

Buying used equipment

When buying used camera equipment, do some research regarding new prices of equipment so that you can compare used prices to what stores are asking. Keep in mind, most warranties do not apply to a second owner.

Used equipment links:

Try buying through the Camera Store, they have a varied selection of used DSLRs

<https://www.thecamerastore.com/en-US/>

'Photographer's garage sale' group on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/186164031442129/>

Kijiji – camera section <https://www.kijiji.ca/b-camera-camcorder-lens/calgary/c10311700199>

'MRU BMS & Journalism Tech For Sale' private group on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MRUBMSJOURNOTECHFORSALE/>

Cameras, what to look for:

Does the camera body look scuffed?

Are there loose parts or cracked body components?

Is the battery door intact?

Does the viewfinder have a rubber edge?

Does the lens mount smoothly and click into place?

Does the lens have a skylight or 1A filter?

Does the lens focus on near and far objects?

Do autofocus and manual focus work properly?

Does the SD media card slide smoothly into the camera, does it eject smoothly?

Take your own SD media card and take some photos.

The battery charger should be included.

Ask them why they are selling it, what they shot with it, what they used it for (this might give you a clue as to how heavily it was used or treated).

Find out the shutter count, how many frames have they taken with it (Youtube probably has a video on how to do this).

Not all camera kits are the packaged the same so you'll be comparing the price on different models and lens combinations such as Canon T7i with an 18 to 55mm lens vs the same camera but with an 18 to 135mm lens.

Never buy from a professional photographer or photojournalist because of the amount of use their cameras are put through. It results in high shutter counts and wear and tear due to daily use under all sorts of conditions, including rain and snow.

Flashes, what to look for:

Metal foot vs plastic.

Quick recycle time.

Mount it on your camera and take a few shots on TTL at different distances.

Does the head swivel 270 degrees.

Does the head lift into bounce mode.

Does the body have scuff marks.

Do the battery contacts look dirty or corroded.

Does the wide angle diffuser slide out smoothly.

Ask the seller how it was used, how long have they owned it.