

Camera Buying Advice (Sep 2017)

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. **The more you spend (nearly always) the better it is...** And the difference is noticeable.
4. Canon's main objective it to have you spend as much money as possible. As such, they have *very* cleverly engineered their product line to nudge in the direction of spending more. This makes the whole topic of buying a DSLR camera very involved and confusing.
5. All prices are taken from B&H camera store in NY (www.bhphotovideo.com) and are quoted in \$US.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. If you know *for sure* that photography is what you want to do and you can get the money together, go for option 3!

Option 1

(On a tight budget)

Canon EOS Rebel T5i DSLR Camera (Body Only)

B&H # CAEDRT5I - MFR # 8595B001

\$649

+ Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 STM Lens

B&H # CA5018EFSTM - MFR # 0570C002

\$125

Option 2

(Completely adequate)

Canon EOS 70D DSLR Camera (Body Only)

B&H # CAE70D - MFR # 8469B002

\$799

+ Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 STM Lens

B&H # CA5018EFSTM - MFR # 0570C002

\$125

Option 3

(The best of the best)

Canon EOS 5D Mark III DSLR Camera (Body Only)

B&H # CAE5D3 - MFR # 5260B002

\$2249

+ Canon EF 85mm f/1.8 USM Lens

B&H # CA8518EF MFR # 2519A003

\$369