

Camera System Buying Guide

Tailored Recommendation for Real Estate Photography & Indoor Youth Sports

TARGET BUDGET
\$800 – \$1,200

USER SKILL LEVEL
Beginner Friendly

PRIMARY RETAILER
B&H Photo Video

Core Dual-Use Challenge & Lens Strategy

1. Real Estate Photography

- **Needs:** Ultra-wide focal length (10-16mm) to fit entire rooms, bathrooms, and tight interior spaces into one frame without extreme edge distortion.
- **Key Feature:** Good sharpness across the entire image and high dynamic range for window/interior balance.

2. Indoor Basketball / Youth Sports

- **Needs:** Fast shutter speeds (1/500s+) in poorly lit gym venues to freeze fast-moving players without motion blur.
- **Key Feature:** Large aperture lens (f/1.4 to f/1.8) paired with fast, tracking autofocus.

Option 1: Sony Alpha a6100 Piece-by-Piece (Recommended)

The Sony a6100 is widely recognized for having the best autofocus tracking system in its class, perfect for basketball. Buying piece-by-piece from B&H Photo Video allows you to bypass starter "kit" glass and acquire optimized lenses.

SONY SYSTEM • CONFIGURATION A (STRICT BUDGET)

Component / Description	Role in Setup	Est. Price (B&H)
Sony Alpha a6100 Body Only	Camera body featuring 24.2MP APS-C sensor, 11 fps burst rate, and Real-time Eye AF tracking.	\$848.00
Viltrox AF 56mm f/1.7 Lens	Sports Lens: Extremely bright f/1.7 aperture lets in max light for gym sports; fast AF tracking.	\$180.00
Samyang 12mm f/2.0 NCS CS Lens	Real Estate Lens: Ultra-wide angle (18mm equiv.) fits full rooms easily. (Manual Focus).	\$229.00
Total System Investment		\$1,257.00

Summary: Extremely fast sports performance for low-lit gyms with a dedicated ultra-wide lens for real estate. Staying just slightly over \$1,200 yields professional-grade low-light sports capabilities.

SONY SYSTEM • CONFIGURATION B (ALL-AUTOFOCUS LOW LIGHT)

Component / Description	Role in Setup	Est. Price (B&H)
Sony Alpha a6100 Body Only	Camera body with industry-leading tracking AF for fast action sports.	\$848.00
Viltrox AF 56mm f/1.7 Lens	Sports Lens: Dedicated courtside telephoto prime with low-light capability.	\$180.00
Sigma 16mm f/1.4 DC DN Contemporary	Real Estate & General Lens: Ultra-bright f/1.4 aperture, wide angle, full autofocus.	\$414.00
Total System Investment		\$1,442.00

Summary: High-tier low-light optics for both sports and indoor properties. All lenses feature fast autofocus, removing any manual focus learning curve.

Option 2: Canon EOS R50 Complete 3-Lens Kit (Strictly Under Budget)

The Canon EOS R50 features an exceptionally beginner-friendly touchscreen interface with guided visual menus. It allows you to build a complete 3-lens system while staying strictly under the \$1,200 price cap.

CANON SYSTEM • 3-LENS SETUP

Component / Description	Role in Setup	Est. Price (B&H)
Canon EOS R50 Body + 18-45mm Kit Lens	Compact camera body, guided touchscreen menus, Dual Pixel CMOS AF II + standard walk-around zoom.	\$699.99
Canon RF 50mm f/1.8 STM Lens	Sports Lens: Bright f/1.8 aperture for low-light gym basketball action.	\$219.99
Canon RF-S 10-18mm f/4.5-6.3 IS STM	Real Estate Lens: Ultra-wide zoom designed specifically for interior room photography.	\$264.00
Total System Investment		\$1,183.98

Summary: The most complete setup out of the box under \$1,200. Ideal for absolute beginners who want touchscreen simplicity and full autofocus coverage for every scenario.

System Comparison Summary

Feature / Factor	Sony a6100 System	Canon EOS R50 System
Ease of Use (Beginners)	Standard Sony menu structure; quick button customization.	Winner: Guided touchscreen menus explain settings on screen.
Autofocus Tracking	Winner: Industry-best Real-Time Tracking for erratic movement.	Excellent Dual Pixel CMOS AF II with eye/face detection.
Low-Light Gym Performance	Winner: Lens ecosystem offers fast f/1.4 & f/1.7 third-party glass.	Very good with RF 50mm f/1.8 prime lens.
Total Package Value	Piece-by-piece allows buying only high-performance lenses (\$1,257+).	Winner: Complete 3-lens kit under \$1,200 threshold (\$1,183.98).

Essential Accessories to Complete the Kit

To ensure smooth operation on real estate shoots and sports venues, budget an extra \$50–\$90 for these key necessities:

Item	Recommended Specification	Why It's Needed	Est. Price
High-Speed SD Card	SanDisk Extreme Pro 64GB/128GB (V30 / UHS-I)	Handles rapid burst shooting (11 fps) without slowing down the camera.	\$20.00
Compact Travel Tripod	Lightweight Aluminum Tripod (e.g., Sunpak or Manfrotto Compact)	Essential for sharp real estate photos in dim interior rooms without blur.	\$35.00 – \$50.00
Spare Battery	NP-FW50 (Sony) or LP-E17 (Canon) Compatible	Mirrorless cameras consume batteries quickly during long games or multiple property walkthroughs.	\$25.00

Prepared for Real Estate & Sports Camera Selection • Pricing and availability subject to change on B&H Photo Video.