

FUNKYGENE

CAMERA BUYING GUIDE FOR STREAMING

Buy for the job, not the spec sheet. This guide helps you identify what actually matters before spending money on a streaming camera.

THE BIG IDEA

The best streaming camera is the one that fits your complete system. Reliability, clean video output, power, lens choice, capture method, mounting and ease of operation can matter more than having the newest camera.

1. START WITH WHAT YOU ARE STREAMING

Use	What usually matters most
Gaming / desk	Simple connection, dependable autofocus, compact size and a lens/frame that works in a small room.
Podcast / interview	Good skin tones, continuous power, lens flexibility and matching multiple cameras.
Church / stage	Longer lens options, remote operation, stable output and the ability to cover distance.
Sports / races	Reach, fast operation, durability, long runtimes and a workflow that can handle multiple positions.
Business / events	Reliability, clean presentation, easy integration and predictable operation for long sessions.

2. CHECK THE OUTPUT BEFORE THE MEGAPIXELS

- **Clean video output:** Make sure the camera can send a usable image without menus or distracting overlays when your workflow requires it.
- **Connection:** Know whether you are planning around USB, HDMI, SDI, IP/network video or another capture path.
- **Resolution and frame rate:** Confirm the camera can provide the format your production actually intends to use.
- **Long-session behavior:** Streaming can keep a camera active for hours. Power, heat and automatic shutoff behavior matter.

3. THINK ABOUT THE LENS

- A beautiful camera with the wrong lens can still produce the wrong shot.
- For small rooms, make sure you can get wide enough without putting the camera against the wall.
- For stages and sports, make sure you have enough reach from the camera position.
- Consider whether you need interchangeable lenses, powered zoom, autofocus, stabilization or simply a fixed reliable frame.
- Include lens cost in the camera budget - not as an afterthought.

4. POWER & RUNTIME

A streaming camera should not become a countdown timer. Before buying, determine how it will be powered for the entire production and what happens if external power is interrupted.

- Look for a practical continuous-power option for fixed installations.
- For field use, plan batteries around realistic runtime plus reserve capacity.
- Check whether battery doors, cables or adapters interfere with mounting.
- Treat camera power, network power and computer power as parts of the same reliability plan.

5. AUTOFOCUS, MANUAL FOCUS OR PTZ?

Autofocus: Helpful for solo creators, moving presenters and situations without a dedicated camera operator.

Manual focus: Useful for controlled, locked-off shots where consistency matters more than tracking.

PTZ: Useful when one operator needs to remotely reframe several fixed cameras, but it changes the control and networking workflow.

Camera operator: Still the most flexible option when action is unpredictable and framing is part of the storytelling.

6. DO NOT FORGET THE HIDDEN COSTS

- Lens or lenses
- Capture device / converter
- Tripod, mount or PTZ controller
- Continuous power / batteries
- Audio accessories
- Cables and cable protection
- Monitor or confidence display
- Weather protection for field work
- Cases and transport
- Backup or spare components for critical productions

A cheaper camera can become the more expensive system once the accessories required to make it production-ready are included.

7. BEFORE YOU BUY: 8 QUESTIONS

- What am I actually streaming most often?
- How far will the camera normally be from the subject?
- Do I need the camera to move or stay locked off?
- How will the video reach OBS or the switcher?
- How will I power it for the full stream?
- Do I already own compatible lenses or accessories?
- Will I eventually need multiple matching cameras?
- Would improving audio, lighting or internet create a bigger upgrade than replacing the camera?

A SIMPLE BUYING PHILOSOPHY

STARTER: Buy the simplest camera that reliably does the job.

CREATOR: Pay for image quality, control and flexibility you will actually use.

PRODUCTION: Prioritize integration, reliability, repeatability, power, cabling and matching the rest of the system.

WHERE CUSTOM RECOMMENDATIONS MATTER

Camera choice changes when you factor in the room, distance, lenses, existing gear, lighting, capture hardware, computer, network, number of cameras and future upgrades. A good recommendation should evaluate the entire system - not just pick a popular camera.

BEFORE YOU SPEND, LET US BUILD THE PLAN.

FUNKYGENE can look at what you already own and give you Good / Better / Best camera and system options based on your budget, workflow and future upgrade path.

FUNKYGENE | Professional Streaming Made Simple | Press one button. Go live. We'll handle the rest.