



Camera

SECURE DIGITAL HIGH CAPACITY (SDHC) MEDIA

You're going to hear more and more about Secure Digital High Capacity (SDHC) media. They are the new, higher capacity cards for cameras that accept the secure digital (SD) format which significantly raise the number of gigabytes¹ that can be stored.

However, *PC World* magazine² warns, "Just because your digital cameras uses SD cards to store photos doesn't mean that it will work properly with just any SD card. Older cameras can't recognize new Secure Digital High Capacity (SDHC) media, which can hold 4 Gb to 32 Gb of data and cost as little as \$50."

As you may know, older SD cards are limited to 2 Gb of storage.

Most cameras sold before the summer of last year are unlikely to be SDHC-compliant (though a couple of models can be made compatible with a firmware upgrade).

The SD Card Association has created and defined 3 speed classes to help you identify speed and performance capabilities/minimum requirements of SD/SDHC cards and the host products (**Figure 1**).

OPTER 1	OPTER 2
CLASS 2	2
CLASS 4	4
CLASS 6	6

Figure 1

¹ A gigabyte is a measurement of computer memory equal to 2 to the 30th power (1,073,741,824) bytes. One gigabyte is equal to 1,024 megabytes. A gigabyte is most often abbreviated as Gb.

² Eric Butterfield, "Can Cameras do SDHC?" *PC World* magazine, May 2007, p. 58

The SD Speed Class Ratings specify a minimum sustained write speed for SDHC cards:

- Class 2: 2 Mb-per-second
- Class 4: 4 Mb-per-second
- Class 6: 6 Mb-per-second).

You can look for the Speed Class Logo to identify the performance class of your memory cards and host devices (**Figure 2**).

If a camera (or other device) does not have the SDHC logo on the box or the camera, you won't be able to use the higher-capacity cards with it. Please check with your device manufacturer for their current/future supported SDHC devices.



Figure 2