

My life in cameras

Grays of Westminster founder Gray Levett reveals the cameras that have shaped his photographic life

Gray Levett



Gray is the founder of Grays of Westminster in London, one of the most famous Nikon camera shops in the world. The shop, which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, has won numerous awards and distinctions, and is

the first camera shop in the world to be granted its own coat of arms. As well as being a Nikon authority, Gray is a talented and highly experienced photographer in his own right. www.graysofwestminster.co.uk



© GRAYLEVETT

1986 Nikon F3 I started to shoot some of the musicians I was managing while at the same time working on establishing Grays of Westminster as exclusively Nikon. The F3 was a tough manual-focus camera that had a very reliable metering system and was a joy to use. It precipitated my growing interest in rock music, photography in general and Nikon in particular.



2014 Nikon D810 The Nikon D810 was a game changer for many photographers and an exceptional camera. It is a 35mm full-frame (FX-format) camera that has a CMOS sensor with 36.3 million pixels – the highest resolution currently available in a DSLR in the Nikon range. With no optical low-pass filter covering the sensor, the D810 should resolve an exceptional level of detail.



2016 Nikon D500 We waited so long for a replacement for the D300S that we were beginning to think it would never happen – then Nikon announced the D500. The D500 is the first professional-quality DX camera since the D300S of 2009. I think it has been worth the wait for the technology to progress. Advance orders for the D500 have been huge, actually matching the demand for the Nikon D5.



1959 Kodak Brownie 127 The Kodak Brownie 127 was my first camera. I saw an advertisement for it in the *Eagle* comic and knew I had to have one. I was over the moon when my parents got one for me for my birthday. This started my fascination for photography, which has never diminished.



1967 Nikon F I got my Nikon F after seeing Michelangelo Antonioni's movie *Blow-up*, in which a fashion photographer, played by David Hemmings, thinks he may have photographed a murder. In it he shoots with a Nikon F. It also included a sequence with The Yardbirds, featuring Jeff Beck and Jimmy Page. I also have my well-used F-36 motor drive in perfect working order. I would never sell it!



THE VIDEO MODE

In association with **Canon**

The **Video Mode** features a range of **video tips and tutorials** to help you learn film-making techniques

News Latest announcements from the video world



Reviews Latest video kit to get the best out of your film-making



Tuition Expert technique to get the best out of your kit



www.thevideomode.com

www.facebook.com/thevideomode
[@thevideomode](https://twitter.com/thevideomode)