

Video Equipment Q&A

DSLR vs Camcorder?

- DSLR/Mirrorless cameras have a maximum record time of around 25-30 min, so are not suitable for long continuous recordings
- Camcorders record continuously until power or storage space on their memory cards run out
- We have two cameras capable of 4K recording: the **Canon XA40** and the **Sony a6300/a6400**
- DSLR/Mirrorless cameras offer better image quality, so are better for projects where the record time cap is not an issue

Sony HXR-NX3 vs other camcorders?

- The **Sony HXR-NX3** is our most feature rich camera for very advanced users. It allows one to control every aspect of the audio and video with important additions like built in neutral density filters, two XLR audio inputs, and a large maximum aperture throughout its long zoom range
- That being said, it is not our highest resolution camera, as it only films in 1080p. The **Canon XA40** films in 4K. That being said, the image quality of the 1080p footage is still very good

Canon XA11/XA40 vs Canon Vixia R800?

- The **XA11** has a larger sensor and provides better image quality than the **Vixia**, and the **XA40** is another step better than the **XA11** in that regard
- The biggest benefit of the **XA11** is the two XLR inputs and included shotgun mic, providing much better sound quality than the **Vixia**. The **XA40** shares that feature
- The **Vixia** is the easiest to use and most portable, and is suitable for any interviews or long recordings where image or sound quality are not of the utmost importance

Photography Equipment Q&A

Nikon D3300 vs Canon T3i?

- The **Nikon D3300** has a higher megapixel count sensor (24 vs 18) and is a newer camera, meaning it sports features like faster continuous shooting and longer battery life
- The **Canon T3i** is an old camera and we are likely to phase out the last few copies soon. While the working copies are not bad cameras, they offer no benefits over the **D3300**

Nikon D3300 vs D5300 vs D610?

- The **D3300** and **D5300** have the same image sensor, so the image quality is effectively identical. The **D5300** has more autofocus points, a flip-out screen and GPS as notable features that the **D3300** does not
- The **D610** is our only full-frame camera, meaning it has a larger sensor and will have significantly better image quality than the **D3300** and **D5300**. The **D610** has a slightly higher continuous shooting frame rate and significantly better low light performance than the other two. One major difference of full-frame versus crop sensor cameras (such as the **D3300** and **D5300**) is that the same focal length lens will appear as a wider angle on a full-frame camera

DSLR vs Sony a6300/a6400 mirrorless?

- The **Sony a6300/a6400** has roughly the same image quality as the **D3300**, but is more portable, has much faster continuous shooting frame rates, has faster autofocus, and can shoot up to 4k video, as well as 1080p video at 120fps for slow-mo
- The menu system is expansive, and changing settings on the **a6300/a6400** can be a chore

What lens should I use for portraits?

- **Nikon D3300/D5300**: the 35mm and 50mm primes are good
- **Nikon D610**: the 85mm prime and the 24-70 f2.8 zoom lens are good
- **Sony a6300/a6400**: The 35mm prime is good, the 18-105 can work too

Audio Equipment Q&A

Zoom H2N vs Zoom H4N?

- Both have good sound quality, but the **H4N** is better overall
- Both suitable for recording interviews or music
- The **H4N** has external XLR and 3.5mm inputs with phantom power to use other microphones with it
- The **H2N** can record in a number of microphone patterns, most notably the ability to record in surround sound

Which microphone should I use with my camcorder or DSLR?

- **Sennheiser XSW-D** mic sets work with any camera or audio recorder. We have both handheld and clip-on cavalier versions. These are best if you want to record specifically one person's voice
- The **Rode VideoMic Pro** is ideal to use with the DSLRs or **Vixia** for better quality audio. It either attaches to the hotshoe on the camera or mounted on the included bracket. It is directional, meaning it will capture sound from directly in front of it
- The **Rode NTG2 Mic** is intended to be used with either the **Canon XA11, XA40, Sony HXR-NX3, or Zoom H4N**. It can be used to capture audio as a boom mic or as a directional shotgun mic when mounted on a camera