

### Candid camera

Smile, please! These quality digital cameras put in focus what's available in a fast-growing and constantly improving market.

ot so long ago, the highest resolution you could expect from a mid-range digital camera was 640 x 480; now, 1024 x 768 is the minimum. New revisions of existing models are constantly being released, so we've taken a snapshot of the current market by evaluating ten middle to highend models, priced between £400 and £1,100 (inc VAT).

The primary enhancement of the latest models is the improvement in CCD (Charge-Coupled Device) technology, the array of sensors which capture the images in place of conventional film. There's only one camera here with less than a million pixels in its CCD and this

trend means higher resolution and more detail, so printing enlargements is now more feasible.

You'll also notice that digital cameras are in many instances beginning to resemble conventional film cameras as they enter the mainstream, although there's still some outlandish designs. As the current wave of free ISPs grows, there's a chance you've got 15Mb or so of web space to fill, and there's nothing like a few photos to brighten up a web site. And if you have one of the latest generation of photo printers you can print enlargements for a lot less than the £5 or so that Boots will charge - and the quality won't be too far off, either.

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Digital cameras reviewed by David Fearon

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 $\star\star\star\star\star$  Highly recommended

\*\* Great buy

★★★ Good buy

★★ Shop around

🖈 Not recommended

#### Agfa ePhoto 1680



at 1600 x 1200 although the native CCD resolution, at 1.22 megapixels, is not the largest. This means that the highest-resolution images are being interpolated – a waste of the 4Mb SmartMedia's precious capacity. The Agfa has a distinct computer peripheral-style feel to it, in contrast to the conventional designs of the likes of the Canon PowerShot A5 [below]. It has to be said that it feels rather tacky,

with the non-metallised silver finish and its overall light weight giving it the air of a toy rather than a £700 camera. Like the Ricoh and Casio models, the 1680 sports a swivelling lens for capturing overhead shots without breaking your neck, but doesn't have an optical viewfinder. Controlling the Agfa is easy. Most adjustments are made via the EasyPilot button, a rotary control for selecting and confirming an option. The range of controls on offer don't go to the extent of the Casio or Minolta units but the essentials are all there. We were impressed by the basic image quality of the 1680. The unit was in our top three after assessment

of the main test photos. It wasn't good at getting close to the action for macro shots, though. Overall, the 1680 is simple but effective.

#### **PCW** DETAILS



**Price** £703.83 (£599 ex VAT) Contact Agfa 0181 231 5511

**Good Points** Very good quality for non-macro work. Reasonable price. Bad Points A bit basic. Tacky design

**Conclusion** One of the best for straightforward, basic shots.

#### Canon PowerShot A5 Zoom

The cheaper of the two Canons. the A5 Zoom is styled like a conventional camera. It's

remarkably small but its build quality is very high and it feels extremely solid. Rotating the unit's selection dial automatically slides the lens cap across and extends the 28-70mm equivalent lens. The LCD monitor screen is fairly diminutive but it's clear and has a good refresh rate. There's an optical viewfinder, too. The A5 Zoom is powered by a special Nickel Metal

Hydride battery pack and comes with a charger that doubles as a mains power supply. Conveniently, you can power the camera via the mains while the battery is charging. The A5 Zoom is the only sub-megapixel camera here, with an 810,000 pixel CCD array giving a maximum resolution of 1024 x 768. Consequently it suffers rather when it comes to detail reproduction and we also noticed colour misalignment when zooming in on details. The unit takes a single Compact Flash memory card; an 8Mb card is supplied, giving you up to 44 pictures in high-quality, highresolution mode. Like most of the other cameras, the only way to get

your pictures onto the PC is via the serial interface. The A5 Zoom comes with a TWAIN driver rather than a standalone application and this works well enough; it's just very slow.

#### PCW DETAILS



**Price** £645.08 (£549 ex VAT) Contact Canon 0121 666 6262

Good Points Small and chic. Great build quality.

