

Super 8 Cameras A Buying Guide + Suggested Models

Super 8 cameras can be found from a variety of sellers on [Ebay](#), [Etsy](#), [Facebook Marketplace](#), your local [Craig's List](#), and even at thrift shops like Goodwill.

Buying Tips:

- There are hundreds of super 8 cameras out there and there is no need to spend a huge amount of money on one.
- Look for a seller with a good reputation. Check their previous reviews.
- Search for a camera that is guaranteed to work. Read the description carefully if purchasing online. Ensure that you can return the camera should it not work.
- Be on the lookout for major dents, rust, fungus on the lens (it will look like small tree branches), or water damage on the camera.
- Don't pay extra for a camera that advertises itself as a "sound" camera. Kodak no longer makes super 8 film that supports sound recording, so this is not a necessary feature.
- Buy the camera with plenty of time to give it some basic tests before the workshop.

Any super 8 camera model can be used, but there are four main functions to look for:

- 1) The camera must expose film correctly (or at least reliably).
This cannot be tested unless you have recently shot a roll of film, but it is potentially a good question to ask a seller.
- 2) The film must be able to move within the camera (check that you have fresh batteries for this, most of these cameras take AAs).
This can be tested by putting in a film cartridge, marking a visible piece of the film with a horizontal line, closing the camera and then pressing the camera trigger for a second. After this, open the camera. If the mark is still visible, the film isn't moving through the camera. If you cannot see the mark, the camera is working!
- 3) The camera focuses correctly.
This can be tested by putting your eye to the viewfinder and moving the zoom and focus rings in and out. If the camera does not find sharp focus at any point, then there might be a problem with the lens.
- 4) Do you want a camera that has automatic exposure control only? Or both manual and automatic exposure modes?
This ultimately comes down to personal preference and your experience level, but not all super 8 cameras feature a manual exposure mode. Be on the lookout for that feature if it is important to you!

Suggested Models:



Canon 310 XL

This camera was marketed for its excellent abilities in low light situations due to its f/1.0 lens. It features an 8.5-25.5mm zoom range with macro capabilities and is a fully automatic exposure camera. It does not have a self-timer mode.



Canon 514 XL

This camera was once one of the most popular super 8 cameras in production. It has a 9-45mm f/1.4 zoom lens with macro capabilities. The camera includes settings for shooting at variable frame rate speeds, a self-timer, an automatic exposure mode, and power zooming.



Canon Auto Zoom 814

This camera features a 7.5-60mm f/1.4 zoom lens. It includes functions such as a timer mode, variable frame rate speeds, and macro shooting capabilities. It also has both an automatic and manual exposure mode, making it a nice, capable model.



Canon 1014 XL-S

This professional grade camera features a 6.5-65mm f/1.4 zoom lens which also allows for macro shooting. It includes variable frame rate speeds, an automatic dissolve function, power zooming, and a sophisticated viewfinder. If you have some experience with filmmaking, this is a good option for you.



Elmo 612 XL

This wasn't as popular a model of camera, making it easier to find at a good deal! It has a sharp, 8.5-51mm f/1.2 lens with macro capabilities. The camera has both automatic and manual exposure modes, variable frame rate speeds, and a self-timer mode. The body is made of plastic, making it much lighter than its predecessors.



Minolta XL 401

This camera is on the smaller side, but has an 8.5-34mm f/1.2 zoom lens with macro capabilities. It also features a built in time lapse function and both a manual and automatic exposure mode function.



Nikon R10

A robust camera, the R10 is a professional-grade camera which includes a 7-70mm f/1.4 lens. It includes features such as an in-camera fades, manual and auto exposure modes, variable shooting frame rates, and macro focusing. If you have some experience with filmmaking, this is a good option for you.



Nizo S 800 or 801

This professional-grade camera includes a 7-80mm f/1.8 zoom lens made of excellent Schniieder glass. It features a variety of extra functions such as manual exposure mode, full auto mode, and timed exposure mode for time lapses. If you have some experience with filmmaking, this is a good option for you.



Sankyo ES-44 XL

A bit more of a “bare bones” camera, this still has all the basic functions you will need. It includes a 7.5-45mm f/1.2 zoom lens with macro capabilities. It also includes full manual and auto exposure modes and variable shooting frame rates. If you are just beginning, this is a great option.



Yashica Super 800 or Super 40 Electro

This camera is also more of a “bare bones” model, but features a 7.5-60mm f/1.6 zoom lens and variable frame rates. It only has automatic exposure mode, so this might not be the model for you if you want to manually control your aperture. If you are just beginning, this is also a great option.