

Lens Accessories

When you buy a compact digital camera, you may think you are limited to the range of the built-in zoom lens that comes with the camera. Often, the range is between 35 mm and 105 mm. (Remember, the smaller the number, the wider the angle; the larger the number, the greater the telephoto range.) What if you want a wider angle or a longer telephoto range for capturing subjects from a great distance?

Some compact models allow you to add accessory lenses. Usually, these conversion lenses are attached via an adaptor that fits onto the camera's built-in lens. The conversion lens is then attached to the adaptor. Most of these conversion lenses are fixed, meaning you cannot zoom in and out like you can with the built-in lens. So, you will have to get used to a new way of working with your camera. If possible, try out the conversion lens before you buy one to make sure you can deal with it.

Conversion lenses can cost \$100 or more, so make sure your camera will accept such a lens (not all do). Replacing your camera may be a better solution.

While individual camera manufacturers make accessory lenses for their cameras, independent lens companies also make accessory lenses that fit most cameras. Make sure the accessory lenses you purchase match the qualities of the built-in zoom lens, because conversion lenses are used in conjunction with the built-in camera lens zoomed all the way out.



Canon wide-angle
conversion lens



Nikon wide-angle
conversion lens

The most common conversion lenses are wide-angle and telephoto. A wider angle means you can capture more of the scene from side to side while standing closer to the scene. With a telephoto accessory lens, you can capture details of the scene from a longer distance. Remember that you will not be able to zoom in and out!



This is a slightly exaggerated view of a wide-angle conversion lens attached to a Canon compact camera. Notice how the lens adds length to the camera.

Contact your camera manufacturer, local camera stores, or the following companies for more information on conversion lenses.

Adorama Camera, Inc.

<http://adorama.com/>

Tiffen

<http://tiffen.com/>

B & H Photo

<http://BHPPhotoVideo.com/>

Cokin Filters

<http://cokin.com/>