

Backgrounder

THE NEW MINOLTA DiMAGE Xt 3.2 MEGAPIXEL DIGITAL CAMERA

The new Minolta DiMAGE Xt is designed to capture high-quality images quickly and conveniently with the world's thinnest* digital camera body.

Main Features:

Compact Body and Design

The compact design of the Minolta DiMAGE Xt makes it easy to carry in a pocket without the usual bulk of traditional camera designs. With dimensions of 3.4 (W) x 2.6 (H) x 0.8 (D) inches and weighing only 4.2 ounces, the DiMAGE Xt is thinner than any other digital camera with a 3x optical zoom lens. The simple and refined design, with a sleek metal exterior, also makes the DiMAGE Xt unobtrusive, so images of even everyday moments can be captured effortlessly.

Revolutionary, Folded 3x Optical Zoom Lens

Minolta's legendary expertise in optical lens design has led to the creation of a unique compact folded 3x optical zoom lens with a depth of only 0.8 inches. By using a high quality prism that folds the optical path, the optical zoom lens is positioned vertically within the body. In addition, this efficient optical design requires only a small zooming motor, allowing for quiet zooming. With the 3x (5.7 – 17.1mm) optical zoom equivalent to a 37mm – 111mm on a 35mm camera, this versatile zoom range can be used to take pictures of sweeping landscapes as well as intimate portraits and close-ups. The lens focuses down to 5.9 inches at all focal lengths for close-up photographs without having to use a separate function. In addition, the DiMAGE Xt also has a 4x digital zoom, making for up to a 12x seamless zooming capability.

Effortless Operation

The responsive DiMAGE Xt also boasts the world's fastest start-up time of approximately 1.1 seconds**. The camera is ready to shoot important moments as soon as it is switched on. The quick start-up speed is achieved by a newly developed, powerful RISC (Reduced Instruction Set Computer) CPU and the non-extending lens. The fluid playback performance only causes a slight 0.2-second delay between frames regardless of file size.

High Quality Images

The DiMAGE Xt starts with the essential elements and features for beautiful images. The camera is built around a high-precision electro-optical system designed to maximize image quality. The system uses a 3.3 megapixel 1/2.7-type interline primary-color CCD with 3.2 million effective

pixels for fine high-resolution images. This will produce 10 x 14 inch 150dpi prints or double-L size photo-quality prints.

Dark noise, an ever-present problem in electronic systems, manifests itself by giving a grainy or sandy appearance to images taken with long exposures. DiMAGE Xt combats this with a selectable noise-reduction function, which automatically activates for exposures of one second or longer.

The DiMAGE Xt also features Minolta's proprietary CxProcess™, a new image processing technology that provides clear and natural images. CxProcess balances both extremes by controlling sharpness, color reproduction, tonal gradation and noise to optimize result.

Autofocus and Metering Control

The metering and autofocus systems can be selected to suit the situation. Multi-segment metering and five-point AF make taking beautiful, sharp images simple; place the subject anywhere within the extra-wide focus frames and the camera will do the rest. Spot metering and spot AF allows a user to meter or focus on a specific subject. This is useful to preserve the dynamic lighting of a scene or to single out a specific subject from a group.

The camera's extended shutter-speed range gives the user more control over exposure in difficult lighting conditions. The camera can control the exposure from 4 seconds for scenes at night to 1/1000th of a second for brilliant sunlit landscapes.

Movie and Audio Functions

Extended Recording (XR) movie processing allows the Minolta DiMAGE Xt to capture digital video with audio. The length of the XR movie is only limited by the memory card capacity and image size. Two image sizes can be selected: 160 x 120 pixels and 320 x 240 pixels.

Thoughts and comments can be recorded with or without a still image. The audio recording mode can record continuously for 180 minutes. Voice memo allows up to 15 seconds of audio to be attached to an image when it is captured. The audio-caption function can attach an audio track to any recorded still-image. The audio tracks can be played back in the camera.

Video Conferencing Capability

The DiMAGE Xt can be used as a remote camera for video conferencing. Simply use the supplied USB cable to connect the camera to a computer with a Windows operating system and a compatible application such as Microsoft Windows Messenger. The camera can be mounted on a tripod or placed in the charger stand for hands-free operation.

Color Mode

The camera's color mode switches between color, black and white, and sepia. Color preserves the actual colors of the scene. Black and white creates a neutral monochrome image whereas the new sepia mode gives the classic appearance of toning in old photographs.

Convenient Controls

The DiMAGE Xt's controls have been redesigned for enhanced ease of use. A mode dial makes selecting the camera's recording, playback, and setup modes simple. A new Quick View button allows images on the memory card to be accessed from the recording modes after they have been captured. The controller incorporates the Enter button to make setting functions and navigating the menus straightforward. And the recording function operated by the left/right controller keys

can be customized to control exposure compensation, white balance, the drive mode, camera sensitivity, or the color mode to tailor camera operation to individual needs.

Audio signals can be used to make positive confirmation of button settings. A shutter sound effect accompanies the release of the shutter. As well as the electronic and mechanical shutter sounds, a personalized sound effect for both the AF signal and shutter release can be recorded using the camera's built-in microphone.

E-Mail Easy

The DiMAGE Xt is the perfect camera for transmitting digital image files via e-mail. Users can plug the camera's USB cable into a computer and simply drag and drop images onto a computer. The E-mail Copy function allows a recorded still image to be copied and resized to 640 x 480 or 160 x 120 pixels so that it may be attached to an e-mail message or posted on the Internet.

Rechargeable Battery

The DiMAGE Xt's charger stand can recharge the battery while it is still in the camera. It can also charge a single spare battery by itself. The charger doubles as a camera stand for when the DiMAGE Xt is used for self-portraits, as a remote camera, or when connected to a computer.

DiMAGE Viewer Software

Also bundled with this new camera is Minolta's DiMAGE Viewer software developed to support the latest generation of Minolta digital cameras. The Viewer allows still and movie images taken with the DiMAGE Xt to be processed and edited on a computer.

Editing single and multiple images is as simple as using a mouse. Images or folders can be copied or moved to any location in the computer. Multiple files can be renamed with a serial number. Exif information recorded when an image was captured, date, shutter speed, focal length, etc., can be displayed and the information to be displayed can be edited. The Viewer is not limited to images captured with Minolta digital cameras, but it can edit and process numerable common image-file formats.

A wide range of image-processing controls gives everyone, regardless of ability or experience, the tools to enhance or manipulate images. Color, brightness, contrast, saturation, and sharpness can be adjusted using palettes with sliders and input boxes. For advanced image processing, images can be adjusted using tone curves and histograms.

* as of February 15, 2003

** Fastest start up time of any digital camera with an optical zoom lens.

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