

### BUYERS' GUIDE

### eStyle



LG Dynamite KG300 camera phone

#### Shoot-and-print capability

Once you have clicked a snap, you need some software or a picture manager to transfer it to your PC. However, the snaps can also be transferred wirelessly via Bluetooth or an infra-red port.

But sharing photos from a phone is not the smoothest process yet. Many low-end camera phones give you the option of picture messaging shots to your friend or a picture-sharing/-printing service. This results in lots of pictures trapped on your phone. Besides, most carriers charge a fee for each photo message or MMS sent by you. To compensate it, you may use e-mail to send your pictures from your phone or computer.

Make sure that the phone has a removable memory. Insert a miniSD or microSD card into your phone, click some pictures and drop the card into the PC card reader. Some camera phones also have the 'mass storage' mode. This mode allows you to plug the camera phone directly into your PC with a USB cable. There is also an-

other option of Bluetooth file transfer.

Printers like those from Epson and HP allow you to print pictures directly from your phone. In this case, your phone should support PictBridge printing over a USB cable. If your phone has Bluetooth option, the pictures can also be sent to the printer over Bluetooth.

#### Memory

Check the memory of the phone you are planning to buy. A phone with more memory allows you to store up to 200 high-resolution images, which means you will have plenty of room for all your pictures. Take care to rename unruly file names like 'DSC01162.jpg' while transferring the images to your PC.

#### Power consumption

The camera system of the cellphone should consume minimal power to conserve battery life. The power consumption should be low in both standby and active camera modes. The camera in some models consumes power as low as 120 mW in active

mode. Most cellphones have LED-based flashes, which consume less power but illuminate just 2-3m distance. This doesn't give a bright enough picture in a dimly-lit atmosphere.

#### Mechanical robustness

Check whether the phone can survive a stringent mechanical drop test. The camera module as well as its sensor should withstand strong mechanical shocks.

#### External screen/caller ID

Some flip camera phones show a picture of the caller along with his phone number on the cover itself, if one of them is attached to the contact.

#### Light adjustment

Most of the time, the lighting conditions for taking the photographs are not optimal. Unlike traditional cam-



Intex Infi camera phone