

# Re: Looking for DVD camcorder

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.video/2005-10/msg00264.html>

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- *From:* "Graham Hughes" <[graham.hughes@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:graham.hughes@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 25 Oct 2005 13:53:12 +0100
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There are a few principles to get around first.

The video recorded to the minidv tape is dv, it is compressed at a ratio of around 5.1.

If you capture as dv-avi – which is the dv signal wrapped in an avi wrapper, then it will be identical to the video on the tape.

Every single frame in the dv-avi is an actual recording of what the cam saw, so for PAL, you have 25 real frames every second.

As each of these frames is real, you can make an edit cut after frame 1 or frame 76895, or any inbetween,

If you save as dv-avi to your hard drive the video will still retain the exact same quality.

If you add transitions to the edit cut points, then quality will be very, very, very slightly lowered, but not at all noticeable even on professional quality monitors.

Mpeg is compressed to around 20.1. So you start with a much more compressed video.

You can see this, by 1 hour of dv-avi consume 13gb of hdd. 1 hour of best quality Mpeg consumes about 4gb.

Mpegs are made up of GOP's, group of frames. These frames are i, b, and p. An i frame is an exact recording of the camcorder, the frames between these i frames are made up, using the info on the i frame before it and the i frame after.

GOP's can be from a few frames apart to many frames apart. This is one way of making the video fit more on a disc, so the less that fits on a disc, the smaller the GOP. A small GOP may still be an i frame every 15 frames, so in fact you get less than two real frames every second (PAL).

When you edit, you can only make cuts at i frames. So if the action changes mid GOP, you have to either cut to it before hand or cut to it after it has started.

When you save this edited Mpeg, unless you have a programme which will allow you to save compatible files, you will then end up recompressing a compressed file.

If you have ever saved a jpeg still a few times you will notice each time you save it it gets smaller in size, and gets lower quality. If you used a still tiff/bitmap file and made changes and saved it, it will not decrease in size and retains it's quality. This is the same for Mpeg and AVI.

There is also this for mpeg editing.

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Mpeg2 files use programme time stamps to keep the audio and video in sync. Therefore when making your edits to the mpeg file when you preview in your editing programme or in the computer dvd player, before burning, the audio and video always appear to be in sync.

The problem comes along when the Mpeg2 files are authored to the dvd and burning commences. In the authoring, the VOB files which are created, discard the programme time stamp information and this can lead to very small audio and video sync problems. The more edit points there are, the greater the problem will become. Straight cuts are generally not as bad as using transitions at edit points.

On to Premiere elements.

I've not used it, but I use Premeire 6.5. It is a crakcing programme, and by the reports I've read elements 2 is superb value for money.

It is right in that you can import mpeg files without loss of quality. All you are doing is using the file from the dvd, or I found it best to copy the Mpeg to the hdd first, much faster seeking times. The loss of quality is in the recording of mpegs, when compared to avi.

The main problem will come in your authoring app, when you come to make the vob files.

I still believe if you want to edit, then use a minidv.

If your editing is minimal, then you could get away with a dvd cam.

If you don't want to do any editing and want to just play a dvd, then they are great camcorders, as the dvd made is pretty darn good quality.

I hope I've been clear in this, let me know if you don't understand anything.

—

Graham Hughes  
MVP Digital Media  
www.myvideoproblems.co.uk  
www.dvds2treasure.com  
www.simplydv.com

"Monte Comeau" <dag123@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:uBisvAN2FHA.924@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:uBisvAN2FHA.924@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

> Thanks for the input Graham,

> Have you any thoughts on Adobe's new Premiere Elements 2.0 program?

> It claims that importing the files from DVD cams is seamless and no loss  
> of quality.

> I am stillw aiting for delivery of my Sony DVD camcorder and if the loss  
> of quality compared to a miniDV camera I will send it back in exchange for  
> a Minidv model.

>

> "Graham Hughes" <graham.hughes@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
> [news:O1X%23A6L2FHA.2880@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:O1X%23A6L2FHA.2880@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

>> If you want to edit, choose a minidv camcorder.

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>> Lots of reasons, higher quality file type, which won't degrade when  
>> editing, easy to edit, at every frame, not so with mpeg files, every  
>> editing app works with them, etc etc.  
>> My review of the sony dvd cam is here, with my thoughts on editing at the  
>> end.  
>> <http://www.myvideoproblems.com/ProductReviews/SonyDCRDVD92E.htm>  
>>  
>> --  
>> Graham Hughes  
>> MVP Digital Media  
>> [www.myvideoproblems.co.uk](http://www.myvideoproblems.co.uk)  
>> [www.dvds2treasure.com](http://www.dvds2treasure.com)  
>> [www.simplydv.com](http://www.simplydv.com)  
>>  
>>  
>> "Monte" <mc@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
>> [news:O6faot\\$1FHA.3000@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:O6faot$1FHA.3000@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)  
>>> Hello,  
>>>  
>>> I was wondering if anyone here could suggest a good digital camcorder.  
>>>  
>>> I want something with very good quality that records right to a DVD for  
>>> playback in computer for editing.  
>>>  
>>> I am cuurently looking at the Sony DCR-DVD403 and the Canon Alura  
>>>  
>>> Any comments on these two would be appreciated.  
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>>>  
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• *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ **Re: Looking for DVD camcorder**  
    ◇ From: Monte Comeau

• *References:*

- ◆ **Looking for DVD camcorder**  
    ◇ From: Monte
- ◆ **Re: Looking for DVD camcorder**  
    ◇ From: Graham Hughes
- ◆ **Re: Looking for DVD camcorder**  
    ◇ From: Monte Comeau

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