

Videographers' Forum – March 1, 2016

Hi All, here are some notes from the discussions at our open forum. Only three more left for this year.

Q: Al illustrated how to save a “blown out” video in post-production.

D: I have to admit I blew it on a “freebie” video last Saturday. No excuses, I wasn't paying attention. It happens to all of us. The sun was glaring off of my video monitor so I didn't see the scene correctly, I didn't pay attention to the camera telling me to add neutral density, and I didn't check the scene using the view finder . . . all novice mistakes. Months back we discussed that a darker video had more details remaining in the pixels than a lighter video. Well I managed to put some color back into the video even though losing some of the details. First step was to reduce the brightness until I got some color back. Then I increased the saturation of the color to give it more life. Then as a final step I used a color corrector to restore the original colors. All in all, the video came out well. The subject matter was good but if you look carefully at the background you could see the loss in detail. The step-by-step video is on YouTube at: [YouTube.com/DHc6pBiUc6g](https://www.youtube.com/DHc6pBiUc6g). This URL is “unlisted” so you won't find it on my YouTube channel.

Q: A video/DSLR check list.

A: A participant brought in a check list that all of us should take a look at. It is attached as part of these forum notes. Thanks for your contribution.

Q: One participant bought a new DSLR and was asking for tips and tricks.

A: We had a lively discussion among all the participants on what to do with the camera, how to set it up, and to practice using it in various situations before making a “formal” video. Comments and suggestions were also given regarding camera angles and the many uses of a tripod.

Q: One participant had a question about using the manual iris control on his DSLR during a video shoot.

A: We are not sure we solved the problem, but he was filming a train coming into the station. The train looked good at the station but the train was washed out as it was arriving. We could only guess that the manual iris was set while the camera was pointed at the wrong subject. The point here being that any manual controls should be set to the main subject of the video. In a high contrast setting, some portions of the scene may be washed out, or some sections might be too dark. That's the breaks unless you have a lot of “production” lighting to even the scene out.

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VIDEO FIELD CHECKLIST

SCOPE OUT THE PLACE WHERE YOU PLAN TO FILM AND CHECK THE DISTANCE FROM WHERE YOU'LL BE ALLOWED TO SET UP AND WHERE THE SUBJECTS WILL BE. CHECK THE POSITION OF THE SUN AT THE TIME OF FILMING. THIS WILL HELP IN DECIDING THE BEST VANTAGE POINT. IF USING A DLSR, CHOOSE THE APPROPRIATE LENS. IF A TELEPHOTO LENS IS REQUIRED, CHECK IF THE AVAILABLE LIGHT IS SUFFICIENT FOR THE SPEED SETTING. IF A CAMCORDER, CHECK THE BEST ZOOM SETTING. PLACE THE TRIPOD WHERE YOU WON'T HAVE PEOPLE OR OBJECTS THAT COULD BLOCK THE SCENE. IF THAT HAPPENS, YOU MAY NEED TO SET UP FOR MANUAL FOCUS INSTEAD OF AUTOMATIC. OTHERWISE THE CAMERA WILL FOCUS ON THE NEAREST OBJECT SUCH AS A PERSON WALKING IN FRONT. CHECK CAMERA SETTINGS THAT WILL APPLY TO WHAT YOU'LL BE FILMING.

<input type="checkbox"/> BATTERY IS FULLY CHARGED
<input type="checkbox"/> SPARE BATTERY IS IN THE BAG WITH A WALL OR SOLAR CHARGING UNIT
<input type="checkbox"/> HAVE AT LEAST 2 SD CARDS & ALL FORMATTED
<input type="checkbox"/> IF A DLSR, THE LENS NEEDED FOR THE SHOOT IS ON THE CAMERA OR IN THE BAG
<input type="checkbox"/> LENS WILL HAVE THE CORRECT FILTER FOR THE SHOOT & A LENS HOOD
<input type="checkbox"/> THE TRIPOD MOUNTING SHOE IS IN THE SOCKET OR ON THE CAMERA
<input type="checkbox"/> HAVE A FIELD CHAIR FOLDED & IN IT'S CASE IF NEEDED
<input type="checkbox"/> BRING WATER, LUNCH AND OTHER SUPPLIES. PLAN FOR PARKING NEAR THE SITE & HOW BATHROOM TRIPS CAN BE HANDLED WITHOUT RISK OF LOSING YOUR EQUIPMENT. KEEP A BUSINESS CARD IN THE CAMERA CASE. HAVE A LIST OF INDIVIDUALS TO CALL IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.

<input type="checkbox"/> HAVE READING AND SUN GLASSES IN THEIR CASE WITH A CLEANING SPRAYER & CLOTH.
<input type="checkbox"/> BRING SUNTAN LOTION IF SHOOT IS ON A HOT SUNNY DAY
<input type="checkbox"/> BRING A WIDE BRIMMED HAT FOR SHADE WHEN USING THE SWING OUT VIEW SCREEN & RAIN GEAR FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER. BRING A KITCHEN TRASH BAG TO COVER THE CAMERA IN HEAVY RAIN. IF IT'S ESSENTIAL TO FILM IN THE RAIN, HAVE AN UMBRELLA AVAILABLE THAT CAN BE ATTACHED TO THE TRIPOD. LENSES CAN GET FOGGED & SHOULD BE CHECKED PERIODICALLY.
<input type="checkbox"/> HAVE CELL PHONE FULLY CHARGED & WITH GEAR
<input type="checkbox"/> BRING A FIRST AID KIT
<input type="checkbox"/> IF TAKING A BUS OR TRAIN, HAVE TICKETS IN YOUR CASE & MONEY. IF IN THE PARKING LOT OR GARAGE, BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS BEFORE GETTING OUT OF THE CAR. RECON ELEVATORS, ESCALATORS, STAIRS & CORRIDORS. PLAN FOR HOW EQUIPMENT CAN BE PLACED AT YOUR SEAT, SUCH AS OVERHEAD RACKS.

NOTES