**Bad Points** Relatively low resolution. **Conclusion** A great executive toy, but others will deliver better quality.

#### Canon PowerShot Pro 70



**Pro 70** is the most expensive camera here and is aimed at the semiprofessional or

serious amateur. Although it's styled like an SLR camera, the viewfinder sits above the main objective lens. Open up the Pro 70 and there are two Compact Flash slots, one of which is filled by a 15Mb card. It has a custom Nickel Metal Hydride power pack with recharger included that can also power the unit directly via the mains. With its optical viewfinder, the Pro 70 can be used with or without the LCD. The mode dial lets you select standard or program modes, and there's a full range of aperture or shutter priority programs. Taking a picture, the 28-70mm equivalent zoom control falls naturally under the thumb when supporting the lens with the left hand. There's no flash though, so it must be bought separately. It's quality you're paying for if you buy a Pro 70 and in this department it doesn't disappoint, romping away as our Editor's Choice for its superbly 'undigital' 1536 x 1024



reproduction and colour balance. Macro mode was good too, although bettered by the Ricoh [p202].

**Price** £1,173.83 (£999 ex VAT) **Contact** Canon 0121 666 6262

Good Points Superb quality. Very programmable. 15Mb of storage. Bad Points Expensive, but that's

**Conclusion** *The one to buy if money* is no object.

#### Casio QV-7000 SX



The most
prominent
feature of
the QV7000 is its
LCD monitor:
it's very large at

2.5in, which helps no end with the framing of shots. It's also useful with the novel panorama mode: after taking the initial shot, you're helped with lining up the second by a translucent overlay of the first at the left-hand edge of the screen. There's no optical viewfinder on the QV-7000 so battery life is liable to be a problem, particularly since there's no mains

power supply or rechargeable batteries supplied. The reason for the lack of viewfinder is the swivelling ability of the lens, letting you hold the unit above your head in a crowd while framing the shot in the LCD. An 8Mb Compact Flash card comes with the 7000 and it stores pictures in a unique way, placing an HTML index page on the card, with thumbnails and links to the pictures. So, if you have a Compact Flash reader or PC Card adaptor you can simply double-click on the index file to browse the contents. Unfortunately neither of these are supplied, so unless you want to spend extra you'll have to make do with the standard serial

transfer cable and software. Image quality is somewhat marred, though, by a lot of CCD (Charge-Coupled Device) electrical noise.

#### **PCW** DETAILS



**Price** £499.99 (£425.52 ex VAT) **Contact** Casio 0181 450 9131

**Good Points** Large display. Novel shooting modes.

**Bad Points** Some CCD noise evident. No optical viewfinder.

**Conclusion** One to consider if you're after a lot of features and don't mind the lack of an optical viewfinder.

#### Kodak DC-210 Plus

the spate of Kodak cameras which look like vintage radios. It is chunky and

has easy-to-use controls, complemented by a colourful and user-friendly menu system on the LCD monitor, complete with animations. The LCD display isn't particularly good quality though, with blocky images and a slow update rate. There's a separate power switch, and a large, unambiguous mode dial on the back prevents the kind of frustration we

experienced with the Minolta. The Kodak is the only unit that lets you select from two different file storage formats, IPEG or FlashPix, but this doesn't affect the number of images the camera is able to store. The 8Mb Compact Flash memory card will hold 16 high-resolution 1152 x 864 images, increasing to 36 with higher compression. A set of rechargeable Nickel Metal Hydride batteries (plus charger) and a mains power unit are included. For downloading via serial cable we used the supplied TWAIN driver but experienced considerable problems. In the end we could only manage to transfer pictures at

9600bps. Apart from this, the Kodak was trouble free. Quality was only average though, and it displayed the worst macro ability of the bunch.

#### **PCW** DETAILS



**Price** £399.99 (£340.42 ex VAT) **Contact** Kodak 0800 281487

**Good Points** *Easy to use.* 8*Mb storage.* Cheap.

**Bad Points** Problems with download speeds. Quality is only adequate.

**Conclusion** Another good, fuss-free unit for no-nonsense shots.

#### Minolta Dîmage EX Zoom 1500



has the dubious distinction of being the second most

expensive camera here. It's very hard to use, too. There are 17 small, fiddly control buttons and dials and we found it tricky to get anywhere without resorting to the manual, which was only supplied on CD-ROM — a ludicrous situation for a peripheral that's supposed to be portable. Once you've fathomed it, the camera offers sophisticated functions like grouping and naming sets of images, but we'd

be surprised if many people used these functions. On the plus side you get a lot of extras for your money, including a total of 16Mb storage on one 8Mb and two 4Mb Compact Flash cards. There's also a SanDisk Compact Flash drive which plugs into a PC parallel port and simplifies downloading images: just pull out the card, plug it into the reader and download the whole contents in a couple of seconds. There's a set of batteries, charger and external power supply included. For its price, the Dimage wasn't all we'd hoped in terms of quality. Although it showed excellent detail reproduction with its unusual maximum resolution

of  $1344 \times 1008$ , colour rendition was wide of the mark. Macro mode was reasonable but didn't get close to the Ricoh [p202].

