

Megapixel Conversion

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Since our entrance into the digital photography area, people have been asking us for our advice about which camera they should purchase. We keep telling people that it depends on what they want to accomplish with their photography. With this in mind, we have compiled a chart as to what we consider would make acceptable prints from what resolution cameras. Since cameras are changing constantly, and there are so many cameras on the market, we have decided to make a chart based on the Megapixels. We hope this helps you.

As when purchasing a digital camera, there is also the same consideration that the lens is just as important as a film camera. If you have a bad lens, it does not matter how many Megapixels you have.

In order to calculate the Mega pixels of a camera, we multiply the height and the width of the image pixels that the camera can capture. For example, a CCD with a resolution of 2400x1800 can capture 4,320,000 pixels per image. Drop all the numbers after the first comma, and that will give you the camera's Mega pixel number. In our example, that would be 4.

Many cameras offer you the ability to shoot at several different resolutions. I would also recommend always shooting at the highest resolution possible of your camera. The reason for this is that you can always lower the resolution in your computer but you cannot raise it. For example, if you know that you will only be emailing the image, you might be tempted to shoot with a low resolution for that image. But what happens if you later decide you want to print that image. If the resolution is low, you will not be able to do so.

Digital Camera Resolution Chart							
Capture Resolution	Video	Print Size ⁹					
	Display ⁷	2x3	4x6	5x7	8x10	11x14	16x20
0.3 Megapixel	3	5	3	1	1	1	1
1 Megapixel	5	6	6	4	3	1	1
1.5 Megapixels	5, 8	6	6	5	4	2	1
2 Megapixels	5, 8	6	6	6	4	2	2
3 Megapixels	5, 8	6	6	6	5	3	2

4 Megapixels	5, 8	6	6	6	6	4	3
5 Megapixels	5, 8	6	6	6	6	5	4
6 Megapixels	5, 8	6	6	6	6	6	6

Notes

- 1 – Noticeably Grainy or pixilated
- 2 – Obviously not a real photo, but some details are visible
- 3 – Can tell it is not a photo at normal distance, but good enough for many uses
- 4 – Can tell it is not a photo at normal distance, but good enough for many uses
- 5 – Difficult to tell from a real photo at normal viewing distance
- 6 – On a photo-quality printer, the human eye should not be able to tell the difference at a normal viewing distance – Photo Quality.
- 7 – Either a television or computer display like a web page
- 8 – Will produce an excessively large file size that would be inappropriate for web applications
- 9 – Using a typical photo quality desktop printer or better