

Advantages of using an infrared converted camera verses a non converted camera.

Photo must be composed prior to placing the infrared filter on the lens of a non converted camera as the filters are dark and block visible light from passing through thus also requiring long exposures and a tripod. On a converted camera the “hot” mirror over the camera’s sensor that blocks the infrared light from the sensor is removed and replaced with an infrared filter over the sensor allowing hand held photos and the camera’s meter to determine exposure. There are different degrees of filters used some allowing some color to pass through the filter. Photos require some degree of processing in Photoshop or other editing software. More information and techniques can be found in various tutorials offered online. Some sites are www.lifepixel.com, [www.nature-photography-central.com/Digital Infrared Tutorials.html](http://www.nature-photography-central.com/Digital%20Infrared%20Tutorials.html), [www.nature-photography-central.com/infrared photoshop tutorial.html](http://www.nature-photography-central.com/infrared%20photoshop%20tutorial.html). Others may be found by googling infrared photography.

Converted services and/or converted cameras can be purchased from sites such as www.maxmax.com, www.lifepixel.com, ebay and others. Prices vary and you can send your camera for conversion or these companies usually sell converted used and converted new cameras both SLR and point and shoot.

Additional comments by Robert Mandell

I read somewhere that the D70 gave good IR images. Apparently Nikon hadn't perfected their hot mirror until after the D70, which transmits a fair amount of near-IR to the sensor. Since I already had an old D70 I decided to buy an IR filter that screws onto the front (Hoya R72) and see what happens. I had no problem getting good images at about 1/2 sec f5.6. The image has a strong red tone and if you load it into Photoshop and convert to Black and White you can see that it is the red component of the sensor that detects most of the image.

The disadvantage is that you can't see the image in the viewfinder but most of the time you are going to be shooting distant scenes and you can line up the camera by eye. If you need to adjust the position then a couple of shots should allow you

to aim the camera where you want. You need a few shots anyway to get your exposure. If I were going to take a lot of IR photos I would probably get a camera conversion, but I just want an occasional shot when I am some place where an IR photo would give a special effect.

Theoretically, the focus should be adjusted for the longer IR focal length but I couldn't see any difference between Infinity and where my 50mm lens shows the focus for IR. This may be because my test wasn't sensitive enough to detect the difference. The adjustment should be more effective with shorter subject distances. If your lens doesn't have an IR focusing mark then you can make one yourself by putting a scratch on the depth of field scale at about f5.6. The lens should be focusing nearer than your actual subject.

Apparently, some other older digital cameras work as well as the D70.