

Video Camera Basics

When you get a new camcorder start by charging it fully as you get to know Manny (your manual). Make sure you know all the buttons, jacks, and menu screens.

Basics

Setting time/date: Your video camera records this on the tape and your software needs this to help it capture your footage. Make sure this is set every time you use the camera.

Video Tapes: If your camera takes video tape make sure to stick with the same brand of tape. Some tape manufactures use dry lubricant and some use wet. When you mix the two bad things happen. **Always** use the sticker provided to label the spine or your tape **BEFORE** you put it into the camera.

Batteries: Always fully charge your batteries. After every use, charge the so they are ready when you check it out. Make sure your camera bag has a spare battery that is fully charge before you leave.

UV Filter: If your camera has a thread on the lens then you should purchase a UV filter. This will protect your cameras lens and is easy to clean.

Camera Jacks: Before you plug anything into a camera jack, either wrap the cable around your tripod or the cameras handle. Cameras without a headphone jack can use the A/V jack, video/audio cable and a cheap adapter to provide headphone monitor (always monitor your audio!!!!)

Buttons

Eject: Opens the tape door. Try not to leave this open long. Don't open when wet.

Play/Off (chg)/Camera: To charge the battery, plug the camera in and set to Off.

Record/Pause: Press once to start recording and press again to stop.

T/W (telephoto/Wide): This is your zoom lever. Use it to frame your shot but avoid it while you are filming unless it is a sporting event or special occasion.

Easy/P: Most cameras have a full auto (Easy) and a manual (P) buttons. While the camera is on full auto, many of the menu options will be unavailable.

Function: This will open the menu.

Joystick: Use this to navigate your menus. If you start by pressing this down you will launch a menu to quickly adjusting exposure and white balance.

Important Menu Settings

White Balance: Tells the camera the color of light in your scene.

Exposure: Adjust the iris or aperture (the amount of light)

Shutter: Adjust the shutter speed. For capturing fast motion (sports)

Program Modes: Adjust many settings for a particular setting

Widescreen/4:3: Aspect ration of the image. Set this based on what your audience will be playing your video back with.

Digital Zoom: Always turn this off!

Camera Work Tutorial: <http://www.mediacollege.com/video/camera/tutorial/>