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Panasonic AG-DVX100

Panasonic AG-DVX100 Professional MiniDV Camcorder Instruction Manual

INTRODUCTION

The Panasonic AG-DVX100 is a professional MiniDV camcorder designed for high-quality video production. It features a 3-CCD image system, offering excellent sensitivity and picture quality. This camcorder supports various recording modes, including 24p, 30p, and 60i, to accommodate different production needs. Its manual-oriented controls, including a cam-driven manual zoom and responsive focus ring, are designed for professional use. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, and maintaining your camcorder to ensure optimal performance and longevity.



Figure 1: Front-side view of the Panasonic AG-DVX100 camcorder, showing the lens, microphone, and main controls.

SETUP

1. Unpacking and Initial Inspection

Carefully unpack all components. Verify that the following items are present:

- Panasonic AG-DVX100 Camcorder
- Battery
- USB Cable
- User Manual (this document)

Inspect the camcorder for any visible damage. If any components are missing or damaged, contact your vendor or Panasonic customer support.

2. Battery Installation and Charging

1. Insert the provided battery into the battery compartment on the rear of the camcorder until it clicks into place.
2. Connect the AC adapter to the camcorder's DC input terminal and then to a power outlet. The battery will begin charging.
3. Allow the battery to fully charge before first use. The charging indicator will typically change color or turn off when charging is complete.

3. Inserting a MiniDV Tape

1. Open the tape compartment cover.
2. Insert a MiniDV tape with the window facing outwards and the arrow pointing towards the camcorder.
3. Gently push the tape until it seats correctly, then close the compartment cover.

4. Initial Settings

Upon first power-on, you may be prompted to set the date, time, and language. Follow the on-screen instructions using the menu navigation buttons and the LCD monitor.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Powering On/Off

Locate the POWER switch, typically on the rear or side of the camcorder. Slide it to the 'ON' position to power on the device. To power off, slide it to the 'OFF' position.

2. Recording Modes (24p, 30p, 60i)

The AG-DVX100 offers three primary shooting modes:

- **24p (24 frames per second, progressive):** Provides a film-like look and motion. Images captured in 24p mode are converted to 60i TV format for recording onto tape.
- **30p (30 frames per second, progressive):** Offers a progressive scan image at a higher frame rate than 24p.
- **60i (60 fields per second, interlaced):** Standard interlaced video format.

Select the desired mode using the 'CINE-LIKE GAMMA' or 'FRAME RATE' switch/menu option, depending on the specific model variant.

3. Lens and Focus Control

The camcorder features a cam-driven manual zoom ring for precise control, similar to professional interchangeable lenses. It also includes a multi-speed servo-driven zoom for variable speed control.

- **Manual Focus:** Rotate the focus ring on the lens barrel for precise manual focusing.
- **Auto Focus:** Engage the auto-focus mode for automatic subject focusing.

- **Push Auto:** While in manual focus mode, press the 'PUSH AUTO' button to temporarily activate auto-focus, useful for quick adjustments.

4. Viewfinder and LCD Monitor

The AG-DVX100 is equipped with a large-diameter viewfinder that tilts upward 100 degrees for flexible shooting angles. The 3.5-inch color LCD monitor rotates 270 degrees, allowing for versatile viewing and self-recording.



Figure 2: Rear-side view of the Panasonic AG-DVX100 camcorder with the LCD monitor open, showing audio controls and viewfinder.

Use the LCD monitor to navigate menus and adjust settings. Ensure the LCD is clean for optimal viewing.

5. Audio Controls

The camcorder provides professional audio controls, including phantom power and two-channel audio control. Adjust audio input levels using the dedicated dials, typically located on the side or rear of the unit. Connect external microphones via the XLR inputs for enhanced audio quality.

6. Data Transfer (IEEE 1394)

Utilize the IEEE 1394 (FireWire) interface to connect the camcorder to a compatible computer or editing system for video transfer and editing.

MAINTENANCE

1. Head Cleaning

The AG-DVX100 features unique pre-cleaning heads and an auto head cleaning function to maintain optimal recording and playback quality. If you experience playback issues or dropouts, the auto head cleaning function may activate. For persistent issues, a professional head cleaning tape may be used sparingly, or professional service is recommended.

2. General Cleaning

- **Lens:** Use a soft, lint-free cloth and a specialized lens cleaning solution to gently clean the lens surface. Avoid touching the lens with bare fingers.

- **Body:** Wipe the camcorder body with a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth can be used, ensuring no moisture enters openings.
- **LCD Monitor:** Clean the LCD screen with a soft, dry cloth designed for electronics. Avoid harsh chemicals.

3. Storage

When not in use, store the camcorder in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and excessive dust or humidity. Remove the battery if storing for extended periods.

TROUBLESHOOTING

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your AG-DVX100 camcorder.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Camcorder does not power on	Battery discharged; AC adapter not connected or faulty; Power switch off	Charge battery; Connect AC adapter securely; Ensure power switch is 'ON'
No image or poor image quality	Lens cap on; Out of focus; Insufficient lighting; Incorrect recording mode	Remove lens cap; Adjust focus manually or use auto-focus; Increase lighting; Verify recording mode (24p/30p/60i)
No audio or poor audio quality	Microphone not connected; Audio levels too low/high; Faulty microphone	Connect microphone securely; Adjust audio input levels; Test with a different microphone if available
Dust/Noise in recorded material	Dust on tape heads; Dirty tape	The camcorder has auto head cleaning. If persistent, use a dry cleaning tape or seek professional service. Avoid dusty environments.
LCD display not functioning correctly	Physical damage; Internal connection issue	Check for visible damage. If the issue persists, professional repair may be required. The viewfinder can still be used.
Flash frames during editing 24p material	Conversion from 24fps to 60 field for recording	Ensure your editing software and workflow are optimized for 24p material, such as using Final Cut Pro on a Macintosh for proper pulldown removal.

SPECIFICATIONS

Key technical specifications for the Panasonic AG-DVX100 Professional MiniDV Camcorder:

- **Product Dimensions:** 5.47 x 14.33 x 6.3 inches
- **Item Weight:** 4.19 pounds
- **Photo Sensor Technology:** 3-CCD
- **Video Capture Resolution:** 720 x 480
- **Maximum Aperture:** 1.6 Millimeters
- **Flash Memory Type:** SD (for certain functions, e.g., still images)
- **Video Capture Format:** MiniDV

- **Supported Audio Format:** PCM, Dolby Digital (AC-3)
- **Screen Size:** 3.5 Inches (LCD)
- **Connectivity Technology:** USB, IEEE 1394 (FireWire)
- **Color:** Black, Grey

WARRANTY INFORMATION

Panasonic products are covered by a limited warranty. The specific terms and duration of the warranty may vary by region and purchase date. Please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Panasonic website for detailed warranty information and registration procedures. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

SUPPORT

For further assistance, technical support, or service inquiries regarding your Panasonic AG-DVX100 camcorder, please utilize the following resources:

- **Official Panasonic Website:** Visit the Panasonic support section for product manuals, FAQs, software updates, and service center locations.
- **Customer Service:** Contact Panasonic customer service directly via phone or email for personalized support. Refer to the contact information provided on the Panasonic website for your region.