

Video Production Resources List

For those of you wanting recommendations or advice on camera gear, software, or stock resources, here it is, all in one handy, convenient place!

Equipment

Equipment prices are from BHPPhotoVideo.com. This list is dated, from Fall 2010, so things may have changed.

Video Cameras:

(I suggest checking consumerreports.com if your budget is \$1200 or less. Get what they recommend. They really like the Canon Vixia line. The following prices are dated. Consumer Reports will be more up-to-date.)

Consumer HD:

[Sony HDR-CX550V](#) - \$1200 - 64GB Hard Drive based
[Sony HDR-XR350V](#) - \$1000 - 120GB Hard Drive based
[Canon VIXIA HF-M31](#) - \$579 - 32GB internal, SD expandable

Prosumer HD:

[Sony FX7](#) - \$2000
[Sony A1U](#) Very tiny, with XLR audio input - \$2290
[Canon XH-A1s](#) \$3400
[Sony Z1U](#) \$4095
[Sony EX1](#) CineAlta Certified \$6100

DSLRs that shoot excellent video:

Canon T2i - \$850
Canon 7D - \$1800
Canon 1D Mark IV - \$5000
Nikon D3100 - \$800
Nikon D7000 - \$1200

Mics for small cameras (all have 3.5mm plugs):

Shotguns:

[Sennheiser MKE 400 Compact Video Camera Shotgun Microphone](#) - \$199, better, very small, but more \$. Highest recommended.

[Rode VideoMic - Camera Mounted Shotgun Microphone](#) - \$149

[Audio-Technica Pro-24CM - Compact Stereo Condenser Microphone with Camera Shoe Mount](#) - \$70

[Azden ECZ-990 - Super-Cardioid Shotgun Condenser Camera Mountable Microphone](#) - \$60.25

Stereo Mic:

[Rode Stereo VideoMic - Camera Mounted Microphone](#) \$249. Second highest recommended mic.

Wired Lav:

[Bescor TCM-88 - Electret-Condenser Omni-Directional Lavalier Microphone](#) - \$23. Or any wired lav will probably be an improvement over the built-in mic on your camera.

Wireless lav:

[Audio-Technica Pro 88W - Camera Mountable VHF Lavalier System](#) \$170 (also has a kit with a handheld, or both)

Mic adapter: (Use XLR mics with 3.5mm plug)

[Beachtek DXA-2S - Dual XLR Universal Microphone Adapter for Camcorders](#) \$180 (add another \$100 if you need phantom power to your mic)

Pro Mics: (see above adapter to use on a camera with a tiny mic plug)

[Sony ECM-44B - Omni-Directional Wired Lavalier Condenser Microphone](#) - \$220

[Shure SM93 - Omni-Directional Wired Lavalier](#) - \$140

[Sennheiser Evolution G2 100 Series - Wireless UHF Lavalier System](#) - \$490

[Sennheiser Shotgun ME66/K6 - Super-Cardioid Mic Capsule with K6](#) -\$399 (or kit with boompole, windscreen, shockmount for \$800)

[Rode NTG-1 - Shotgun Condenser Microphone Basic Kit with boompole, mount and windscreen](#) - \$580

Mobile audio recorder:

[Zoom H4n Handy Mobile 4-Track Recorder](#) Built-in stereo mic, accepts XLR or 3.5mm inputs, records to SD cards, USB port, or 3.5mm output- \$299

Tripods:

[Manfrotto by Bogen Imaging 190XDB Tripod Legs \(Chrome\) with 3126 Micro Fluid Head - Supports 8.80 lb](#) \$154

[Manfrotto by Bogen Imaging 055XWNB Tripod \(Black\) with 501HDV Fluid Video Head](#) up to 13.2 lbs - \$327

Camera Stabilizer:

[Glidecam 2000 PRO](#) Camcorder Stabilizing System - Supports up to 6 lbs - \$265

Jib Arm:

[Cobra Crane](#) - \$290

Software

Handbrake.fr - This is free, cross-platform DVD ripping software. And it's not illegal to do *if you have acquired a license to show the movie clip in your service*. See Copyright / Legal below.

For Mac:

iMovie - Free!

Final Cut Studio - No longer recommended. Get the Adobe suite instead.

Adobe Creative Suite Production Bundle - \$1700. See below. This runs just as well on a Mac as it does on a PC. Non-profit discounts may get the suite down to \$600 or so.

