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Top 10 Point-and-Shoot Cameras Edited by Eric Butterfield

**TEST
Center**

Easy to use, point-and-shoot cameras are a great choice for the casual photographer. Ratings and rankings can change due to pricing and technology changes, so check back frequently for the latest info.

TOP 10 POINT & SHOOT CAMERAS		Performance, features and specifications	PCW Rating	
1	Best Buy HP Photosmart R717 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Max. Megapixels: 6.2 •Optical Zoom: 3X •Zoom Range (mm): 39-117 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weight (ounces): 5.8 •Media Slots: SD Card •Price When Reviewed: \$270 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 82 Very Good </div>
<p>▶ Bottom Line: This feature-rich model comes with in-camera image... (Last Rated: June 15, 2006)</p>				
2	Canon PowerShot A540 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Max. Megapixels: 6 •Optical Zoom: 4X •Zoom Range (mm): 35-140 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weight (ounces): 6.6 •Media Slots: SD •Price When Reviewed: \$280 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 80 Very Good </div>
<p>▶ Bottom Line: Low-priced model offers many manual controls, a generous 4X zoom, and a widescreen mode. But it lacks exposure bracketing. (Last Rated: June 15, 2006)</p>				
3	HP Photosmart R817 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Max. Megapixels: 5.1 •Optical Zoom: 5X •Zoom Range (mm): 36-180 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weight (ounces): 6.7 •Media Slots: SD Card •Price When Reviewed: \$250 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 79 Good </div>
<p>▶ Bottom Line: Offers in-camera red-eye reduction like the similar R717, plus a more powerful zoom, but image quality was less impressive. (Last Rated: February 17, 2006)</p>				
4	Casio Exilim EX-Z600 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Max. Megapixels: 6 •Optical Zoom: 3X •Zoom Range (mm): 38-114 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weight (ounces): 5 •Media Slots: SD •Price When Reviewed: \$299 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 78 Good </div>
<p>▶ Bottom Line: Offers lots of controls and many scene modes. The 2.7-inch LCD is bright, but image quality could be improved. (Last Rated: June 15, 2006)</p>				
5	HP Photosmart R727 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Max. Megapixels: 6.1 •Optical Zoom: 3X •Zoom Range (mm): 39-118 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weight (ounces): 6.4 •Media Slots: SD •Price When Reviewed: \$300 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 78 Good </div>
<p>▶ Bottom Line: Has bright 2.5-inch LCD and nice features, such as in-camera panorama stitching and image advice. But lacks manual settings. (Last Rated: June 15, 2006)</p>				
6	Fujifilm FinePix E900 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Max. Megapixels: 9 •Optical Zoom: 4X •Zoom Range (mm): 32-128 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weight (ounces): 9.2 •Media Slots: xD-Picture Card •Price When Reviewed: \$399 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 77 Good </div>
<p>▶ Bottom Line: Delivers high image quality and many controls... (Last Rated: June 15, 2006)</p>				
7	Olympus FE-120 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Max. Megapixels: 6 •Optical Zoom: 3X •Zoom Range (mm): 38-114 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weight (ounces): 6.7 •Media Slots: xD-Picture Card •Price When Reviewed: \$230 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 77 Good </div>
<p>▶ Bottom Line: Low-cost camera delivers high image quality though... (Last Rated: June 15, 2006)</p>				
8	Samsung Digimax L85 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Max. Megapixels: 8.1 •Optical Zoom: 5X •Zoom Range (mm): 38-190 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weight (ounces): 6.7 •Media Slots: SD Card •Price When Reviewed: \$338 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 77 Good </div>
<p>▶ Bottom Line: Offers 5X zoom and very sharp 2.5-inch LCD. Controls are extensive, but images shot in wide mode appear stretched on an HDTV. (Last Rated: June 15, 2006)</p>				
9	Nikon Coolpix S6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Max. Megapixels: 6 •Optical Zoom: 3X •Zoom Range (mm): 35-105 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weight (ounces): 4.9 •Media Slots: SD •Price When Reviewed: \$350 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 77 Good </div>
<p>▶ Bottom Line: Thin model offers WiFi, sharp 3-inch LCD, and easy-to-use selector dial and thumbpad. Lacks contrast and saturation controls. (Last Rated: June 15, 2006)</p>				
10	Kodak EasyShare Z740 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Max. Megapixels: 5 •Optical Zoom: 10X •Zoom Range (mm): 38-380 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weight (ounces): 10.1 •Media Slots: SD Card •Price When Reviewed: \$299 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> 75 Good </div>
<p>▶ Bottom Line: The Z740's easy photo sharing and powerful zoom are enticing, but tentative long-distance focusing reduces the latter's value. (Last Rated: February 17, 2006)</p>				

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