

## Digital Cameras: Pro and Con

Stan Johnston, 3/03

I have been using a digital camera almost exclusively for over a year now, and I thought I would share some of the things I like and dislike about it, compared to a 35mm film SLR.

First the digital advantages:

1. The digital camera is smaller and lighter, attributes that I have come to value more and more over the years in all photo gear.
2. There are never any dust, scratches, or lint on my digital images.
3. There is no such thing as finishing a roll of film. I can change the film speed, daylight/ tungsten balance, color saturation, contrast, etc. on a frame-by-frame basis. And I can store over 400 high-resolution images on one memory card.
4. I can examine the results immediately, and make corrections while still on-site.
5. The digital camera can continue to add features and functionality long after its purchase through firmware updates available from the manufacturer's website.

On the other hand, there are some things I miss about conventional film cameras:

1. The digital camera has an annoying time delay of a second or so to power-up before it is ready to do anything. And you can't even look through the viewfinder without power.
2. The quality of the through-the lens electronic viewfinder image is adequate for composing a picture, but it is not nearly as satisfying as the viewfinder image of a good 35mm film SLR.
3. The power consumption of the digital electronics and display means that battery changing and recharging is a frequent requirement. With rechargeable batteries it is not a cost issue, but it is a convenience issue.

Overall, I am not going back, but my experiences might help you decide what course you want to take in the future.