For Windows:

Windows Movie Maker - Free!

Adobe Premiere Elements - \$80

Adobe Premiere - \$800

Adobe Creative Suite Production Bundle - \$1700. This has Premiere (for editing), After Effects (for motion graphics), Photoshop (a must have), Illustrator, Flash, Soundbooth, OnLocation (for live video capture and monitoring), and Encore DVD Authoring. Non-profit discounts may get the suite down to \$600 or so.

Cross Platform:

Mpeg Streamclip - Free! Converts files into lots of other formats.

Magic Bullet Suite - \$800. This is a suite of finishing tools that give plain ol' boring looking video an incredible boost, with pro color correction tools, presets for a very Hollywood look, and ways to make your pristine video look roughed up.

Music

www.freeplaymusic.com - Free music if you're not distributing your service, under most circumstances.

SmartSound.com - Stock music and software that comes out to the exact time you need it to.

firstcom.com - Expensive subscription service, but amazing music.

digitaljuice.com - Stacktraxx libraries let you mix and match instruments in the arrangements. Their discontinued Backtraxx libraries are fine, too, and can be found on eBay and other places.

www.sounddogs.com - Sound Effects

vimeo.com/musicstore - This video sharing site just introduced a stock music service, and it's pretty good!

www.shockwave-sound.com - This is a really good site, especially if you need cinematic, bombastic music.

www.midnightoilproductions.com - They now have stock music in addition to their videos.

Stock Photos/fonts/clip art:

Bluevertigo.com.au - The most amazing collection of links to stock media that you'll find.

Videohive.net - Cheap stock videos, but also After Effects template files that you can add your own text and graphics to.

ignitermedia.com - Sermon illustrations, background loops, bumpers, and much more.

worshiphousemedia.com - Similar to Igniter Media.

digitaljuice.com - Amazing and affordable media. Those looping backgrounds you see on American Idol when the performers sing? Yep. Digital Juice. They also have layered Photoshop art, sound effects, stock music, packaged graphics that include background loops, transitions, and lower thirds, fonts, the works. Get on their email list and take advantage of their weekly specials or their free downloads.

midnightoilproductions.com - These guys started out at Ginghamburg, and now offer tons of media resources and training. Heck, they've even teaching a workshop here at Leadership Institute!

dafont.com - This is an amazing, and free, font site. Be tasteful and don't go too crazy, but if you can't find what you need here, then you're just too picky.

Training

digitaljuice.com/djtv - Digital Juice training. A lot of this is for how to use *their* products, but some are related to the broader art of film making, especially their older videos. Some of the series worth looking at are called Take 5, Tech Know, Cutting Class, and Production Notes.

<http://dryreading.com/camera/index.html> - A virtual camera. Though designed for still SLR users, this site demonstrates better than anything I've found what f stops are, how the ISO affects your image, and why shutter speed matters. And it's all the same for video cameras. Change your exposure mode, then start adjusting the settings.

www.mediacollege.com/lighting/three-point/simulator.html - Since we're on the subject, take a look at the flash 3 point lighting simulator.

<http://www.video101course.com/index.html> - The Video 101 Course is a great online course you can read through. It covers, um, everything. And it's free.

creativecow.net - The world's most amazing community of digital artists will answer your questions in the forums. Seriously, this is where the Hollywood pros lurk. And there are great tutorials available, too, especially for After Effects.

VideoCoPilot.net - After Effects tutorials that will blow you away.

SmashingMagazine.com - An incredible design blog, this online magazine will point you towards inspiration, tutorials, fonts, and much more.

FilmRiot.tv - Hilarious do-it-yourself special effects tutorials. Sometimes a little crass.

Copyright / Legal

copyrightsolver.com - The only place offering a blanket webcasting license. Keep your church's webcast legal. They'll also help with every other imaginable copyright need.

MusicServices.org - If you need to pay royalty or licensing fees for a Christian song used in one of your videos, if you're going to distribute the video. A Videogram Synchronization License rate of \$0.25 per song per DVD is the going rate.

MPLC.com - Motion Picture licensing. You must have this license to use Hollywood film clips in your worship service. Being a house of worship does not matter; you still need to have a license.

Script Writing

celtx.com - Open source software for writing plays and screenplays. Keep track of shots, costumes, characters, plot, and props, too.