



KIT BAG ▶ Review

Samsung NX1000

SRP: £600/\$700

A compact and lightweight CSC with extensive Wi-Fi capabilities, but does it measure up in terms of quality and features?



With the NX1000, the latest in Samsung's CSC range, you are offered a way to make sharing and backing-up your images

a whole lot easier. Samsung is now well established in the 'Smart' camera market, with its Wi-Fi enabled compacts offering up an array of great ways to share your shots on the go, and now Samsung has entered its NX series into the fold.

Releasing three new CSCs with extensive Wi-Fi capabilities, the NX1000, NX210 and NX20, Samsung is offering eight different Wi-Fi functions, including Mobile Link to send to your smartphone, Auto Backup to your PC and even Remote Viewfinder for controlling your camera from your phone – a great option for wildlife photographers. The Wi-Fi setting is now found on the mode dial for quick access, and after a bit of set up with downloading apps and such, it's a smooth and easy system to use.

The NX1000 is the entry-level model, but its cut price isn't reflected in low-end features, as it packs the same 20.3MP APS-C sensor as the NX210 and NX20, alongside many of the same shooting options.

Where the 'budget' nature of this CSC comes into play is in the construction. While it has a bright, well-



▼ The lightweight new release comes bundled with a hotshoe flash



contrasted 921K-dot LCD screen, it's not an AMOLED screen like the other two new launches (and its predecessor, the NX100) and it has a plastic body. We reviewed the camera with the 20-50mm kit lens, which is also plastic, and even with this modest focal length we found it to be a bit front-heavy where the body is so light. When you consider its APS-C size sensor, it's to its credit that the NX1000 is so compact – at just 114 x 62.5 x 37.5mm and 222g (without battery or memory card) – and this may be just the kind of camera some may be seeking, especially as a second,

more portable backup to their main kit. However, with a bigger lens, such as the NX 18-200mm, the camera may feel even more unstable, and it certainly lacks the high-quality feel of some of its competitors.

This new camera comes in white, black or pink and with a hotshoe for attaching accessories, such as the flash that comes bundled in the box. It's got a comfortable grip, but is lacking a viewfinder or tiltable screen like the NX20 or competitors like the Sony Alpha NEX-7. The menu navigation is intuitive and logical, with quick buttons for video recording, Smart Link for instant sharing to your smartphone, and a Function button that brings up

INDETAIL ▶ Features



20.3MP APS-C SENSOR
The 23.5 x 17.77 APS-C CMOS sensor offers up 20.3MP for high-resolution prints, with the scope to crop into smaller details of the image.



INSTANT WI-FI SHARING
The Wi-Fi connectivity allows you to instantly share or back up your images as well as to control your camera using your smartphone.



1080P FULL-HD STEREO VIDEO
Alongside 1080p full-HD video, the NX1000 offers stereo sound, full manual control, and the option to fade in and out. It also goes up to 60fps in 720p.

WE WANT YOUR REVIEWS: We want to know what you really think about this latest release from Samsung. Is it worth the price tag? What do you



Samsung NX1000



WI-FI FUNCTIONS
The inclusion of a Wi-Fi option on the mode dial gives you quick access to sharing options

AF ASSIST
The AF illuminator helps the camera to focus in low light

KIT LENS
The 20-50mm kit lens has the same plastic finish as the NX1000's body



HOTSHOE
The camera's hotshoe allows you to attach further photo accessories for the NX1000, such as a flash

SMART LINK BUTTON
This hotkey allows you send your shots over Wi-Fi to a compatible smartphone

BODY BUILD
Samsung's NX1000 model packs a lot into this super-compact little plastic shell

iFUNCTION BUTTON
Press the iFunction button then use the value ring located on the lens to control certain settings

“This may be just the kind of camera some may be seeking, especially as a second, more portable backup to their main kit”



▲ Images from the NX1000 were brilliantly sharp and displayed a great deal of detail



the Smart Panel. This function has carried across from others NX-series models, and is a roundup of all the most important settings. There's no AEL button like the NX100 had, but it retains the iFunction lens system which allows you to control certain settings using the focus ring. This would be more useful if the model had a viewfinder, but as your eye will be looking at the LCD anyway, it's not as helpful. It's handy to keep your most often-used setting here, though, for even quicker access. We set it to aperture, for instance, meaning we controlled this via the focus ring and shutter speed via the control dial.

