

# ZERO TO PRO

## Camera Buying Advice (Jan 2019)

Please remember a few things (in no particular order):

1. **You will adapt to and be happy with any top brand camera you buy! SO DON'T AGONIZE OVER IT!**
2. I recommend Canon over Nikon because this is what I use and therefore this is what I know. It is probably not worth listening to someone who screams Canon over Nikon or vice-a-versa. They are both excellent options.

There are 5 criteria in choosing either Canon or Nikon (to buy any other brand is not recommended):

- Which brand does your teacher shoot with?
- Which brand do you friends own?
- Which brand has the closest service outlet?
- Which one is cheaper?
- Which one is easiest to purchase?

**If you intend on joining our school it makes sense to buy Canon!**

3. DSLR v Mirrorless - At the time of writing this the general consensus is that there is very little difference between these two options and many still *many* more professionals are using DSLR.
4. **The more you spend (nearly always) the better it is...** BUT the difference is generally noticeable only after a couple of months of learning. *At the beginning* you might even find you take better pictures with a more basic camera.
5. **Canon's main objective is to have you spend as much money as possible!** As such, they have very cleverly engineered their product line to nudge you in the direction of spending more. This makes the whole topic of buying a DSLR camera more involved and confusing.
6. All prices are taken from B&H camera store in NY ([www.bhphotovideo.com](http://www.bhphotovideo.com)) and are quoted in \$US.

7. I could put forward a convincing argument for any of the cameras listed (and not listed) and I am sure that there will be people that disagree with my final conclusions. However, after having weighed all the factors together and needing to give a conclusive recommendations to my students I stand by the following list.
  
8. **The listed cameras and lenses below are assuming that you are initially intending to get into natural light, outdoor family portrait photography.** I would definitely not recommend only buying the lenses listed below if you are seriously intending to get involved in event photography.
  
9. If you know *for sure* that photography is what you want to do and you can get the money together, go for option 4!

## **Option 1 - The Hacker**

### **Canon EOS Rebel T6i DSLR Camera with 18-55mm Lens**

B&H # CAEDRT6I1855 MFR # 0591C003

**\$599**

### **+ Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 STM Lens**

B&H # CA5018EFSTM - MFR # 0570C002

**\$125**

## **Option 2 - The Play It Safe**

### **Canon EOS 50D DSLR Camera (Body Only)**

Go to [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com) and type in "Canon 50D"

**Around \$200 - \$300**

### **+ Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 STM Lens**

B&H # CA5018EFSTM - MFR # 0570C002

**\$125**

## **Option 3 - The Connoisseur**

### **Canon EOS 6D Mark II DSLR Camera (Body Only)**

B&H # CAE6D2 MFR # 1897C002

**\$1299**

### **+ Canon EF 85mm f/1.8 USM Lens**

B&H # CA8518EF MFR # 2519A003

**\$369**

## **Option 4 - The Gung Ho**

### **Canon EOS 5D Mark IV DSLR Camera (Body Only)**

B&H # CAE5D4 MFR # 1483C002

**\$2999**

### **+ Canon EF 85mm f/1.8 USM Lens**

B&H # CA8518EF MFR # 2519A003

**\$369**