

Mirrorless Cameras

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DIRECTING VIDEO GEAR

What is a Mirrorless Camera? A Quick Overview of the Pros and Cons

BY ALYSSA MAIO ON AUGUST 15, 2019

MIRRORLESS VS DSLRS

The mirrorless in comparison

To fully grasp the mechanics of this system, it's helpful to know how other digital cameras work.

The most common digital camera is the DSLR.

WHAT IS A DSLR CAMERA?

A [DSLR camera](#) is a digital camera body that allows light to enter a single lens where it hits a mirror that reflects the light either upwards or downward into the camera's viewfinder.

When you press the shutter to take the photo, the mirror flips up out of the way.

The shutter then slides open, and light coming from the lens takes a straight shot to the imaging sensor where a photograph is made.

What exactly is a mirrorless camera?

MIRRORLESS CAMERA DEFINITION

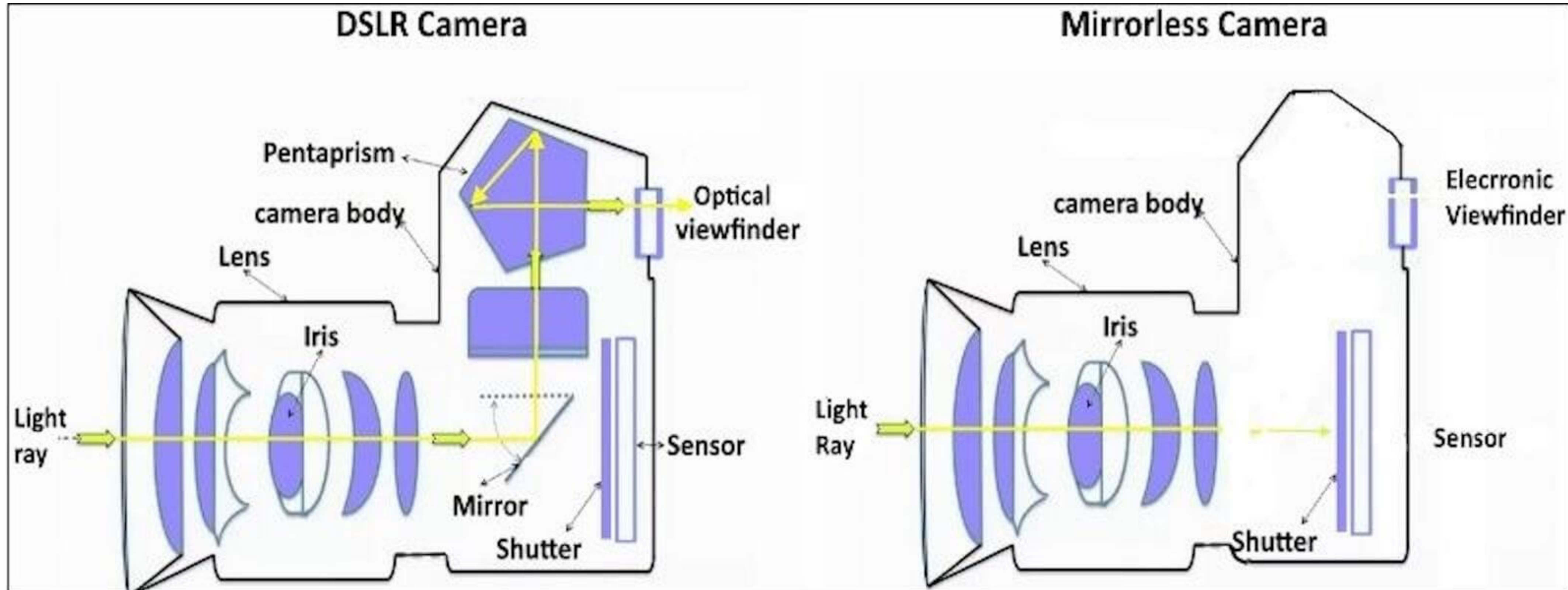
What is a mirrorless camera?

A **mirrorless camera** is a digital camera that doesn't have a reflex mirror, (the major component of the DSLR, which reflects the light up to the viewfinder).

In a mirrorless, there isn't an optical viewfinder.

Here, the imaging sensor is always exposed to light. It gives you a preview of the image on the back of the camera on the electronic viewfinder (EVF), which is often an LCD screen on the back of the camera.

