

DIGITAL TUTORIALS

Note to Spring '06 Video Production Students

You will need to have access to a digital camcorder to participate in the Video Production class. If you are thinking of purchasing a camera over the holiday break, your instructor, Sue Kosmalski has put together a list of suggestions to consider.

Basics to consider when purchasing a mini DV digital camcorder:

1. Stay with major brand names such as Canon, Sony, Panasonic.
2. Should have both manual and automatic operation functions.
3. Audio input port for external microphone desirable (much better sound!)
4. Firewire port for downloading video into computer
5. Mini dv tapes for recording
6. Purchase extended warranty if possible (repairs are expensive & these cameras are complicated)
7. Video camera tripod recommended (Check out National Camera Exchange)
8. Purchase a screw on lens cover to protect lens.
9. Single CCD chip cameras are good, smaller (easier to handle and less intrusive on the street), and sufficient for the class, however the 3 CCD chip cameras have better video image and color quality (but are larger and cost significantly more)
10. Image stabilization is generally found in most camcorders and is a nice feature.
11. Some of the new cameras will shoot 16:9 widescreen format which many film makers like.
12. It will be very useful to have an external firewire hard drive to back up your video files (at risk on the school computers), at least 160 gig recommended-LaCie brand are very good:

<http://www.macworld.com/2005/11/reviews/lacied2hdextreme/index.php>

13. Good websites for more purchasing info. & reviews

<http://www.pcworld.com/reviews/article/0,aid,102518,00.asp>
<http://www.pcworld.com/howto/bgguide/0,guid,27,page,1,00.asp#>
www.videomaker.com

14. Good general info about digital video and Final Cut Pro (software to be used in class)

<http://www.kenstone.net>

15. Vendors Sue has worked with online:

www.bhphotovideo.com/	www.adorama.com	www.beachcamera.com/
www.macmall.com	www.macwarehouse.com	www.MacZone.com

Local: National Camera Exchange, West Photo

"Before I purchase online, I often go to National Camera to look at equipment physically, how it feels, where buttons are, etc. If you purchase from them expect to pay a bit more, but they are very helpful in explaining a lot about cameras."

*If you have equipment questions over break you may email Sue at kosma008@umn.edu
(please identify yourself as a CVA student)*