#### **PCW** DETAILS



Price £1,175 (£1,000 ex VAT)

Contact Minolta 01908 200400

www.minolta.co.uk

Good Points Loads of extras. Compact Flash card reader. Bad Points Very hard to use.

No paper manual. Expensive.

**Conclusion** High price and very quirky operation makes it hard to recommend.

#### Olympus C-900 Zoom



cover which slides back whereupon the lens automatically extends. But it's a bit fiddly closing it again as you need to slide it part-way back, wait for the lens to retract and then slide it the rest of the way. Again, like standard compact cameras, the flash is the pop-up variety although it's not automatic. The C-900 has one of the least intuitive control systems. There are too many buttons

and it's not immediately obvious what many of them do. But if you can't work out how to turn on the LCD monitor, there is at least an optical viewfinder. The serial transfer software is easy to use: just hit the 'download all' button and off it goes. No need to mess about with downloading thumbnails beforehand if you don't want to. There's no power supply or battery charger as standard, so the consequent power savings are welcome. The 4Mb SmartMedia means downloads will be necessary more often than others with larger capacities. The 1280 x 960 resolution CCD (Charge-Coupled Device) produced very good image



quality in our studio tests, marred only by a slight lack of focus. It fared well in the macro test, too.

#### **PCW** DETAILS



Price £649.99 (£553.18 ex VAT) Contact Olympus 0171 253 0513 www.olympus.co.uk/indexE.html

**Good Points** *Great looks. Excellent quality. Reasonable price.* 

**Bad Points** Only 4Mb storage. No rechargeables or power supply. **Conclusion** A good, compact all-rounder.

#### Olympus C-1400XL

The C-1400XL has similar controls to the C-900 Zoom. The main differences are its higherresolution 1.41 million pixel CCD providing 1280 x

1024 resolution and the fact that it has a through-the-lens viewfinder, so what you see is what the CCD sees when you press the shutter. It has a slightly extended zoom range of 36-105mm. The controls are less than intuitive and there's only a manual pop-up flash.

It has an 8Mb SmartMedia card allowing up to eight pictures to be stored in the lowest compression mode, 24 with slightly higher compression and 49 at 640 x 512 resolution. The serial transfer software is straightforward and fuss-free and the inclusion of rechargeable batteries and a charger makes for less stressful downloads: no worry about the batteries dying halfway through and having to buy another set just to complete the transfer. There's also the option of printing straight to an Olympus photo printer via the integrated printer port. The 1400's quality in the main studio setup was

among the best in this group. Macro mode was not as impressive though, as the unit was unable to get close to the subject.

#### **PCW** DETAILS



**Price** £849.99 (£723.40 ex VAT) **Contact** Olympus 0171 253 0513 www.olympus.co.uk/indexE.html

**Good Points** High resolution. TTL viewfinder.

**Bad Points** Unintuitive controls. Fairly expensive.

**Conclusion** Good choice for the higherend user, but check the Agfa 1680, too.

#### Ricoh RDC-4200



arrangement: the flash in the main body is mechanically linked and swivels in sympathy. It has a lens cover that automatically opens when you switch the camera on. There's a separate power switch for this, making it easy to flick the unit on or off without fiddling with a multi-way switch. The LCD monitor is rather small at 1.8in but it's very good quality and updates faster than any other

camera in this group test: it appears to refresh at a full 25fps. The SmartMedia memory card supplied with the Ricoh is only 4Mb, giving just six images in the high-quality, 1280 x 960 resolution mode. But frequent image downloads are aided by the fact that the camera's LCD gives a constantly updated display showing the amount of each image still to transfer - a unique feature in this test. Special mention has to go to the RDC-4200's macro mode. It's head and shoulders above the rest, letting you focus down to just 8cm and revealing far more detail than any of the others. Image quality in standard mode wasn't so encouraging



though, with poor white balance and some colour misalignment.

