

Nikon D80 Digital SLR Camera

Nikon has today officially introduced the 10.2 megapixel Nikon D80 digital SLR camera, and a new companion AF-S DX Zoom-Nikkor 18-135mm f/3.5-5.6G IF ED zoom lens.

The Nikon D80 is a high-performance digital-SLR mid-level camera that has inherited many of the superior functions of the Nikon D200 (released in 2005) and is also equipped with a number of new features. The camera is mainly geared towards novices and advanced amateur enthusiast photographers, and enters the Nikon lineup as an upgrade to the current Nikon D70s.

The Nikon D80 Digital SLR will be available by mid-September 2006, with an approximate MSRP The Nikon D80 employs the Nikon DX Format sensor and Nikon F lens mount design. (Same as all current Nikon DSLR's) This maintains seamless compatibility with all AF Nikkor lenses and allows photographers to take full advantage of DX Nikkor lenses designed for Nikon's D-series digital SLR cameras.

Developed as an ideal match for daily use with the Nikon D80, the new AF-S DX Zoom-Nikkor 18-135mm f/3.5-5.6G ED zoom lens looks attractive, and provides an extended versatile focal range for most general photographic applications. (Provides 28-200mm field of view equivalent in 35mm terms)

The Nikon D80 will undoubtedly appeal to those who are entering the DSLR arena for the first time and to those who are looking at stepping up from a digital SLR like the Nikon D70 or D70s. With this in mind our preview looks at the features and capabilities of the D80 from this perspective focusing on the main differences between the existing Nikon D70s, and also how the Nikon D80 compares to the other 10.2 MP DSLR cameras currently available on the market, the Sony Alpha A100 digital SLR and the higher end Nikon D200.

We have had our hands on a production Nikon D80 and have included a number of screen grabs showing the cameras many creative options and Menu features.