

## Which Video Camera?

If you are inexperienced with videography or have never used the particular cameras we use here at PAVED Arts, this page is an overview of each camera and which might be the best for you.

The Guide Explained...

Camera Model:

**Company and Model Number**  
(usually referred to by last  
letter number combo)

Recording Format:

**DV (Standard Definition Tape)**

**DVCAM (Standard Definition Archival Tape)**

**HDV (High Definition Tape)**

**XDCAM (Broadcast High Definition on SxS Memory Card)**

**AVCHD (Consumer High Definition on SDHC Memory Card)**

Lense/Sensor Quality:

**Fair/Good/Excellent**

Experience Level:

**Novice/Intermediate/Experienced**

Rental Price:

**Low/Medium/High**



Camera Model: **SONY HVR-TRV900**

Recording Format: DV (Tape)

Lense/Sensor Quality: Fair/Good

Experience Level: Novice

Rental Price: Low



Camera Model: **SONY HVR-FX7**  
Recording Format: HDV/DV/DVCAM (Tape)  
Lense/Sensor Quality: Good/Good  
Experience Level: Novice  
Rental Price: Low



Camera Model: **CANON XL-1S**  
Recording Format: DV  
Lense/Sensor Quality: Excellent/Good (Tape)  
Experience Level: Intermediate  
Rental Price: Medium



Camera Model: **SONY HVR-Z7U**  
Recording Format: HDV, DV, DVCAM (Tape/CF Memory Card)  
Lense/Sensor Quality: Excellent/Good  
Experience Level: Experienced  
Rental Price: High



Camera Model: **CANON EOS-7D**  
Recording Format: MPEG (CF Memory Card)  
Lense/Sensor Quality: Excellent/Excellent  
Experience Level: Experienced  
Rental Price: Medium



Camera Model: **SONY PMW-EX1**  
Recording Format: XDCAM (SxS Memory Card)  
Lense/Sensor Quality: Excellent/Excellent  
Experience Level: Experienced  
Rental Price: High

## High Definition Vs. Standard Definition

### Should I shoot my project in SD or HD?

If your budget allows for shooting in HD and you want your project to have a long shelf life or distribute it through various means (screen it on TV etc) then shoot in an HD format. Your final video can always be downscaled to SD output for a dvd etc.

If you only want to make a DVD (rather than a Bluray disk) or you just want to upload your video to youtube or you just don't have the money for HD equipment, tapes, or hard drive storage space... shoot in SD. If you are shooting in SD, I highly recommend shooting in the 16:9 aspect ratio as few 4:3 ratio TV sets and projectors are being made anymore.

Keep in mind also that you will need a powerful modern computer usually running the latest editing software like we have in our [edit suite](#) to edit full HD. If you are using a format that relies on memory cards for storage, you'll need to dump the video off the cards when they get full (110min per 32gb SxS) and should have access to a laptop wherever you are to accomplish this.

This diagram (courtesy [Wikipedia](#)) shows the size difference between SD resolution (pink) and HD resolutions. In most cases you are doubling your available screen size. HD also as a larger variety of frame rates and the option of progressive (a series of still frames) or interlaced (alternating fields) scanning.

