

BENEFITS OF USING DSLR FOR VIDEO

Traditionally, a DSLR camera was designed for still photography. However over the past few years, the DSLR camera range has been expanded into the video world, and for good reason; it **ROCKS**.

Let's take a look at the advantages:

Top Reasons To Use DSLR For Video

- Epic Image Quality
 - Traditional camcorders have a relatively small light sensor, which basically processes the image you shoot into digital data. Large sensor DSLR's however, have chips that can shoot at frame sizes similar to 35mm film, which is MASSIVE. This basically means a DSLR can create incredibly sharp, crisp images that hold a lot more data and detail in the image.
- Bigger Sensor = Better
 - Another advantage is that a larger sensor results in much more control over depth of field. This refers to the range in an image, from near to far, that is in focus.
 - DSLRs are also fantastic in low light, which is a major advantage over traditional cameras.
- Interchangeable Lenses
 - DSLR cameras allow you to use different types of lenses on your camera. This allows you to be much more creative with your shots, and also means you can use specific lens for specific situations. This gives you a much better range of focal lengths, and of course flexibility when shooting video.
- Capable Design
 - Moving on from the technical advantages, there are also much more obvious physical advantages.
 - A DSLR isn't the most ergonomically friendly camera for video, however due to their small nature and size, they are very easy to take with you on shoots, and hardly take up any space in your rig!
- Hidden Camera
 - Another great advantage I've picked up on is purely psychological.
 - A lot of subjects hate being filmed on a massive camera because they instinctively know they are being filmed. However with a DSLR, a lot of the time my subjects don't notice when I film them. I've been labelled a ghost a lot by my clients!

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DSLR Cameras vs. Conventional Camcorders

The 'Pros' – **Benefits** of DSLRs:

- Significantly improved image quality
- Much more control over depth of field
- Widespread availability of lenses
- Much better low light performance
- Lighter, compact and much more portable
- Often less expensive than ENG-style camera
- Most people don't think you're shooting video!

The 'Cons' - **Negatives** of DSLRs:

- Ergonomically not designed to shoot steady video
 - Solution: purchase a simple shoulder rig for stabilisation
- Audio input/control severely limited
 - Solution: Invest in an external sound recorder/microphones

Understand the limitations of each camera and always keep them in the back of your mind when shooting to minimize the limitation's impact. In summary, I believe the benefits of using a DSLR for video are here for all to see.

Summary

There are of course some limitations to using a DSLR for video. However, as time goes on, people are beginning to realize the true power and potential of filming with a DSLR camera. Hollywood studios and professionals are also beginning to use DSLR video in professional films... this alone proves the power and capability of these types of cameras.

New hardware and software is coming out every day to offer workarounds and combat limitations for video users, and this is fantastic to see!

No camera is perfect, and different cameras are definitely better suited to different jobs. However, from all my days working in the video business, I've never had a better camera than a DSLR, and for the price, the quality is immense.