

MAIN FEATURES


PRICE
£249

MAX RESOLUTION
1152 x 864

COMPATIBILITY
PC, Mac

LENS
39mm
(35mm equiv)

FOCUS:
Fixed

VIEWFINDER:
Optical, LCD

Kodak DC200 Plus **Kodak**

GIMME MORE!



The original Kodak DC200 was reviewed in our very first issue and did extremely well, scoring maximum points on the DPM scoreboard and gaining a DPM Best Buy award. So how will the revamped DC200 Plus measure up to its predecessor? DARREN LOCK is the man with the answer...

The first thing that's noticeable about the *Kodak DC200 Plus* is that, outwardly, not a great deal has changed between it and the plain old *DC200*. Oh sure, it sports a smart new coat of charcoal grey – as opposed to the silver finish of its predecessor – and it has had some 'tweaks' under the bonnet to give it an improved performance and operating speed. But the really good news for those looking to get their hands on an entry-level digicam, is that it has had £200 shaved off its launch price! Hence our Best Buy badge elsewhere on this spread.

The *DC200 Plus* has all the sturdy construction and the familiar 'hump' featured on the rest of the Kodak range. The camera is nicely portable and fits snugly in the hand. There is the 'infamous' 1.8in colour LCD screen at the back of the unit that can be used as a viewfinder or to review pictures (as well as sticking noses and thumbs into).

There is also a powerful built-in flash that works at up to nearly

10 feet, while the 39mm fixed focus lens stands poised to capture all the action.

On top of the unit there is a mini LCD information panel flanked by buttons that control the flash and timer functions. All the necessary input and output ports are located on the side of the unit, and are hidden by some neat rubber panels that flick back, but fortunately, don't actually come away from the unit. The card access panel is located

DPM VERDICT
Positives:

- Simple to use
- Good picture quality
- Low price

Negatives

- LCD screen awkwardly placed
- No shutter speed control

Image quality: ★★★★★

Value for money: ★★★★★

Ease of use: ★★★★★

Style factor: ★★★★★

OVERALL: ★★★★★


Quality control: The *DC200 Plus* has a user-friendly menu system, accessed via the LCD

FLASH:
YesIMAGE STORAGE:
CompactFlash
(4Mb supplied)IMAGE CAPACITY:
14/24/40IMAGE FORMAT:
JPEG, FlashPixPOWER SOURCE:
4xAA, AC adaptor
(not incl.)VIDEO OUTPUT:
PAL/NTSCDPM RATING
★★★★

here, and the memory card can be ejected via a small lever at the base of the camera.

ROTARY CLUB

The main controls are a rotary switch that allows the user to select the various camera modes. The Preference mode allows the user to make changes to the picture resolution (more of that in a moment), adjust the time stamp, select which picture format to use (JPEG or FlashPix), adjust the exposure or format the memory card. The menus are typically garishly coloured and easy to read on the LCD screen.

Selecting the Connect mode puts the camera into data ready mode, and allows a PC to be connected to the unit via a serial cable (supplied). The unit comes complete with TWAIN drivers so it is compatible with

SUPPORTING FEATURES

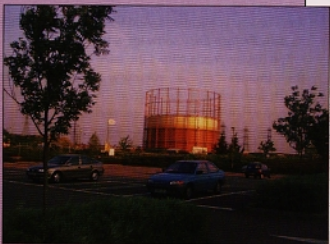
Software Included: Kodak TWAIN drivers ● mounting software and Kodak Picture Easy 3.1.

Extras: Video output ● exposure control ● anti-red eye function ● slide show function ● lens cap ● wrist strap

TEST STRIP



Reach for the sky: The upgraded DC200 Plus' megapixel resolution provides a good entry point for the would-be digital snapper



Out of gas: Fortunately images are bold and crisp, with pleasingly accurate colour rendition and broad tonal range



Not in service: The 200 Plus may not give you a ride to the airport, but it will certainly put first timers in the driving seat



Good support: Kodak favours CompactFlash storage media. Close by are the ports for Video Out, connection to a PC, and AC mains adaptor (left)



To the power of four: Like most digicams, the DC200 Plus takes four AA batteries (above)

mode, six pictures per megabyte in Better mode or nine pictures per megabyte in Good mode.

In the field, the DC200 Plus is a joy to use. Just point and click, that's all there is to this unit. Admittedly the more experienced photographer may find this limiting – there's no way you can manually change the shutter speed, but you can alter the exposure time in a limited fashion. But with this budget model squarely aimed at first time digital camera user, it would be churlish to complain about lack of manual functions. What you are stuck with is a camera that is great for outdoor shots or indoor shots with flash.

Ready for action: Intuitive function buttons won't trouble first time digicam users (left)

Anyhow, the pictures produced by the DC200 Plus are bold and crisp with accurate colour representation. The aforementioned flash is powerful, so careful not to get too close to your subject! The anti-red eye feature comes as standard, so I can imagine this camera working well in a party scenario.

Basically, the DC200 Plus is a faster operating version of DC200 with the addition of a template feature (this puts a rather tacky frame around the captured image). And there's about £200 knocked off the retail price – which can't be bad. The DC200 Plus may not be revolutionary, but for £249 you get yourself a rather decent looking camera that produces above average digital pictures and, to top it off, you get the Kodak name on the front. A bargain? You betcha!

most image applications. Additionally, Kodak bundles its own Picture Easy software with the unit.

The Review mode allows the user to scan through all the images on a memory card and select which ones are ready for deletion. This mode comes into its own when the camera is connected to a TV set. The unit can output a NTSC or PAL composite video signal, and flick through all the pics, while seeing them in 'Technicolor glory' on the big screen. The final mode is the self-explanatory Capture.

THESE FOOLPROOF THINGS

Using the DC200 Plus is simplicity itself. As soon as you get it out of the box, all you need to do is insert the batteries, make sure the CompactFlash memory card is in place, switch the camera to Capture mode and turn on. After first removing the lens cap!

There are two image resolutions: 1152x864 pixels being the high setting and 640x480 pixels being the normal setting. There are also three picture quality settings that compress the images accordingly. So you can capture four pictures per megabyte in Best



ALTERNATIVES

If this review has whet your appetite for a keenly-priced, entry-level camera you may also want to take a look at the following models before you buy:

Camera	Price	Reviewed	Verdict
Agfa CL-30	£299	In a future issue	
Fuji DX-10	£250	May 99	★★★★