#### **PCW** DETAILS



Price £499 (£424.68 ex VAT)

Contact Johnson's Photopia 01782
753355 www.ricob-cameras.co.uk

**Good Points** Superb macro mode. Good display. Low price.

**Bad Points** Not much storage. No optical viewfinder.

**Conclusion** *The one to buy for macro shots.* 

#### Sanyo VPC-Z400



a similarly hefty feel to the Canon A5 but it's a bit larger and less elegant. Also, like the A5, the metal is only skin deep; there's a plastic shell underneath. The Sanyo was the easiest camera to pull out of the box and start using. Most of the controls are labelled with text rather than cryptic icons and the number of controls has been kept to a

minimum. Next to the LCD monitor is a big slider switch to turn the display on or off, so no stabbing at buttons here. And, at the other side of the monitor is a novel feature, a 'solar panel' slider. This is not a solar panel in the usual sense: sliding it down flips open a small flap at the top of the LCD, allowing ambient light to illuminate the display and saving the battery drain of a normal backlight. It works well outdoors. Adjusting this camera's settings via the monitor is far easier than many in this group test: all is done via a four-way, thumb-operated rocker switch. The 1.3 megapixel CCD gives a maximum image resolution of

1280 x 960 and the quality is very good. We were particularly impressed with the 34-102mm lens's macro capabilities, putting it in second

#### **PCW** DETAILS

#### \*\*\*

Price £599 (£509.79 ex VAT)
Contact Sanyo 01923 246363
www.sanyo.co.uk

Good Points Very easy to use. Good quality. Good macro ability. Bad Points A little chunky. Rather expensive.

**Conclusion** A good choice if ease of use is a primary concern.

		COMPUTER					
MANUFACTURER	AGFA	CANON	CANON	Casio	Kodak		
Model	<b>ЕР</b> ното <b>1680</b>	PowerShot A5	PowerShot Pro 70	QV-7000SX	DC-210 PLUS		
Price (inc VAT)	£703.83	£645.08	£1,173.83	£499.99	£399.99		
Phone	0181 231 5511	0121 666 6262	0121 666 6262	0181 450 9131	0800 281487		
URL	www.agfa.co.uk	www.canon.co.uk	www.canon.co.uk	www.casio.co.uk	www.kodak.co.uk		
Focal length (equivalent)	38-114mm	28-70mm	28-70mm	32-64mm	29-58mm		
Digital zoom	2X	Х	Х	4X	Х		
Macro mode minimum focus	20cm	17cm	12cm	10cm	20cm		
Number of CCD pixels	1.22 million	810,000	1.6 million	1.32 million	1.01 million		
Max picture resolution	1600 x 1200	1024 x 768	1536 x 1024	1280 x 960	1152 x 864		
Other resolutions	1280 x 960, 640 x 480	512 x 384	768 x 512	640 x 480	640 x 480		
Memory type	SmartMedia	Compact Flash	Compact Flash	Compact Flash	Compact Flash		
Standard external memory	4Mb	8МЬ	15Mb	8Mb	8МЬ		
Max images on memory	6 at 1600 x 1200,	8 in CCD RAW,	7 in CCD RAW,	14 max quality high res,	16 high quality,		
	12 at 1280 x 960,	44 high quality high res,	39 high quality high res,	33 min quality high res,	24 better,		
	48 at 640 x 480	236 standard quality low res	181 standard quality low res	55 low res	36 good		
Native file format	JPEG	JPEG	JPEG or proprietary CRW	JPEG	JPEG or Flashpix		
AC adaptor/rechargeable batteries	x / 🗸	V / V	V / V	x / x	V / X		

