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Video Restoration Lab
Assignment #2

Mini-DV Bibliography

b. 1996. Component. Very compressed (5:1). DCT (Discrete Cosine Transform) Compression method. 25Mbps (Million bits per second) video data throughout per second; 29.97 NTSC or 25 PAL video frames per second. Metal Evaporated (ME). Until 1996, ME tape had durability problems—ME tapes and the Mini-DV format is not recommended for archival purposes. Very thin tape to pack more hours of video onto a small cassette—the thickness of Mini-DV is about 7 μm . Tape is 1/4" wide. Tapes thinner than about 12 μm are not advisable for archival material. Thinner tapes are also more susceptible to damage and more difficult to restore after being damaged.

As Mini-DV is the most popular format for camcorders now, most resources currently available are concerned with the promises and ease of the format to be consumed by professionals and amateurs, and does not think of the format in the long-term. The following bibliography looks at the format mostly from this perspective, though some of these promises could serve as a cautionary tale, or at least historical documentation of a particular moment, when new video technology is creating new, exciting assurances.

Promises

The Digital Journalist: A Multimedia Magazine for Photojournalism in the Digital Age
www.digitaljournalist.org 1997-present

This online journal documents the social and technological uses of digital video from the perspective of journalists and producers in the field, from all over the world. The site includes numerous archived articles and reviews of particular mini-DV equipment, including problems and solutions.

Ellis, Robert. "Budget Camcorders Offer Professional Features." Macworld Nov. 2004: Vol. 21, Iss. 11. ProQuest. NYU's Bobst Lib., New York, 1 February 2005
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=711148351&sid=6&Fmt=4&clientId=9269&RQT=309&VName=PQD>.

Encouraging consumers to let go of their "antiquated" VHS or Hi8 camcorders, this article compares the quality of video shot by six popular camcorders currently on the market. Experts assessed color (accuracy and brightness) and clarity (sharpness and detail) of the Canon Optura 40, Canon ZR-90, JVC GR-DX97, Panasonic PV-GS200, Samsung SC-D6040, and Sony DCR-PC109.

Evans, Russell. *Practical DV filmmaking: a step-by-step guide for beginners*. Oxford: Focal Press, 2002.

Fauer, Jon. *Shooting Digital Video: DVCAM, Mini DV and DVCPro*. Boston: Focal, 2001.

This book concentrates on digital video production using “small, light, fast, portable, cheap” formats such as Mini DV and DVCAM, and includes an Appendix for suppliers and print and web resources.

Fischetti, Mark. “Special Report: The Future of Digital Entertainment” *Scientific American* November 2000

Discusses the convergence of all-digital technologies into “one big stream of digital data,” or “d-entertainment,” including music, movies, television, video games and the web.

Manifest Technology

http://www.manifest-tech.com/media_pc/dv_tech.htm

This particular article, “DV: Digital Video Format for the Masses,” was written in 2000 and serves as a historical document of the early days when digital video was first enabling consumers to create and edit “professional quality” video of professional quality. Sections in this article include Promise of DV, DV in Action, DV Technology, DV Video Compression, DV for Consumers, DV for Professionals and Getting DV.

Northeast Historic Film: The iMovie and Archival Footage Roundtable

www.oldfilm.org/nhfWeb/PDFdocs/iMovie_NE_Historic.pdf

The Roundtable met July 2002 to discuss digital video production in the classroom, beginning with technical issues and extends to questions of digitizing and reusing archival footage. The Roundtable prefers Mini DV for its quality and “ease of use.”

Tape Resources/Mini-DV

http://www.taperesources.com/mini_dv_tapes.html#diff_dvcpro_dvcam

Compares MiniDV to DVCAM and DVCPro. Quite a few online resources recommend this vendor for professional and prosumer video tape, as well as data storage media.

Preservation

Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) Listserv

<http://lsv.uky.edu/archives/amia-l.html>

<http://lsv.uky.edu/archives/amia-l-classic.html>

For those seeking experiences and advice from fellow moving image archivists. Dating back to April 1996, the archived backlog of messages is searchable as well; about 20 messages came up concerning the risks of mini-DV and current transfer standards. Postings made after November 1999 are available to the public. The AMIA-L-Classic archive is only accessible to AMIA-L subscribers.

DV Info Net: DV i Community

<http://www.dvinfo.net/conf/showthread.php?t=9180>

<http://www.dvinfo.net/conf/showthread.php?s=&threadid=7327>

This message board currently has 146 active members with threads falling under the following topics: DV Network (industry news), Tools of DV Discussion, Standard Definition DV Camcorders, High Definition HDV, DV Post Production and Special Interest Areas. Right now there are two threads running under “Tools of DV Discussion” and “Standard Definition DV Camcorders” about the reliability and durability of MiniDV tape.

Flicker: Frameworks Listserv

<http://www.hi-beam.net/fw/index.html>

<http://www.hi-beam.net/fw/fw23/0090.html>

This listserv serves as a broad forum to discuss experimental film production and techniques as well as criticism, history and aesthetics, festivals and announcements. Although not intended for the discussion of video, threads will go in that direction. The latter link, “archival geek talk,” follows a discussion on archiving analog and digital video.

Wheeler, Jim. *Videotape Preservation Handbook*. Los Angeles: Association of Moving Image Archivists. 2002

<http://www.amianet.org/publication/resources/guidelines/WheelerVideo.pdf>

Although this paper concentrates on analog formats, archivists can refer to this handbook as guide to basic preservation management for video and includes guides for storage, care and handling, cleaning and reformatting, with simple Dos and Don'ts. Briefly mentions the risks of small cassettes with thin tape such as Mini-DV.

Related Periodicals

American Cinematographer

<http://www.uemedia.com/CPC/cinematographer/>

Digital Video.com

www.dv.com

Film & Video Magazine

<http://filmandvideomagazine.com/>>

PC Photo Magazine

<http://www.pcphotomag.com/>

Videography Magazine

<http://www.uemedia.com/CPC/videography/>