

Nikon Coolpix 775

- n 2.1 megapixel digital camera
- n 35-115mm f/5.8-17.4mm
- n 256 segment Matrix metering
- n £350



The main dial gives rapid access to the different modes.



The 3x zoom gives a good range of focal lengths for general use

SURELY SOMETHING THIS TINY can't take any decent pictures? Well, if you can get beyond the diminutive proportions of this camera and start exploring the features it has to offer, you'll be pleasantly surprised. And if you like your camera to look good too, then you'll love this stylish, silver Nikon. The body may be small but the switchgear is easy to use and feels solid and well put together. Using it, you'll discover that all the buttons are in logical places and fall under your thumb and finger in a natural way.

Start-up is a sluggish six seconds before you can take the first picture. The main lens motors swiftly uncover the lens then move it into position, and if you don't keep an eye on the LCD screen you might be fooled into thinking the camera is ready before it actually is. The main dial wheel on top allows you to select quickly what type of scene you are about to capture. If you don't want to have to think about it, just select Auto and it will do the rest. Given the target audience for this camera, ease of use is vital, and if you can't find the manual, the easy to understand dial will bring it all back.



Auto focus and exposure are fast and accurate for this price range, and images produced are well-balanced. Colour rendition is very good with the white balance doing its job well. The lens produces good, clear images up to the edge with bags of detail, the only downside being a slight softness in the images taken, but this is not a real concern. It can certainly hold its own against others in its class.

Barrel distortion at wide angle is evident, but not bad. At the telephoto end it's very good with hardly any trace of distortion at all. Images are saved to card in just under three seconds, which is more than acceptable. Shutter lag is

faster than average, too, which gives the Nikon the edge on the competition in the speed stakes.

The LCD screen is bright and very clear. On-screen menus are basic, but functional and easy to navigate. The supplied 8Mb memory card is far too small and in the highest quality mode can only store 8 pictures. Considering the current price of CF cards, this camera should really come with a bigger card as standard. But that can be said about any camera.

The lithium-ion pack gives just under a day of normal use including playing back images on the LCD screen with the slideshow option, or via the AV cable. If you turn off the LCD screen you can get a few days average use, which is pretty good, but bear in mind it doesn't use standard AA batteries so get a spare Nikon pack or have a 2CR5 waiting in your bag. It may not have the range of features you see on more expensive cameras but with the pre-programmed dial selector wheel it covers most photographic situations. n

SPECIFICATIONS

- NIKON COOLPIX 775** 2.1 megapixel digital camera
- LENS** 35-115mm(35mm equivalent) f/2.8-4.9
- TYPE** Digital, non-interchangeable lens
- FOCUSING** TTL contrast type, AF
- RESOLUTION IN PIXELS** 2.1 megapixel CCD. Gives 1600x1200
- MONITOR** 1.5in TFT (110K pixels)
- SHOOTING MODES** Auto, portrait, party/indoor, night portrait, beach/snow, landscape, sunset and backlight
- METERING** 256 segment Matrix TTL
- PICTURE RECORDING MODES** Fine, normal and basic with three image sizes 1600x1200, 1024x768 and 640x480
- WHITE BALANCE** Automatic and preset
- SUPPLIED MEMORY CARD** 8Mb
- STORAGE MEDIA** CompactFlash
- SHUTTER RANGE** 1 sec to 1/1000 sec
- SENSITIVITY** approx ISO 100 with auto gain to ISO 200
- FLASH** Automatic, red-eye reduction, fill in flash, Flash off and slow sync.
- WEIGHT** 185g (no batteries)
- DIMENSIONS** 87x66.5x44mm
- BATTERY** Nikon Lithium-ion or six-volt 2CR5 lithium battery
- SUPPLIED WITH** 8Mb CF card, USB cable, AV cable, strap, battery pack and charger, six-volt 2CR5 lithium battery, Nikon software for Mac & PC



The metering does an excellent job under average lighting, and colours are bold and saturated. Check out the actual image shown here on the CD.

DIGITAL PHOTO
TEST RATING 84%

Very compact 2.1 million megapixel camera with excellent build quality and a stylish silver finish. This camera is ideal for family use; it gives quality images without fuss and is a piece of cake to use. Just remember to carry an extra battery and buy a bigger memory card! RAY ALLEN

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