Why RAW?Ultimately: recover more data



JPG

- Smaller more per card, faster in computer
- Any program or editor
- Ready to publish or share right out of the camera (photojournos, reporters, sports etc shoot jpg)
- At smaller sizes, prints are just as good

- Lossy loose data every time you save
- Less detail (8 bits per pixel)
- Out of camera jpg converter setting

RAW

- Much more data 12-14 bits per pixel
- Recover more high-lights
- Editable more than once (if destructive editor)
- Better for really large prints
- Burst modes shoot less
- Format may become unsupported in the future
- Big 50D 7MB for large fine Jpg, 20MB RAW
- Requires converter or enabled programs
- Slower due to size of file computer, camera
- Must be converted before publishing/sharing

SUMMARY

• Shoot RAW if:

- You don't get it right in-camera
- You want to fiddle/postprocess a lot
- You really need that extra ½ to 2 stops of highlights recovered
- You want to be with the 'in crowd': Oh, I shoot RAW.
- Your computer/camera is fast and you have lots of storage
- You have time to edit
- You don't need to publish photos NOW

And of course nothing is ever simple

- Keeping it simple, do not read further
- None of what was just covered is incorrect
- However, there are 'complicating' facts:
 - Non-destructive editors allow post processing on jpgs without opening/saving the files until they are exported at the end (Aperture, Lightroom)
 - Many cameras have built-in styles (eg sepia) that require no post-processing, making jpg even more attractive

Nothing is ever simple – Part 2

- Many cameras can save an image as RAW and jpg at the same time: RAW for those files that need it and jpg for immediate use.
 Downside is even more space required.
- All cameras that save to jpg are doing post-processing using the in-camera jpg engine. Many cameras have the ability to apply styles, as well as to edit the rules for those styles, before taking the picture: sharpness, saturation etc
- The image on your camera's screen is a jpg using the internal engine – even if you are shooting RAW
- Most RAW editing programs do not initially display your photo with the settings you were using B&W for example – you still need to edit the raw file

Nothing is ever simple – Part 3
Jpg has the ability to save at different 'quality settings' ranging from 1 to 10. The higher the number, the more data/better quality but also the bigger the file. Example:

- A 'large fine' jpg from your camera is a '10' at 7 MB
- Save that at an '8' and the file will drop to about 1-2 MB
- Save as a 3 and the file will be about .1 to .2 MB
- Some programs can save jpg at 11 or 12 (Aperture, Lightroom, Photoshop). These reduce the amoint of data lost, to the minimum. Files are slighty larger







Q3 bad pixelation and colour distortion

Q10

Q8 : very good