



Newsletter Number 15

Due to the high number of requests I have had recently, I am devoting this newsletter to digital photographic issues.

Transferring images from the camera to the computer:

Most digital cameras come equipped with some form of program which enables the user to move photos from the camera to the computer thereby allowing the images to be seen in all their glory on the computer screen.

Unfortunately all of these programs do this in slightly different ways which, if you are an experienced computer user, is all very well but can be confusing for the beginner.

The method described below can be applied to all cameras and all computers.

1. The camera will have come supplied with a connecting cable from the camera to the computer. One end of the cable will have a USB plug which looks like the picture on the left. The other end will have a much smaller plug for insertion into the camera. (You may have to lift a cover on the camera to find the socket.)



2. Having connected the two ends of the cable, turn the camera on. (The computer should already be turned on.)
3. The image viewer on the camera will offer you the opportunity to load the images to the computer.
4. Select this option but close any photo programs that appear on the computer screen which offer to upload the photos.
5. Go to My Computer and double click on the 'drive' – usually prefixed by a letter such as E: - which is attached to the camera.
6. Double click on the first Folder – often named DCIM – and then double click again on the next folder.
7. This should bring up a list or thumbnails of the images held on the camera.
8. Click once on the first image and then type Ctrl+A to select all the files.
9. Right click on the selected files and left click on Copy.
10. Open up the folder you want to store the images in – such as My Pictures – or make a new folder and then right click in the folder contents list and choose Paste (left click).
11. Wait for the computer to do its stuff and, hey presto, your photos are loaded.

This method does not preclude you from using the photo program that came with the camera or any other software you may have loaded into the computer and it is rather a long way round. The important thing is that it works in all cases.



There is a slight disadvantage of using the cable attachment to upload your images in that the connection usually takes its power from the camera and may drain the camera batteries a bit.



Another way is to buy a card adapter (pictured on the left) which also sports a USB plug. In this case remove the memory card from the camera and insert it into the card reader before continuing the instructions above from step 5.

A new Picasa program

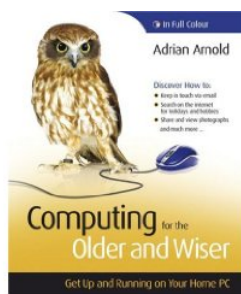
Many of my pupils will know of my enthusiasm for this program so I am pleased to say that Google have now updated the program to include some extra features. Go to <http://picasa.google.com> to download the program. One of the most important is the Retouch tool which previously was only available in more expensive image manipulation software. The program is free to download.

You can also order prints of your photos through Picasa. Simply select the photos you want printed and go to the Picasa Shop, choose your country and the service you want to use, upload the images and you will get the printed copies back by return of post. This is particularly useful if you want to send photos abroad. Simply choose the country of destination and you only pay the local postage. Many of these photo labs will offer the first 20 – 40 prints free of charge.

Camera settings:

The vast majority of digital cameras today offer a range of shooting options such as close-up, landscape, portrait and automatic. These are normally set by rotating a dial on the top of the camera. **Please get into the habit of checking this setting.** A great friend of ours recently went on a trip to Canada only to find, on her return, that the camera had been accidentally switched to video mode. Video quality on most digital cameras is pretty poor and it is almost impossible to extract a decent still image from these movie files.

Computing for the Older and Wiser:



The book has now been published and should be in most book stores within the next two weeks. You will find much more comprehensive help in the photo chapters if you want to learn more about digital photography.

Follow this link to the Amazon website of the book - <http://tinyurl.com/6rrk77>