And before we go deeper into the pros and cons, here's a quick diagram of both camera systems.



Pros of Mirrorless Cameras

1. The very mechanics of the mirrorless automatically limit camera shake as compared to the DSLR. The mirror isn't moving up and down because it just isn't built that way.
2. With less moving parts, they're quieter than DSLRs.
3. Without the mirror, this camera also beats DSLR in size. It's small and compact and may be a better option for travel.
4. The electronic viewfinder can be used in video mode, while the viewfinder on a DSLR cannot. Also, high resolution is built into most mirrorless even if they're on the low-end, quality wise. DSLRs offer 4k or Ultra HD video only for higher-end models.

Cons of Mirrorless Cameras

1. What's an asset can also be a liability. Mirrorless cameras are conveniently small but that also means no room for a decent size battery. Battery life goes fast. And because they require you to use the LCD screen and electronic viewfinder, the odds are stacked against you.
2. Limited lenses and lens compatibility is a problem with these. Because they're newer on the scene, there's just less of a selection and often require third party adapters. Companies like Sony however, have become more proactive with releasing more.
3. Price point. Mirrorless and DSLRs are about the same when it comes to higher-end cameras. However, trying to find the best mirrorless camera for beginners is another story. Entry-level DSLRs just have more features and better specs than what mirrorless offers.



BENEFITS OF A MIRRORLESS CAMERA

- **Lightweight and Compact**
- **Quieter than other cameras**
- **Less camera shake**
- **Reliable Video Mode**

Most Mirrorless cameras are compact

One of the biggest advantages of mirrorless cameras is [their size](#). Because they don't have a reflex mirror like DSLRs, they can be much smaller and more lightweight.

This makes them ideal for travel or everyday use. However, just because they're smaller doesn't mean they sacrifice quality.

Mirrorless cameras can still have [large sensors](#) that allow them to produce high-quality images.

Another great feature of mirrorless cameras is that you can switch lenses just like you would on a DSLR.

This gives you a lot of flexibility when it comes to choosing the right lens for the situation.

Mirrorless cameras are quiet

DSLR cameras have a reflex mirror that flips up when you take a picture, which causes the loud “clacking” sound you often hear. Mirrorless cameras don’t have this reflex mirror, so they’re much quieter.

This is that familiar sound of ‘taking a picture.’ But it also allows for camera shake.

This can be beneficial in many situations, such as when you’re trying to [take candid shots](#) or [photograph wildlife](#) without drawing attention to yourself.

Some manufacturers even add a digital shutter sound to mirrorless cameras so you can still “hear” when the photo is taken.

In general, though, these types of cameras are much quieter than DSLRs.

Mirrorless cameras can last longer than DSLRs

Because mirrorless cameras don't have a reflex mirror, they have fewer moving parts overall.

This means that there's less chance of something going wrong and the camera breaking down.

Of course, this isn't to say that mirrorless cameras are immune to problems, but it does mean that they're usually more reliable than DSLRs.

So, if you're looking for a camera that you can depend on, a mirrorless camera might be the best option for you.

A mirrorless camera lets you see the actual image through the viewfinder

For many photographers, the viewfinder is an essential tool. It allows you to see the scene in front of you, framed exactly as it will appear in the final photo.

With a traditional DSLR camera, the viewfinder shows you a live image that is reflected from the mirror.

Mirrorless cameras work differently; instead of using a mirror to reflect the image from the lens onto the display, they use an electronic viewfinder (EVF).

This has several advantages.

First, it allows you to see the image exactly as it will be captured by the sensor, with all of the same exposure and focus settings. Second, it gives you a live preview of any changes that you make to those settings.

Whether you're a professional photographer or a casual shooter, a mirrorless camera can give you a whole new level of control over your images.

Summary

Unlike DSLRs, most mirrorless cameras are small and lightweight, making them easy to carry around with you.

They also have flip-up or flip-out screens, which is handy for recording yourself.

Plus, most newer cameras can record in 4K quality, so your videos will look super sharp.

Mirrorless cameras are an excellent choice for anyone who wants the quality of a DSLR without bulkiness.

With their large sensors and interchangeable lenses, mirrorless cameras offer excellent flexibility and performance.

And because they're smaller and quieter than DSLRs, they're perfect for everyday use or travel photography.