

Sony DCR-TRV280

Sony DCR-TRV280 Digital8 Handycam Camcorder User Manual

Model: DCR-TRV280

1. INTRODUCTION

The Sony DCR-TRV280 Digital8 Handycam Camcorder is designed for capturing high-quality digital audio and video. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, and maintaining your camcorder to ensure optimal performance. The Digital8 recording format offers superior video performance compared to traditional analog formats, recording digital audio and video onto affordable Hi8 tapes.

2. WHAT'S IN THE BOX

Carefully unpack your Sony DCR-TRV280 camcorder and verify that all items are present. The package should contain the following:

- Sony DCR-TRV280 Digital8 Handycam Camcorder
- AC-L15 Power Adapter/In-Camera Charger
- NP-FM30 InfoLithium Rechargeable Battery
- AV Cable
- USB Cable
- Lens Cap
- Shoulder Strap
- CD-ROM with USB Driver (PicturePackage Software version 1.5 for Sony)



Figure 2.1: Retail packaging for the Sony DCR-TRV280 camcorder, showing product features and model information.

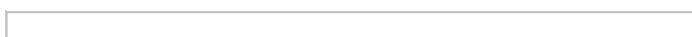


Figure 2.2: Included accessories such as power cables, AV cables, and shoulder strap.



Figure 2.3: The Sony DCR-TRV280 camcorder, lens cap, and power cable as found within the box.

3. SETUP

3.1. Battery Installation and Charging

1. Insert the NP-FM30 InfoLithium rechargeable battery into the battery compartment until it clicks into place.
2. Connect the AC-L15 power adapter to the camcorder and a power outlet. The battery will begin charging.
3. The AccuPower Meter System displays the remaining battery time in minutes on the LCD screen or in the viewfinder. Charge the battery fully before first use.

3.2. Loading a Tape

1. Open the tape compartment cover.
2. Insert a Digital8 or Hi8 tape with the window facing outwards.
3. Close the tape compartment cover until it latches securely.

3.3. Initial Power On

1. Open the 2.5-inch SwivelScreen LCD display.
2. Slide the POWER switch to the CAMERA position.
3. The camcorder will power on, and the LCD screen will display the camera view.

3.4. Language Settings

The camcorder supports multiple languages for its menu display. Navigate to the menu settings to change the language from English to English (Simplified), Canadian French, Latin American Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, Korean, or Traditional Chinese.

4. OPERATING THE CAMCORDER

4.1. Basic Recording

To begin recording, ensure the camcorder is in CAMERA mode. Press the **REC START/STOP** button to start and stop recording. The 20x optical zoom allows you to bring distant subjects closer, while the SteadyShot Picture-Stabilization System minimizes camera shake for clearer footage.

4.2. LCD Display and Viewfinder

The 2.5-inch SwivelScreen LCD Display provides excellent viewing clarity and can rotate up to 270 degrees for various shooting angles. An electronic viewfinder is also available for use when the LCD is closed or in bright conditions.

4.3. NightShot Plus Infrared System

Activate the NightShot Plus Infrared System to capture natural-looking video in low-light conditions. This system allows recording subjects up to 10 feet away without the monochrome effect common in older low-light systems.

4.4. Manual Focus

For situations where autofocus may not perform optimally, such as shooting through a window or in a crowded environment, use the manual focus dial to precisely adjust the focus.

4.5. Program AE (Auto Exposure) Modes

Select from various Program AE modes to optimize exposure for different shooting scenarios:

- Portrait
- Beach & Ski
- Sports Lesson
- Landscape
- Spotlight
- Sunset & Moon

4.6. Picture Effects and Faders

Enhance your videos with creative Picture Effect Modes (Negative Art, Sepia, Monotone, Solarize, Slim, Stretch, Pastel, Mosaic) and Fader Effects (Black, Mosaic, White, Monotone, Stripe) during recording or playback.

4.7. Easy Handycam Button

Press the **Easy Handycam** button to simplify operation. This mode disables advanced features, leaving only essential buttons active for straightforward recording.

4.8. Photo Mode

Capture still images with seven seconds of audio using Photo Mode. The camcorder utilizes Adaptive Frame Interpolation for improved image quality.

4.9. Built-In White LED Light

Use the built-in white LED light to brighten subjects and reduce shadows when shooting in low-light conditions. This LED light consumes less power than traditional bulb-based systems.

5. CONNECTIVITY AND DATA TRANSFER

5.1. i.LINK DV Interface (IEEE1394)

The i.LINK DV interface provides a high-speed digital connection for transferring audio and video between the camcorder and compatible devices such as PCs or digital VTRs. This ensures pure digital transfer without quality loss.

5.2. USB Streaming

Connect the camcorder to a computer via the USB interface to broadcast live video with audio over the Internet, effectively creating a video-conferencing system. You can also play back recorded scenes.

5.3. Easy Dubbing

Connect the Handycam camcorder to a VCR to easily create VHS copies of your home videos. The camcorder can control up to 59 brands of VCRs for simplified dubbing.

6. MAINTENANCE

6.1. General Care

Keep the camcorder clean and free from dust and moisture. Use a soft, dry cloth for cleaning the exterior. Avoid exposing the camcorder to extreme temperatures or direct sunlight for extended periods.

6.2. Battery Care

The InfoLithium battery is not subject to a 'memory effect,' allowing you to charge it at any time without shortening its lifespan. Always use genuine Sony InfoLithium batteries for optimal performance and to avoid compatibility issues.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your camcorder, refer to the following common troubleshooting tips:

- **No Power:** Ensure the battery is properly installed and charged, or connect the AC adapter.
- **No Picture/Sound:** Check all cable connections (AV, i.LINK, USB). Ensure the correct input is selected on your TV or PC.
- **Tape Not Recording/Playing:** Verify that a tape is loaded correctly and that the write-protect tab is not engaged. Clean the video heads if necessary (using a dry head cleaner tape).
- **Image Unstable:** Ensure SteadyShot is enabled. Avoid excessive camera movement.
- **Low Light Issues:** Activate NightShot Plus or the Built-In White LED Light.

For more detailed troubleshooting, consult the full user manual available on the Sony support website.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Specification
Brand	Sony
Model Number	DCR-TRV280
Photo Sensor Technology	CMOS
Video Capture Resolution	480p
Effective Still Resolution	0.29 MP
Optical Zoom	20x
Digital Zoom	990x
Screen Size	2.5 Inches (SwivelScreen LCD)
Image Stabilization	SteadyShot (Digital, