

Camera Accessories

In this lesson, we'll be taking a look at
Camera Accessories.

Estimated Completion Time: 8 minutes.

Camera Accessories

With most digital cameras, there is little need for many accessories. Certainly this is the need for compact digitals, which don't have interchangeable lenses.



A real advantage of compact cameras - particularly large zoom compacts, is that you don't need to carry extra lenses around with you.

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One thing that all photographers do need, however, is a **tripod**. There are so many situations where a tripod gives you a steady base for a great photograph.

They are not always practical, but they do come in a variety of shapes and sizes to fit your needs.



On the right, a smaller, more flexible tripod is great to carry around with you. It could even fit in your pocket. On the left, the more robust tripod (this one uses a trigger grip) gives a much steadier base than the lighter tripods.

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A **monopod** is like a tripod, but with only one leg. A monopod is handy, because it normally folds up smaller and lighter than a tripod, and can be easier to manoeuvre if you need to move it around to get shots from different angles.



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In later lessons, we'll look at a variety of techniques where the use of a tripod or monopod are vital.



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If you have a DSLR camera, your choices for accessories are wider.

First and foremost, DSLR cameras allow you to change **lenses**. This allows you to have specialized lenses for close-up work, wide angle, zoom, and standard photography.



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Some compact cameras also allow lens adaptors to be used.



On the left are some lens adaptors for compact cameras (allowing such things as wide angle, and additional zoom). On the right, a standard 100mm-300mm Canon zoom lens for a DSLR.

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A special **lens cloth** or brush is also a great investment. Ensuring that the lens is clean - on any camera - helps you get better shots. And to avoid the risk of scratching that lens, get a special cloth built for the purpose.

Of course, a **lens cap** is also vital to protect your lens from dirt and scratches.



Cleaning your lens of dust, fingerprints, and other smudges is a constant job.

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Many photographers like to use *filters* - these screw onto the end of many lenses - to create certain effects.

Polarizing filters are popular (can reduce certain light entering the lens. Neutral Density filters, which can prevent a selected percentage of light entering the lens are very useful to allow longer time exposures when there is too much light to ordinarily get a long time exposure.

Other filters, ones that change colors, provide tints, or other special effects, are not really all that useful in the digital age - the same effect can be obtained using Photoshop.



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Spare battery / spare batteries. No matter whether your camera uses a rechargeable battery, or AAs, get some spares. (If it uses AA batteries, get a recharger and rechargeable batteries as well!).

Digital cameras use a lot of battery power. As we always recommend you take a lot of photos, a spare battery is an essential.



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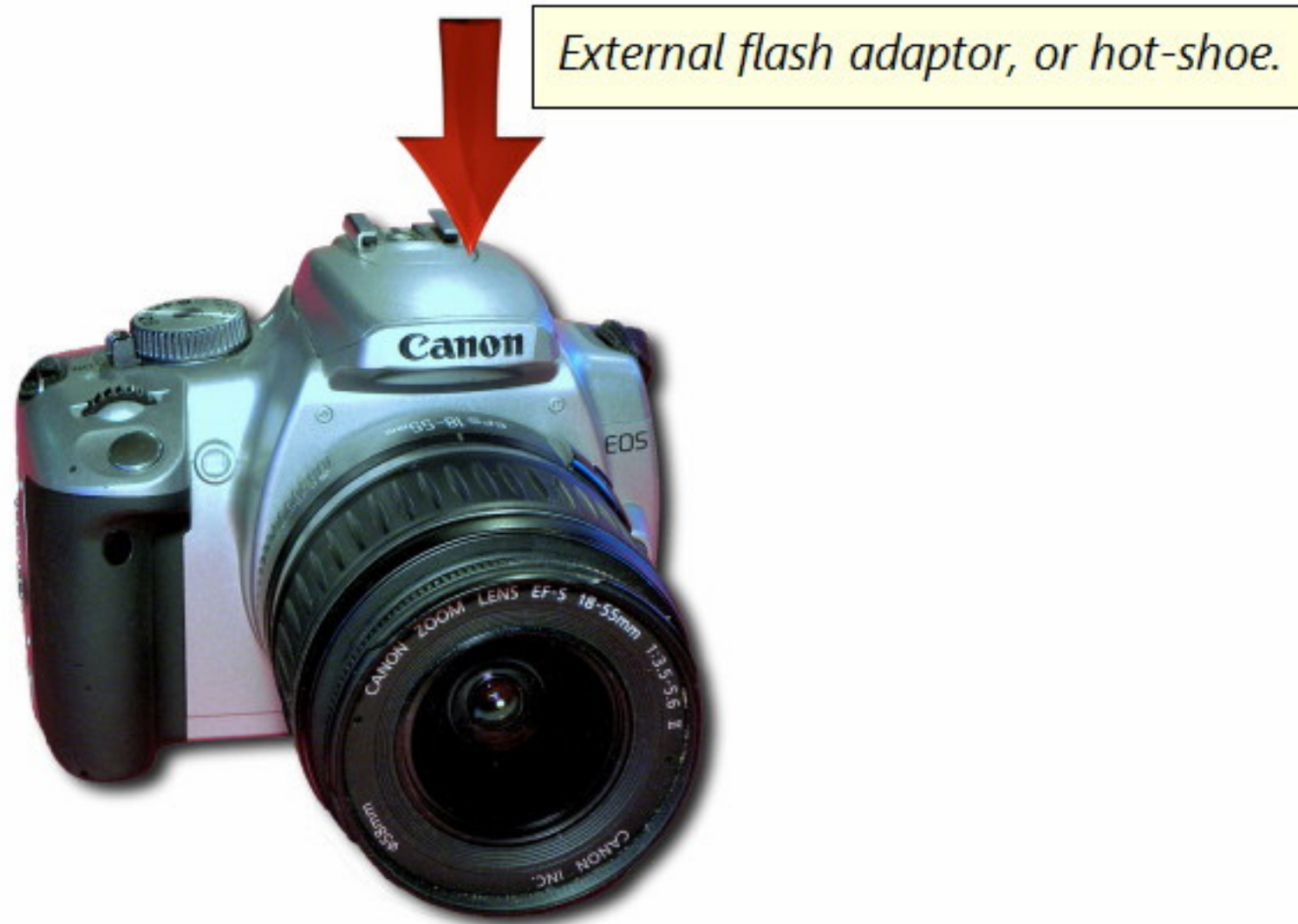
Spare memory card. Memory cards are quite inexpensive these days. If you have a large memory card - say 16Gb or even 32Gb - this is probably going to do you well - as long as you remember to offload the photos/video onto your computer regularly.

