

*"Cukor" Camera-- Fast Start Guide*



The Sony Camera, code named "Cukor" can be checked out from the MMLC lab desk, in Kresge 48.

Let's go over the camera in these steps:

1. Buttons (Power, Camera, VCR)
2. Recommended Settings (Focus, Exposure)
3. Using Batteries or DC Adapter
4. Using Headphones
5. Using Microphones
6. Inserting tapes
7. Recording Video
8. Playing Video back

Depress the **Green Switch Tab** and rotate the black thumb switch till the indicator points to **CAMERA**, or **OFF** or **VCR**. Careful: Don't choose "MEMORY" unless you want to record only still images.

**Power/Camera/VCR Button**

This button controls all three functions and it's located on the rear of the camera.



## Recommended Settings for Exposure and Audio Level

Turn the silver settings slider to **AUTO LOCK** to have the camera set the exposure, focus, and color for you. The middle setting will allow you to over-ride the auto, and the HOLD button will hold any setting you've made. Use **AUTO LOCK** because the camera is very smart.



**TIP:** The AUDIO LEVEL button will temporarily show the audio level meters in the camera viewfinder. The camera sets the audio levels automatically. This is just a reference for your information.



## Recommended Settings for Focus

For most situations, **AUTO FOCUS** is best. Manual focus is only good for sit down interviews, and you must focus the camera using the focus ring just behind the lens.

The FOCUS switch should be set to **AUTO**. You can set it to MAN for manual if the camera is stationary, such as during an interview. You must remember to turn the Focus ring (gray arrow) to keep the subject in focus. You can depress the PUSH AUTO button to have the camera check your manually set focus. **AUTO** is generally best to use.



## Inserting Battery or DC Power Adapter

Using a battery is good for most taping. For interviews, try to use the DC Adapter so the battery won't die in the middle of an interview. Batteries last about 3 hours, though they last half that time (or less) outside in cold weather.



Battery is gently snapped into place. The camera battery can only fit one way, no worry here that it will go in upside down. Recharging a battery in the camera takes about 90 minutes. Batteries last about 3 hours on a full charge, less time in cold weather.



**DC Power Adapter** connects here. The flap says **DC IN**. The Power Adapter runs the camera OR charges the battery when the camera is turned off. It will not do both at the same time. Batteries reach full charge in about 90 minutes.

## Using Headphones

Headphones help you hear possible problems in your audio before it's too late (after you've left the scene). If you can hear technical noise like buzzing or loud hiss, or natural sounds like sirens or airplanes in the headphones, you'll be able to hear it in your edited video piece.

**Good Audio is Equally Important as Good Video.**



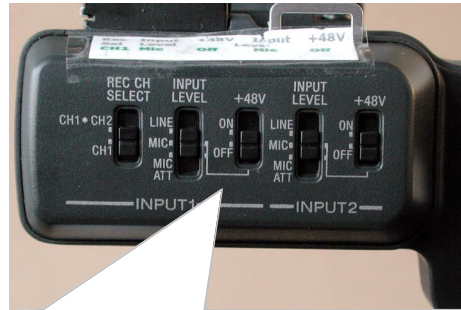
Plug headphones into green **Headphone Jack** and listen carefully to audio while you are taping.

### Using Microphones

The Cukor camera comes with a small microphone that attaches to the camera, and connects into the XLR connectors near the top handle at the front of the camera.



The audio selector switches must be set as shown.



Audio Input Selectors:

REC CH SELECT	INPUT LEVEL	+48V	INPUT LEVEL	+48V
CH 1	MIC	ON	MIC	ON

### Inserting Videotapes

The camera takes 60 minute “mini-DV” tapes. Don’t use longer tapes than 60 minutes, it will hurt the camera.

Make sure the camera power is turned on, to CAMERA. Gently push the **EJECT** button. The tape compartment opens automatically and slowly. Don’t rush it.



Place the tape in the slot with the label facing out, and the tape opening hinge opening facing down into the slot.

Gently close the outer door, and press on the oval “door button” with your thumb till you hear it click shut.



### Begin Videotaping

Once your tape is in place, your battery or DC Adapter is attached, and the camera is turned on, you can begin taping by pressing the RED RECORD button on the back of the camera.



Push the **RED RECORD** button on the back of the camera to start recording. Push it again to stop recording.

You know you are recording if the numbers in the viewfinder are increasing, and the RED LED light is glowing on the front of the camera.



### Videotape Playback (Camera)

To play video back, turn the Power Switch to VCR, and then operate controls on top of camera.



## Textual description of Default (Recommended) Camera Settings



1. You turn the camera on/off and the VCR on/off with the buttons near the RED RECORD button on the back of the camera.
2. Keep **AUTO LOCK** on rear of camera to automate exposure, and correct color. The HOLD function freezes current values till the camera is taken out of hold. The middle selector is for totally manual control of settings. AUTO LOCK is recommended over manual.
3. Keep Focus button on front-side of camera near the lens switched to AUTO. Manual focus is good for interviews, but not necessary. Manual focus is the MAN selection on the focus switch.
4. Keep Microphone selector settings set correctly to make sure microphones work (the selector switches are on the top of the camera connected to the carrying handle.) The correct settings are from left to right: **Ch1, Mic, ON, Mic, ON**.
5. Insert a Mini-DV videotape by pressing the EJECT button on the right rear side of the camera. This opens the tape loading slot. Place the tape in, with the label facing out, and the tape hinge flap heading down into the tape loading slot. Push the slot closed very gently. Close the outer door of the tape loading slot, and gently push it closed till you hear it click shut.
6. Record Videotape by pressing on the RED RECORD button on the back of the camera.
7. Play recorded footage back (for review) by turning the Camera/OFF/VCR switch to VCR, and then pressing the newly lighted VCR control buttons on the top of the camera under the handle.

## Policies on checking out the camera from the MMLC

Before checking out the camera, you must be enrolled in a class that has made arrangements with the MMLC to use the camera for that class. You must have made a deposit of \$50 to the MMLC Bursar Account and signed the Statement of Responsibility paper. You must understand that any damage beyond normal wear and tear is the responsibility of the person/group that signed out the camera, up to a maximum of \$500.

The camera can only be used for class assigned projects, and is not available for personal use. The camera can only be signed out and signed in during certain hours of the weekday. Currently (in January 2001) this period is between 10am and 1pm Monday through Friday.

The check out period for the camera is one day, approximately twenty four hours, depending on your check out time. The camera must be returned during the check-out period. If the camera is returned late, a late fee of \$5 per hour is assessed against the fifty dollar deposit. Repeated late returns can prevent future check-out privileges.

If you check out the camera, and let another person use the camera, you remain responsible for any damage to it.

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