		COMMENDED		COMMENDED	
MANUFACTURER	MINOLTA	OLYMPUS COMPUTER	<b>O</b> LYMPUS	Ricoн Gowen	Sanyo
Model	DIMAGE EX ZOOM	С-900 Zоом	C-1400XL	RDC-4200	VPC-Z400
Price (inc VAT)	£1,175	£649.99	£849.99	£499	£599
Phone	01908 200400	0171 253 0513	0171 253 0513	01782 753355	01923 246363
URL	www.minolta.co.uk	www.olympus.co.uk/	www.olympus.co.uk/	www.ricoh-cameras.co.uk	www.sanyo.co.uk
Focal length (equivalent)	38-115mm	35-105mm	36-110mm	35-105mm	34-102mm
Digital zoom	Х	2X	Х	2X	2X
Macro mode minimum focus	35cm	30cm	30cm	8cm	20cm
Number of CCD pixels	1.45 million	1.31 million	1.41 million	1.22 million	1.31 million
Max picture resolution	1344 x 1008	1280 x 960	1280 x 1024	1280 x 960	1280 x 960
Other resolutions	640 x 480	640 x 480	640 x 512	640 x 480	640 x 480
Memory type	Compact Flash	SmartMedia	SmartMedia	SmartMedia	Compact Flash
Standard external memory	16Mb (4+4+8)	4Mb	8МЬ	4Mb	4Mb
Max images on memory	10 superfine,	1 non-compression mode,	8 super high quality,	1 uncompressed, 6 superfine,	8 high res, high quality,
	80 standard,	9 super high- 18 high-quality	24 high quality,	23 economy high res,	15 high res, med quality,
	320 quarter size min. quality	60 SQ low res	49 standard quality low res	70 economy low res	41 low res, med quality
Native file format	JPEG	JPEG	JPEG	JPEG (TIF uncompressed)	JPEG
AC adaptor/rechargeable batteries	V / V	x / x	x / v	x / <b>v</b>	x / x

#### Agfa ePhoto 1680







**Medium res** 



High res



Medium res



Macro

#### Canon PowerShot A5 Zoom



High res



**Medium res** 



High res



**Medium res** 



Macro

#### Canon PowerShot Pro 70



High res



**Medium res** 



High res



**Medium res** 



SOCOPHOCES

Macro

#### Casio QV-7000 SX



High res



**Medium res** 



High res



Medium res



Macro

#### Kodak DC-210 Plus



High res



**Medium res** 



**High res** 



**Medium res** 



Macro

#### Minolta Dîmage EX Zoom 1500



High res



**Medium res** 



High res



**Medium res** 



Macro

#### Olympus C-1400XL



High res



**Medium res** 



High res



**Medium res** 



Macro

#### Olympus C-900 Zoom



High res



**Medium res** 



High res



**Medium res** 



Macro

#### Ricoh RDC-4200



High res



**Medium res** 



High res



**Medium res** 



Macro

#### Sanyo VPC-Z400



High res



**Medium res** 



High res



Medium res



Macro

## Editor's Choice There's no doubt that things are developing fast on the digital It's encouraging to see that none of the cameras in this test produced less Surpright the cameras in this test produced less

developing fast on the digital camera front, but it's clear that you're not going to want to throw away your trusty 35mm film camera just yet. A film camera still gives far better colour reproduction and massively increased resolution over the best digital unit

the cameras in this test produced less than good quality. Most of them have interesting features not found on any of the others so it pays to take a long hard

look at their specifications to see which one might suit you. But there have to be some winners. As far as absolute quality goes, it is clear which camera comes up trumps.

surprising that the PowerShot Pro 70 wins on quality, given that it costs more than £1,000.

The real trick is getting high quality at a low price. For the best price-

> performance ratio, the **Olympus** C-900 Zoom and the Ricoh RDC-4200 are Highly Commended.

Although it's not the easiest to use, once you get the hang of it, the Olympus provides excellent pictures in a range of circumstances. It's also very neatly styled, the LCD is high quality, and at £650 it's not going to bankrupt you. The Ricoh receives an award by virtue of its low price and superb macro mode:

it managed to completely fill the frame with an amazingly small area of our test setup. If you're looking for a camera to

photograph your jewellery and other small valuables for insurance purposes, this is the one to go for.

here, for less than half the cost of the cheapest. Nevertheless, some of the results are mightily impressive and there's

no doubt that with the massive increase in the use of the web, a digital camera is the fastest way to get your photos online for the whole world to see.

**Our Editor's Choice** is the Canon PowerShot Pro 70 which provides amazingly good,

natural-looking pictures and enough facilities to keep any SLR user happy.

Additionally, its dual Compact Flash slots make for extended periods without having to download. It's not too

#### How we did the tests



**To be able to test** the performance of the cameras on a level playing field, a controlled environment with constant lighting is needed. So, for the major part of our tests, we set up a still life scene in a studio, using professional tungsten lamps for illumination.