The modes can sometimes take a while to change though, and this isn't great for quick shooting but at least the focusing system and start-up is fairly quick when sticking to the same mode. Continuous shooting can also take a while to process, with a progress bar even appearing when shooting in RAW. This shooting mode is an area, however, that the NX1000 has improved upon, offering 8fps shooting at full-quality in JPEG and RAW and a Burst mode offering 30fps at 5MP, but only in JPEG. This is an improvement on the NX200's 7fps, but still not quite as high as Sony's 10fps on the Alpha NEX-7. ▶▶



On disc

Load up the Digital Photographer cover disc to view a selection of test shots captured by our reviewer

Contenders

Sony Alpha NEX-7

Price: £1,130/£1,350

Web: www.sony.co.uk

Tel: 0844 8466 555

Sony's 24.3MP CSC also comes with an APS-C sensor, but at over £500 more than the NX1000, it offers an electronic viewfinder, 10fps burst and a tiltable LCD.



Fujifilm X-Pro1

Price: £1,430/\$1,700

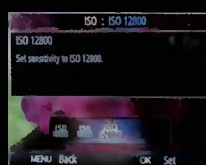
Web: www.fujifilm.eu/uk

Tel: 01234 772 000

The X-Pro 1 has a 16.3MP APS-C sensor and a sleek, retro style that will appeal to many. The build quality is high but it's over double the price of the NX1000 and only a few lenses are available.



8FPS CONTINUOUS SHOOTING
Shoot up to 8fps in JPEG with 15 shots or 8 shots in RAW. The burst mode also gives you 30fps at a reduced resolution of 5MP.



HIGH ISO
The impressive ISO range takes you up to 12800, and the Auto ISO can have an upper limit selected up to 3200. However, noise does start to become an issue after ISO 1600.



NX MOUNT
The NX1000 uses the NX mount, meaning there are eight lenses available, from pancake to macro or telephoto, for plenty of flexibility in all kinds of shooting situations.

think of the image quality? Would you recommend it to other photographers? Let us know your opinions at www.dphotographer.co.uk/forum



KIT BAG ▶ Review

LCD SCREEN

The three-inch LCD screen has bright and clear 921K dots, but isn't an AMOLED screen like the NX20 and NX210

RECORD BUTTON

Hit the record button to instantly start recording video, whatever shooting mode you are in



CONTROL WHEEL

The dial here lets you quickly scroll through to select the option you want

FUNCTION BUTTON

This quick menu brings up the Smart panel, which is a great way to view all your settings at once

▶ Other notable features include 1080p full-HD video shooting, ten different Smart Filters such as vignette and fisheye for fun results and Picture Wizard effects such as a retro style that's very popular with Instagram and Hipstamatic fans. On top of these more stylistic features there are practical functions such as MF assist that enlarges the picture up to 8x for accurate focusing and a framing mode that retains the brightness of the live view in low-light conditions to keep the LCD bright. You can also set your own white balance by entering the Kelvin value yourself, giving you a great sense of control over your image's colour. White balance, exposure and even the Picture Wizard settings can also all be bracketed. Panorama mode is also available, with a simple sweep action that works well to

stitch the images together in-camera, showing no visible joins or curved edges for a seamless photograph.

With an ISO range of 100-12,800, the camera performed well in low light, with ISO 100-800 being practically noise free. Images in general were slightly undersaturated and lacking punch. There was also a slight blue cast to some shots, especially in the shade.

contrast scenes very well. With plenty of dynamic range and contrast, we were very pleased with the quality such a small camera packed.

The NX1000 is one of the most compact APS-C cameras on the market, and while this may have its drawbacks in the balance of the lens, it does mean it's a very portable camera while still holding very impressive

features. It's also much more affordable than some of its APS-C CSC competitors such as Sony's Alpha NEX-7 and the Fujifilm's

“The NX1000 is the entry-level model, but its cut price isn't reflected in low-end features”

Despite these minor concerns, images were generally sharp with a great deal of detail, and at 20.3MP you can crop in quite extensively and the quality and detail will remain. The exposures were good, with only the occasional highlight blown and the camera handled high-

X-Pro 1, which both clock in at over £1,000/\$1,000. While it certainly lacks the build quality of those two, or its NX brethren, the NX1000 is a great solution for those wanting a lightweight and compact camera but not wanting to sacrifice image quality or functionality. **DP**

INDETAIL ▶ Test shots



COLOUR

The colours are slightly undersaturated from the NX1000, but there's plenty of contrast in images. You can select Vivid to increase the saturation though.



PICTURE WIZARD

Picture Wizard lets you select preset combos of saturation and colour tone, such as Retro, Cool, or Classic. These effects can be subtle but very effective.



SMART FILTERS

The Smart Filter menu gives you various options to choose from such as miniature, vignette and fisheye for some fun effects that have pleasing results.

EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE: Check out the results for yourself by perusing our DP test shots from the Samsung NX1000 on our free CD.



