

THE DSLR TEST
ADVANCED AMATEUR DSLR

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Canon EOS 500D

BODY ONLY PRICE: £870 (Guide) / £650 (Street)
18-55MM KIT PRICE: £970 (Guide) / £720 (Street)
IMAGE RESOLUTION: 15.1-megapixels
LCD: 3in
STORAGE: SD/SDHC
WEIGHT: 480g (without battery & SD card)
PHONE: 08705 143723
WEBSITE: www.canon.co.uk

Handling & ease of use

If you've used any of Canon's consumer DSLRs released over the last two or three years – or even if you're a newcomer to digital SLR photography – you'll immediately feel at home with the EOS 500D. Designed with beginners in mind, the very clean control layout is immediately accessible to photographers of all levels, including the complete novice. It's a very compact DSLR and at only 480g, it's also one of the lightest, although those with large hands may find the handgrip a little too small to hold securely (the BG-E5 optional grip would help in this respect). Build quality is more in keeping with entry-level models than mid-range DSLRs, so while it's well made and has a nice, rubberised finish on the handgrip and the thumb rest on the rear, it does feel quite plasticky. The chunky control dial on the top-plate allows the user to quickly select an exposure mode, while the camera's on/off switch is nicely positioned to its right. Also close to the control dial is the ISO button, which has been given a prominent position to allow it to be accessed easily and with minimal fuss.

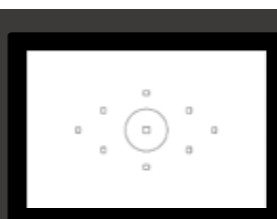
The rear of the camera is dominated by the 3in LCD monitor, which boasts the same excellent 920,000 dot screen found on more expensive EOS models. The well laid-out menu and the very useful Quick Control facility, for fast access to main functions, along with the large screen size, ensure it is fast and easy to use, and the added resolution is a real bonus

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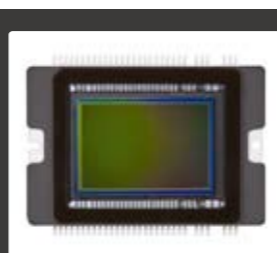
Supplied accessories

The Canon EOS 500D body is supplied with the following accessories: Body cap, wide strap (EW-100DBIII), USB cable, AV cable, Battery Charger (LC-E5E), rechargeable Li-ion battery (LP-E5), Software CD-Rom, Pocket Guide and instruction manual.



Viewfinder

The viewfinder screen is bright and sharp, but small for a DSLR costing close to £900. A dioptic correction facility aids spectacle wearers.



CMOS sensor

The 15.1-megapixel sensor offers the same resolution as Canon's mid-range DSLR, the EOS 50D. Maximum image resolution from the EOS 500D is 4752x3168 pixels.

when reviewing sharpness of images. You'll also find the DISP. (Display) button, next to the MENU button, useful when reviewing images too, as it allows you to quickly switch from a single image to a smaller thumbnail with histogram and so on. Of course, it's also worth remembering that the better the screen, the easier it is to work with the Live View option, though for the vast majority of the time, you'll be using the viewfinder, as opposed to the LCD monitor when composing images. The viewfinder screen is sharp and clear and has markings for the AF points and the central metering zone, but it is small for a camera at this price point (it's very similar in size to the EOS 450D screen). Exposure information runs along the bottom and is extensive. **SCORE 21/25**



Skin tones

Skin tones are well recorded, with a tendency towards slight warmth, which results in healthy looking skin.



Autofocus

The nine-point system is excellent, although single-point AF was needed here for accurate focusing.

Colour reproduction

This poppy field scene gave the opportunity for a glorious landscape test shot. The colours are bright and vibrant, and though the reds have started to 'bleed', the detail is excellent. Mode: Aperture-priority AE. Metering: Evaluative. Lens: Canon EF 17-40mm. Exposure: 1/100sec at f/13 (ISO 100).

