

## **J/doc still camera requirements**

- **No cell phone cameras**

A cell phone can be a lot of things, but for j/doc courses it is never a camera.

- **12 megapixels or greater**

Sensor size matters. Look at the camera or box to make sure it has ‘12 MP’ somewhere on it. Any number larger than that is acceptable as well.

- **.jpg format**

In *menu settings*, find an option that says something like “Picture Format.” Make sure it is set to “.jpg.” If you’re a photography nerd, you may be inclined to select “.tiff” or one of the RAW formats. Please refrain from doing this. Because you will be importing pictures into Soundslides (link to Soundslides format requirements page), your pictures must be in the .jpg format.

## **J/doc still camera notes:**

### *The point of point-and-shoots*

Photographers’ limitations are usually related to gear or skill, but advances in gear have eased demands on skill.

Without much experience, you can use the face detection technology of a modern point-and-shoot camera to replicate the focus effects of a much more expensive DSLR. If you’ve maxed out your credit card on that expensive DSLR, you may find that carrying 20 pounds of gear and fiddling with lenses seems impractical. Thankfully, point-and-shoot cameras allow you take photographs that just 20 years ago would’ve required a fair amount of cash and expertise. You can put this newer technology in your front shirt pocket.

### *SD card size: be sure it’s right for your camera*

If you’re looking to take lots of pictures and you decide to purchase a larger SD card, take note of the maximum usable size. In the case of digital point-and-shoots, don’t buy something too large for your camera. Don’t spend money on a 32 gig SD card if your camera can only recognize an 8 gig.

### ***Keep the CD***

If you've just purchased a point-and-shoot, don't throw away the CD that came with it. Chances are you'll need to install the software that came with your camera to get the pictures off (this is definitely the case with Canons and Macs). If you do not have the CD, you can go to the manufacturer's website and enter the make and model into the search field. Find your camera, then download and install its "E-Z Photo Deluxe" program (or whatever they call it).

When you're done taking a set of pictures, use this software to get the pictures off the camera and onto your thumb drive (link to thumb drive page). Then back up all of your photos to yet another location. After you're absolutely positive that everything has been backed up and then backed up again, delete everything that's still on your camera. A good photographer will always be ready to take more pictures at a moment's notice.

Note: Plan to do this transferring process at home. You will not be able to install your camera's software on a j/doc lab computer. Jeff Loomis will not install this software on a lab computer for you either—so don't ask ☺

### ***JAMS recommended point-and-shoot cameras***

Feel free to spend more money, but based on price v. results, here's what we're recommending:

[\*\*Canon PowerShot SX210 IS\*\*](#)

[\*\*Sony Cyber-shot Digital Camera W560\*\*](#)

[\*\*Panasonic DMC-FH5 Series\*\*](#)

[\*\*Nikon Coolpix S3100\*\*](#)