

Video reporting on a mission using a camcorder

The camcorder option

Specially designed for video

While mobile phones and mirrorless cameras have mainly replaced camcorders for consumer video recording, camcorders maintain specific advantages not to be overlooked.

My first experience with a video camera



My first take on video recording was in the early seventies. I had access to a Sony Portapak (camera and VTR) ½ inch black and white NTSC system. My interest in video production began at that time and has continued to this day.

The professional camcorder

ENG (Electronic News Gathering) professional and remote broadcast teams primarily use camcorders for the following reasons (just to name a few):

They offer professional XLR audio inputs, standard timecode, and direct HD- SDI input/output required for live productions.

Bodies offering good internal cooling, preventing overheating issues (as experienced with mirrorless cameras and mobile phones, for long live shoots). Powerful zoom lenses (in the range of 15x to 24x) with built-in rocker switches controlled.

Interchangeable parfocal zoom options, keeping constant focus from zoom in to zoom out without needing to readjust the focus.



The affordable “consumer” camcorder



For long continuous recording and when there is a need for a powerful zoom, a consumer camcorder may be an option.

Here are some specifications of the affordable Panasonic HC-V900:

Maximum continuous recording time: 3 h 40 min (with the VCBT 380 battery).

Video reporting on a mission using a camcorder

24x optical zoom.

Internal zoom where all the glass elements move inside, unlike most mirrorless camera zoom lenses, which physically lengthen or shorten when zooming in or zooming out.

1920 x 1080p at 24, 30 or 60 fps.

2 1/8" / 3.5 mm TRS I/O, for stereo microphone input and stereo headphone output.

1x 2.5 mm input for external LANC remote control.

OIS (Optical Image Stabilization).

A very small form factor.

In telephoto situations, and in long continuous recordings, the use of a tripod or a monopod is highly recommended.

A limitation would be (as mobile phones) the small sensor and its lower

performance in low-light situations.

A camcorder may be a good complement to a mobile phone for video productions, as for graduation ceremonies, baptisms and other special events, sermons and seminar recordings. Also widely used in musical and sporting events.

2

In the service of our Lord,

Pierre

Pierre Robidoux

info@probidouxeng.ca

“... how can they believe in the one
of whom they have not heard...”

Romans 10:14