

12 Golden Rules for shooting with MOVIEtube™ on HDV

1. Perform a Gate check frequently

Check for dust and dirt on the clear protection filter behind the film lens inside the MOVIEtube. Use a lens brush and/or an air duster, in clean environment so not to scratch the surface. Check the surface by panning over bright background like a white card, whilst watching the image on the Viewfinder or Monitor

2. Watch T-stop on Film lens

The film lens shouldn't be closed down more than T=3.0. Best results are achieved with open aperture on high-speed lenses (T=1.3) Notice that the more open the film lens, the less depth of field you will get.

3. Watch out for grain

Check each shot for grain especially if you are filming with white and or bright background and doing slow Camera movement. With the T-Stop down at 3.0, the grain of the Filmscreen may become visible. In that case fully open the aperture and or avoid the bright background and or restrict the Camera movement.

4. Zooming Gate.

If zooming in past the open size of the 35mm gate. Remember that the grain will slightly increase. Filming with movements (pan, tilt, travel...) fully open the aperture on your high-speed lenses to T=1.3. Also notice that zooming too close will close down the docking camera aperture even more and you'll lose overall sensitivity.

5. Check for Gate-Vigneting

Make sure zoom is set to manual and your Docking Cameras zoom ring is fixed or marked with tape at focal length 25mm on Sony HDV-Z1/ FX1. Frequently check if everything is still as it should be. Important: Always check for vigneting with an underscan broadcast viewfinder (MOVIEtube ST) or with a control monitor set to underscan mode.

6. Docking Camera is set to infinity focus

Make sure, the docking camera's focus is set to infinity by pressing the infinity button. An infinity symbol will appear in the docking camera's viewfinder. This will set the back focal length of the docking camera to the correct position. Switch focus to manual and tape or mark the focus ring.

7. Docking Camera image stabilizer turned off

To avoid the gate shifting into your image, image stabilizers like Steady-Shot or IOS have to be switched off.

8. Docking Camera sensitivity

To shoot with the highest possible sensitivity, open the Iris completely. Consider shooting with shutter speed 1/25 for cinematographic look and increasing the sensitivity by 1 Stop. Also 6db gain will gain 1 Stop. HD Video can handle high gain, due to its high resolution. Even 12db looks good. Remember shooting with celluloid? An 800 ASA film has a lot of grain and it looks good. Don't be afraid to use gain, check it out. Use it as a tool, like choosing different film sensitivity.

9. Progressive 25p, Cine Gamma & other settings

Progressive mode (25 full frames/ sec) can support the film look. Nevertheless it's lowering the overall sensitivity of your system. In that case better use 1/25 shutter interlaced and do the rest in postproduction. Since the MOVIEtube Filmscreen is design to achieve film look with video, the image has a warm film-look, which is not to colourful in appearance. Check Cine Gamma and other film presets on your docking camera with MOVIEtube. You might not need it. Also check the colour temperature of your image; sometimes you may need to do a white balance.

10. Confirm the record turned on

Don't forget to start the docking camera by pressing the record button. If possible establish a voice command like "Speed" or "Running" to avoid shooting without recording.

11. Neutral Density Filters

If you have to deal with bright light intensity while shooting exteriors, use the docking camera's built in ND filters. Don't stop the docking camera lens down more than T=4.0. This will prevent seeing any dust on the outside of the ocular and a vertical black line from the prism. You can also use "real" ND filters in a Mattebox in front of your film lens, if the built in ND filters are not enough. For shooting documentaries, you may need to use the auto iris. In this case just limit the auto iris in the menu to not close down more than f4.0.

12. Only use tested Equipment

Before shooting we advise that you test your equipment like; docking camera, lenses, matteboxes, filters, follow focus. Especially check the lenses for overall sharpness / quality and for breathing (little zooming while changing focus). Wider lenses are softer than long lenses above F40mm and tend to darken corners. Test Photo lenses, especial zoom lenses for holding focus while zooming. Also if a lens causes vigneting it may be a 35mm regular gate lens only! Or the lens is not centred properly anymore (old, damaged etc.) In that case just slightly zoom into the gate. 16mm lenses may work, but are not recommended. Caution: Lenses, which measures more than 32mm from the bayonet flange to the end of the last lens element, are not recommended. As it may crash into protection filter. Zoom lenses where the iris diaphragm is near the bayonet flange, such as Cooke T3.0 18-100, T3.9 25-250 and T3.1 20-100, are not supported.