However, given how inexpensive a 2Gb or even 4Gb memory card can be picked up for, grab a spare, and pop it in your camera bag...



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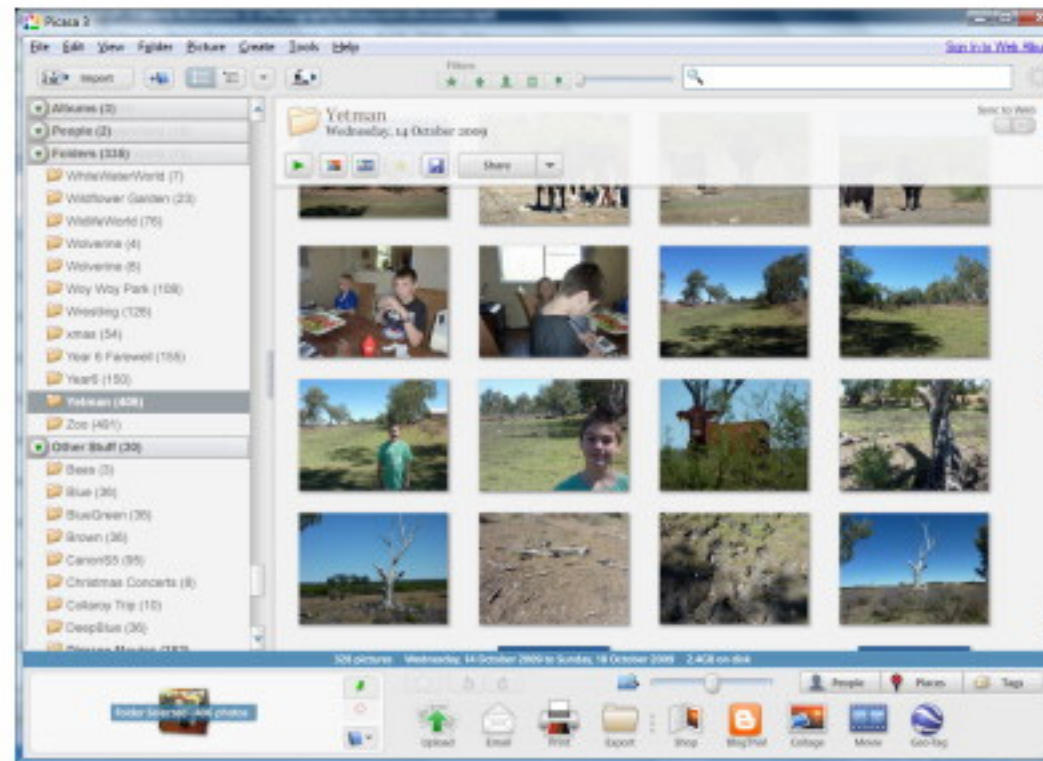
External Flash. DSLR cameras all have an external flash adaptor, called a hotshoe, on the top of the camera. This allows you to attach an external flash, perhaps a specialized flash (particular color temperature), or simply one that throws out more light than the built-in flash.



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A **graphics editing program** is also an essential. We look at this in more detail in a later lesson.

The graphics editing program will allow you to improve your photos, and edit them in imaginative ways. This includes changing brightness and color, removing 'red-eye' and noise, straightening images, and much more.



Google Picasa is a free photograph editing and management tool.

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You've now completed this lesson.

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