

**Stop whining.**  
**The grass will always be greener and faster, cheaper, better!**  
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Recently, Nikon dropped the price of their flagship D2h digital camera a thousand bucks. Many people moaned and groaned about the sudden decrease in their "investment". It's nothing more than another blip on the road to digital nirvana...

This price drop is similar to when Canon was selling its D30 a couple of years ago for, I think, about \$3000. Then the new & improved D60 came out of left field. Twice the resolution at half the price. Needless to say, Canon didn't drop the price on the remaining stock and I don't recall rebates on the D30 either.

Same story with CF cards... Three years ago, I was paying \$100 plus for a 4x, 128mb card. Now I pay less, for an 80x 1gb card. Faster, cheaper, better.

Same with computers. 20 years ago \$2500 bought me a 128kb, 8mhz, b&w Mac with a floppy and 9 inch screen...

Think if you bought one of the first professional digital cameras, the NC2000 in 1995. \$17,000 bought you 1.5 mb and noise as large as golf balls and that was at iso 400! It, too, is now a memory for many. Its replacement was faster, cheaper, better and was several years in the making before it replaced the NC2000.

Today, we have same story. Nikon drops its price. So what? Doesn't change its usability. Price a 1959 Nikon F at 2004 equivalent prices and the D2H is a steal even at the old price! Faster, cheaper, better. Best of all, the D2h has a built-in meter and motor drive. The old F had neither and it took several years before it did. Be patient! Cyberspace wasn't built in a day!

When I bought my D2h several months ago, the person selling wanted the new Canon MkII and sold me his body, flashes, software. Others bought his lenses. A month later, he was looking for a D2h and lenses after just selling the MkII and all his new lenses. I didn't ask, but I bet he liked what he originally had better.

It is simply apples and orange. Some prefer one over the other. Both systems are quite capable of high quality images when properly used.

A friend has a 10D and is stuck without a good wide angle lens since the new Canon 10-22mm isn't backward compatible. She'll keep shooting with what she has and will improve the quality of her photography in the mean time. When the next camera iteration comes out, she will probably partake and buy knowing that she is a better photographer by shooting her current camera rather than buying the latest and learning the idiosyncrasies and honing the basics, rather than moan and grown.

Big deal. We are in the horse and buggy stages of this era of photography! Ditto with computers. That's why, as pioneers, we are finding the shortcomings of each and paying the price for our initiative and cutting-edge spirit.

Faster, cheaper, better. Now at warp speed. Once it was at jet speed; before that a speeding

train. It just goes with the times. Stop wining and put the energy into shooting with what you have and the best you can!

I jumped into digital capture with a 2mp p&s camera three years ago just to play with it. Two months later the price was half as the model was discontinued and a newer, better camera came to market. Big deal. The technical quality of the images from that camera was marginal, but the artistic quality was beyond reproach. Even did a limited-edition book with the images along with a couple of weddings with that cruddy little camera. Did up to 20x30 inch prints and was blown-away. It was an edgy quality and so much fun, that I'd just prefer to turn back the clock and shoot only with it. To say the least, what made that camera work was the vision behind the lens. *My vision*.

I look at the quality of the spreads from my antique and obsolete digital slrs that are featured in *Nevada 24/7*. Included are a couple of 2-page spreads in the begging of the book. I have another page in *California 24/7* from another p&s digital capture taken with that old and expensive technology available in early 2003. The price on each camera dropped quite a bit on each camera I used then within a very few months. I didn't even shoot raw then, just jpeg, usually medium or high. The quality of those images simply blows me away. It used to take a lot more effort to do the same with film using a lot more external technology (processing, scanning, careful file prep, etc). Now I do it all faster, cheaper, better.

When I create prints from either my D100, the D2H, or even the lowly Nikon 775 at large sizes, I'm simply blown away. Even better than all the years when I used to use drum scanning from film for my clients. Higher quality and longer lasting prints, too. I used to spend a couple of weeks tweaking my separations way back when to to that era's best prints, dye transfer. Will I ever go back if given the chance? No way! Faster, cheaper, better.

You see, it wasn't the camera, it was the vision behind the lens that made the difference, *My vision*. Sure, better equipment helps some, but it is how it is used that counts. Too much fancy gear; not enough vision. Maybe instead of cutting the prices, manufacturers should consider raising their prices... Less bitching, better photos.

The grass will always greener somewhere. Put fertilizer on your own grass and make it greener. Stop whining and make photos!

It's time to get over it and go out and shoot, faster, cheaper, better!

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