

Quick Start Guide for Sony DVCAM

To start using the camera

- Find either small or large battery in camera case.
- If you use the larger battery, check battery life by pressing the white circular Push button on the front (non-grooved) side of the battery. The small circles will light up to the level of the battery's charge. To recharge the battery, place it in the Sony Charge recharger (in the camera case), flip out the recharger prongs and plug the charger into an outlet. The small circles should light up in a flickering cycle as it begins recharging and will stop flickering when fully charged.
- Attach battery to back of camera under viewfinder. The blue and white "Recycle" sticker should face the top of the camera and battery should snap in securely.
- Turn the camera on by pressing in the green tab on the Power button on the back of the camera and move the Power button from the Off position.
 - To take still pictures, turn the button to memory.
 - To take video, turn the button to Camera.
 - To playback video, turn the button to VCR.
- To insert a mini DV digital video cassette (included in the case):
 - Press the Open/Eject button on the top right-hand side of the camera and move it towards you. Pull open the exterior panel.
 - You must wait a moment for the interior cassette holder to pop out automatically.
 - Insert the mini DV cassette with the holes facing toward the camera's inside and the label side out.
 - Press on the interior cassette holder (NOT the exterior panel) and wait for the interior holder to retract.
 - Close the exterior panel.
- Remove the lens cap to see the picture.
- To see the picture you will be taking in black and white, use the extendable viewfinder on the top of the camera.
- To see the picture you will be taking in color or to avoid having to look through a viewfinder, press the silver Open button on the left rear side of the camera and flip out the viewer display screen.
- The viewfinder display will tell you how much battery life you have and how much tape you have used at the top and what video and sound modes you are recording in at the bottom. You also have the option of using a digital menu on the flip out viewfinder by touching the FN button on the bottom right-hand side of the display screen. This digital display menu controls certain camera effects, saved pictures, display screen brightness, and a few other nonessential functions.

Changing the camera settings

- To change the camera settings, press the menu button on the left-hand rear side of the camera. This should bring up a digital menu in the viewfinder.

- To scroll up and down the menu, use the small wheel at the bottom left in the back of the camera. You can ignore most of the settings and leave them at their default settings. The only settings you will really need to change are the Tape settings.
- To reach the Tape settings, scroll down to the Tape icon (6th one down). To select it, click the scroll wheel once (being careful not to scroll while pushing). This will show you the Tape submenu.
- The first option on the Tape submenu is Rec Mode, which is the recording mode of the camera. Clicking the wheel again to choose Rec Mode will show you the camera's two setting options—DVCAM which is the default and DV SP. DVCAM is a higher picture quality setting but will consequently use more of your mini DV tape faster. You can only get approximately 25 minutes of film time from the mini DV cassette on the DVCAM setting. Conversely, the DV SP setting gives you 60 minutes of filming time. Though the picture quality is reduced, it is adequate for most purposes, especially if you plan to put your video project into a low-resolution display format like the Web. We recommend that you use the DV SP setting.
- Scroll down and click the scroll wheel once to choose DV SP.
- Scroll to Audio Mode and click the scroll wheel once to see the two audio options—FS32K and FS48K. Scroll down and choose FS48K.
- Ignore the Remain option.
- Leave the MIC NR option at On. This is the noise reduction feature and will help prevent the pickup of some ambient sound.
- The Mic Level option controls the level of the sound. If you want the camera to take care of it (recommended for beginners), leave it at Auto. If you want to control it yourself, choose Manual.
- If you have another microphone plugged in (besides the standard one included), XLR setup will appear as an option. Otherwise it will be grayed out and unavailable.
- Click Return to get back to the Main Menu. The submenu will still appear but Return will disappear.
- Scroll down and click the last arrow button to exit the menu.

Checking the sound before recording

- Before you begin recording, make sure your sound is OK and that all your microphone connections are tight.
- The microphone must be plugged into one of the Input connectors on the sound attachment at the top of the camera, and the cable connecting the sound attachment (black square plug with small cable) to the camera must be firmly in place.
- Check the sound levels on the left side of the sound attachment.
- The levels for the Input that you are using should be set as follows for most projects:
 - Rec CH Select should be set at CH1 * Ch 2.
 - The input level should be set at Mic.

- +48V should be set at On.
- At the back of the camera, press the Audio Level button to see the level of the sound on the viewfinder display. If you selected manual for the Mic Level option in the Tape submenu, you can control the level of the sound here by using the scroll wheel.
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Checking the picture quality before recording

- On the back of the camera, the Shutter Speed, Wht Bal, and Exposure buttons control the picture quality. For beginners it is best to leave these at the default settings.
- To focus the camera, the button on the front left side of the camera can be set to auto focus or to manual. Again, for beginners it is best to leave this at the default auto focus setting.

Recording with the camera

- To record, make sure the Power button setting is on Camera and that a tape is inserted (if it is not, a broken cassette icon should appear in the viewfinder screen).
- Standby should appear at the top of the viewfinder screen.
- Press the red button on the Power button. Standby should be replaced by Rec.
- To zoom, use the large black button on the top rear right of the camera. L will zoom in and W will zoom out.
- To stop recording, hit the red button again.

Playing back video

- With the side viewfinder screen flipped out, you will see control buttons on the left side of the camera. Most of these serve the same function as those found on your VCR. You can rewind, play, fast forward, pause and record. You can also change the volume of the playback. Finally, the Display/Touch Panel screen will show or hide the display icons on the viewfinder screen (these icons do not appear in the final video, unless you turn on the time and date clock stamp in the menu).

Returning the camera

- To retrieve your mini DV cassette:
 - Press the open/eject button on the top rear right of the camera.
 - The exterior cassette holder panel will open and then the interior cassette holder will automatically pop up after a moment.
 - Remove the cassette and close the interior cassette holder (NOT the exterior one).
 - Once it has retracted, close the exterior holder panel.

- To turn the camera off, press down on the green button and turn the power button to the Off position.
- Close or retract the viewfinder.
- Remove the battery by pressing in and down on the grey button to the top right of the battery and gently removing the battery.
- Replace the lens cap.
- Put the camera and all cables and other accessories back into the carrying case as you found them.

Although we are unable to provide detailed technical support beyond this documentation, if you have general questions or problems concerning the Sony camera, please contact the Mann Library Circulation Desk (mann_circ@cornell.edu or 255-3296).