Samsung NX1000

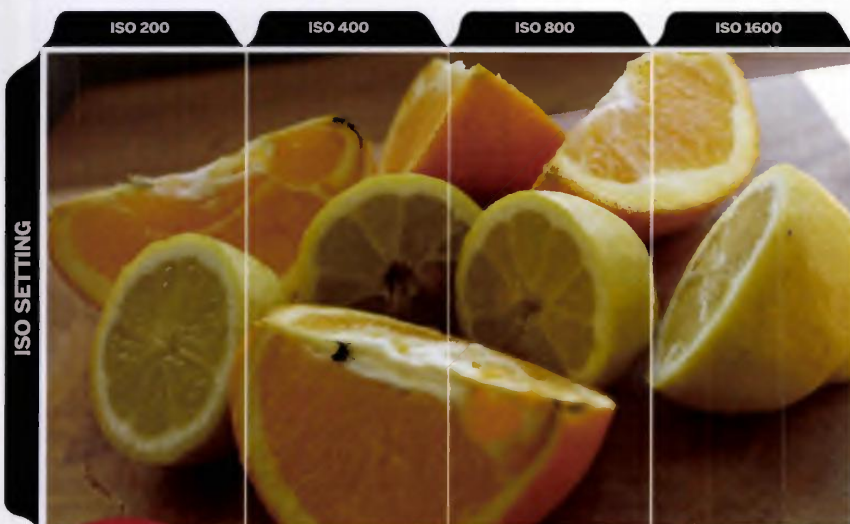
ISO AND WHITE BALANCE PERFORMANCE

How does the NX1000 handle noise and colour casts?

The NX1000 has a great ISO range of 100-12800, allowing you to photograph subjects in very low-light conditions. This new little camera handles noise well and at ISO levels of 100-800, images were pretty much noise free. At ISO 1600 noise starts to worm its way in and at levels above that you begin to see a noticeable amount of

grain and colour desaturation. ISO 3200 is still perfectly usable at small sizes, though.

The Auto White balance performed well most of the time, but occasionally added a slight blue cast to images, especially when shooting in the shade. This produced a cooling effect that didn't give a true-to-life colour rendition.



A TYPICAL TEST SHOT:
One of the test shots gets scrutinised

SHARPNESS
Shot using the 20-50mm kit lens, the image is sharp from front to back

DYNAMIC RANGE
Dynamic range is good, with plenty of contrast between the shadows and highlights



EXPOSURE
The exposure is well balanced, with plenty of detail in the sky

COLOUR
The colours are slightly undersaturated and there was a slight blue cast to shots

CLARITY
Detail is high and you can easily crop in quite far due to the high megapixel value

Samsung NX1000

Technical data

Model	Samsung NX1000
Price	£600/\$700
Web	www.samsung.co.uk
Phone	0330 7267 864
Megapixels (effective)	20.3MP
Max resolution	5,472 x 3,648
Sensor information	23.5 x 15.7mm CMOS
Lens data	By lens
Zoom	By lens
Focus/macro	By lens
Shutter speed	30-1/4,000sec
ISO sensitivity	A, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200, 6400, 12,800
Exposure modes	Smart Auto, P, A, S, M, Scene modes
Metering options	Multi, Centre-weighted, Spot
Flash modes	Smart Flash, A, A+RE, Fn, Fon+RE, 1st Curtain, 2nd Curtain, Foff
Connectivity	USB 2.0 (Hi-Speed), HDMI
Weight	222g (without battery or memory card)
Dimensions	114 x 62.5 x 37.5mm
Batteries	Lithium-Ion
Storage	SD, SDHC, SDXC
LCD	3 inch
Viewfinder	N/A

Verdict

Features 8/10

■ A host of features for more control, as well as sporting extensive Wi-Fi connectivity options

Build quality 6/10

■ The plastic casing feels cheap but the buttons and mode dial both feel sturdy and operate smoothly

Handling 8/10

■ Quick buttons for video and Smart Link are useful and the Smart Panel and iFunction lens makes navigating through the various settings very easy

Quality of results 7/10

■ The image quality was high with good detail and sharpness, but there were a few problems with accurate white balance and slight undersaturation

Value for money 9/10

■ A CSC that's a fraction of the price of some of its APS-C competitors, the NX1000 is packed full of great features for its price point

Score

An affordable CSC that doesn't sacrifice too much in terms of image quality or features

8/10



SHARP DETAILS
Images contain a lot of detail and are sharp – thanks to the 20.3MP sensor you can easily crop into small details and the quality will still be high.



HIGH CONTRAST
The NX1000 offers Multi, Centre-weighted and Spot metering options and it deals with highly contrasted scenes well, with only the occasional highlight being blown.



AUTOFOCUS
Continuous autofocus keeps up well with fast-moving objects and is generally quick. Manual focus comes with a 5 or 8x MF assist enlargement option.

Download, print and inspect the images and don't forget to let us know what you think by joining the debate on our DP online forum.