is ideal for an upgrade from point-and-shoot cameras for the more serious amateur, and it's black.

Technical Specs

Effective pixels: 8 million CMOS
Shutter speeds: 1/4000 to 30 sec.
Continuous shooting speed: 3 fps
Buffer: 14 images
Mass: 0.54 kg (with battery and CF)
ISO: 100 - 1600
Flash: Pop up E-TTL II
Flash Sync: 1/200
Power on: Instant
Shutter: Instant
Storage: CF, FAT16/FAT32
White Balance: Auto, 6 preset, custom
Status LCD: Rear of camera + backlit
LCD: 1.8" TFT LCD 115 000 pixels
Compensations steps: 0.5 or 0.3
Effective image crop: 1.6
Noise: Slightly less than D70 at small ISO values
Spot metering: No
Depth of field preview: Yes
Firmware: User Upgradeable
Release: 2004

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