**▼ We set up each camera** on a tripod in the same position as the last and used the zoom facility (which all these cameras possessed) to accurately frame the shot using guide marks set up at each corner of the still life. We then took three shots: one was taken at the maximum resolution and quality of which each camera was capable; and then again with the lights turned off, which meant the cameras were forced to increase the gain on their CCD arrays, showing up any problems with 'noise'. For the third, we turned the lights back on and took a shot at the default, normal quality, mode of each camera. In all cases, the flash units were turned off to keep the lighting and shadows constant and enable us to directly compare the results for each camera. We then resized each of the images in Photoshop to A4 size

and took one-inch square sections of the high and medium resolution images to reproduce here.

- To test macro photography abilities, we set up another still life scene and took a shot with each camera set to maximum telephoto, positioned at the minimum focusing distance according to the camera's specification. In judging the results, we concentrated on how small an area each camera captured, and whether or not the results were in focus. We resized the macro shots to an inch high, so what you see is what we got. In addition, we took each camera outside and took an outdoor shot of the same subject (London's Soho Square) from the same position, to aid us in assessing the all-round abilities of the cameras.
- ► When viewing our results, bear in mind that in the interests of keeping things equal, the shots were taken using the standard automatic exposure and whitepoint settings, as they'd be most often used in practice. All the cameras featured in this test have adjustable whitepoint and manual exposure modes, so it's possible to tweak the settings to achieve the desired results.

# Photo flash Adele Dyer's snapshot view of tomorrow's new products Fujifilm MX Fujifilm MX Fujifilm has numerous new camer That provides a resolution of 1800

Adele Dyer's snapshot view of tomorrow's new products not yet on the shelves, or only just out.



Fujifilm MX-2700
Fujifilm has numerous new cameras. The MX-2700 [pictured] has a 2.3 million pixel CCD that provides a resolution of 1800 x 1200 and has a 2.5X digital zoom. The MX-600 Zoom has a top resolution of 1280 x 1024 image from a 1.5 million pixel CCD. It comes with 12Mb of SmartMedia and has a 3X Fujinon zoom lens. The DS-330 has a wide range of features and a high-quality 1.4 million pixel CCD. Prices Fujifilm MX-2700, under £700 (£595.74 ex VAT); Fujifilm MX-600Zoom, £549.99 (£468.08 ex VAT); Fujifilm DS-330, £1404.13 (£1195 ex VAT) Contact Fujifilm 0171 586 5900 www.fujifilm.co.uk

#### Kodak DC-240



Kodak has a whole raft of new cameras but most are refreshes of existing models, with faster power-up times and faster image processing. One completely new camera is the DC-240. With its 1.3 megapixel CCD, it has a top resolution of 1280 x 960 and an 8Mb CompactFlash.

Price £499.99 (£425.52 ex VAT)

Contact Kodak 0800 281487 www.kodak.co.uk





#### Epson Photo PC 750 Z

Epson's latest digital camera uses an interpolation technique to give a top resolution of 1600 x 1200 pixels, from a 1.25 million pixel CCD sensor. It has a 3X optical zoom lens, a 2X digital zoom and a power-saving LCD panel which uses daylight to provide the backlight.

Price £727.33 (£619 ex VAT)

Contact Epson 0800 220546 www.epson.co.uk

#### Nikon Coolpix 950 and 700



Nikon has not just one but two new models featuring 2.11 million pixel CCDs. Both the Coolpix 950 and the Coolpix 700 have a maximum resolution of 1600 x 1200. The former has an optical zoom equivalent to a 38-115mm lens on a 35mm camera, while the latter has an auto-focus lens equivalent to a 38mm lens on a 35mm camera with a five-step digital zoom.

Price to be announced

Contact Nikon 0800 230220 www.nikon.co.uk





#### Konica Q-M200

This two million pixel camera gives a resolution of 1600 x 1200. Unlike some of the other two-megapixel cameras it does not have an optical zoom; the lens is equivalent to a 38mm lens on a 35mm camera. It comes with an 8Mb CompactFlash card.

Price to be announced Contact Konica 0181 751 6121 www.konica.co.uk

#### Olympus Camedia C-2000 Zoom



Another two-megapixel camera, this time with a 2.1 million pixel CCD, giving a true resolution of 1600 x 1200 pixels. It has 3X optical zoom and 2.5X digital zoom, and comes with an 8Mb SmartMedia card which will store between one and 122 images depending on resolution and compression rate. Price £749.99 (£638.29 ex VAT)

Contact Olympus 0171 253 0513 www.olympus.co.uk/indexE.html

