

About SD Cards

From September 2017 the KABK Photography Rental will no longer provide its digital cameras with SD (memory) cards. So you will have to bring your own card when you want to hire a camera at our place.

What SD card should you bring or buy? Here are some important things you need to know. It is not an easy subject but we will try to keep it as simple as possible:



First of all, it should be a **regular SD Card**, so no 'Micro SD'

32GB

The **size (capacity)** is indicated in GB (gigabytes): the higher this number, the more pictures or videos it can store; for regular photography 8 GB will do, for videos you may need 32 GB or more



At this moment there are three **types** of SD Cards:
SD, the oldest version, will work in any device with an SD slot but the maximum capacity is low, performance may be poor and it not suitable for video
SDHC is its successor, with much higher capacity and speed rates, excellent for serious photography and an occasional video; it will not work on old or less sophisticated digital cameras
SDXC is the most modern version, for excellent performance; however it will not function in cameras and other devices that are not optimized for this type of card (check their manuals)



Minimum speed: this is where it gets complicated. The minimum constant writing speed of an SD card is indicated by a number; the higher the number, the better the performance. This number can be enclosed in a letter C (2, 4, 6 or 10) or in a letter U (1 or 3). C10 equals U1. A high minimum speed is particularly important when making video clips. There are also 'V' numbers: V10 equals U1

30MB/s

Maximum speed: there is a distinction between writing speed and reading speed. A high writing speed is required when you want to make a sequence of pictures at high speed ('burst mode'). Oddly enough, you will not find this writing speed on the card's label; you should check the package or visit the website of the manufacturer.
A high reading speed is convenient when you want to transfer many big files from your card to a laptop or computer. This speed is indicated by a number followed by MB/s

When we use this card as an **example**, here is what we can learn from its label:



The maximum reading speed is 90 Megabytes per second
It is an SDXC (UHS I) card, only suitable for dedicated cameras

Minimum writing speed is 30 MB/S (indicated by V30 and U3) when used in cameras that support the so-called UHS I standard; in older cameras the writing speed will be 10 MB/s (indicated by C10)

The capacity of the card is 64 GB

So what do we recommend?

Considering the type of photography and videography that is commonly practised in our studios, we would suggest an SDHC card with speed C10 or U1, or better.

If you are strictly interested in making video with as few limitations as possible, you better get yourself an SDXC I card.

Choose a lower or higher capacity (GB) depending on whether you will make mainly pictures or video clips. Obviously it will also depend on your budget. A well-known and reliable brand is SanDisk.

Note: always tag a new card with your name and format your card in the camera before using it.

You can find more detailed technical information on the official SD site:

<https://www.sdcard.org/consumers/choices/index.html>

And, of course, you can always come by our office if after this explanation you are more confused than before!

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Note: our older Nikon D200 cameras work with CF (Compact Flash) cards; as these are hard to get nowadays, we will keep providing those.