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**How to shoot good digital video with your camcorder**

**By Richard Gazzo**

Let me tell you from experience how important it is to know how to shoot good digital video with your camcorder before going on that vacation or filming that big event. When I was getting married my sister offered to film the happy day for me with her new camcorder, I agreed as it would save money on the wedding as a videographer could get quite expensive.

Let me tell you how wrong I was, the digital video was dark, shaky and blurred anytime she went into zoom or moved around the room. The sound was off and muffled and it was more of a headache to watch rather than a joy. In a nutshell, I wish I spent money on a good digital video shooting.

I don't want people to make the same mistake that I did so to spread the word on my learning experience I would like to pass on some great tips on how to shoot good digital video with your Minidv camcorder.

Tip #1 – Do not record while walking or moving about as the digital camcorder cannot stay focused on a moving object. Choose a place to stand and begin by recording a starting point for a few seconds before moving onto the next object. Slowly and carefully pan the camcorder to the next point of focus and hold there for a few more seconds before you stop shooting.

Tip #2 – Avoid excessive zooming of objects, not only does it kill the camcorder battery faster, it can give the viewers a crazy headache. If there were a moment you'd like to catch up close, stand still and take your time while zooming and shooting video, also try to avoid any quick motions, as the image will blur.

Tip #3 – Make sure that the lighting around you is bright enough and do not point the camcorder lens directly facing sunlight, not only can this damage the video camera lens, it will also blacken the images making for an unpleasant movie. If you plan to be indoors, I suggest you invest in a camcorder light attachment that can easily be placed onto the video camera and turned on if needed.

Tip #4 – Last but not least, my favorite camcorder accessory by far has to be a Tripod. You can buy a cheap little mini table tripod for simple videos or you can invest in a larger stand up tripod for longer

shooting of video. By using a tripod when recording, you can be assured that your images will not be shaky nor will the movie look amateur.

Richard Gazzo is a successful writer with info on all types of camcorders. Read reviews and other useful information on dvd camcorders, VHS camcorders, HD camcorders, and more. © Reprint permission will all hyper links intact.

## **Expert Guide to DVD Camcorders**

**By Kenny Hemphill**

### **Expert Guide to DVD Camcorders by Kenny Hemphill**

Thinking about a mini DVD camcorder? You're not alone, it's a rapidly growing sector of the camcorder market, with Hitachi, Sony and Panasonic all making more than one mini dvd camcorder.

These camcorders differ from regular digital video cameras in one important way – they record video onto mini DVD discs, rather than DV tape. This has a number of advantages. DVD discs are more robust than tape and won't get chewed up in the camera. Although this is thankfully a rare occurrence, it scares me every time I here a strange noise coming from my camcorder, so it's with bearing in mind.

The second advantage is that DVD discs are random access, compared to tape on which everything is recorded sequentially. This means that there's no need to rewind and fast forward to find the clip you're after, just select it from the menu. Some cameras even allow you to perform basic editing functions on-camera. An additional side-benefit is that a mini DVD camcorder doesn't have tape heads to get worn or dirty as happens in regular mini DVD cameras.

And thirdly, you can easily watch your home movies by removing the DVD from the camera and playing it in practically any DVD player.

However, there are negative factors to. The most significant one is that video is encoded as MPEG-2 on a mini DVD camcorder, as opposed to DV format. This means that it needs specialist software to edit – you can't just use your regular video editing program (unless it specifically supports MPEG-2). And if a Mac user you're out of luck, as there are no MPEG-2 editing applications for the Mac.

Also, mini DVD camcorders tend to cost more than similarly specified mini DV cameras. And the media is also more expensive. However, if you don't intend editing your movies and don't mind the extra cost, a mini dvd camcorder does offer extraordinary convenience.

Kenny Hemphill is the editor and publisher of



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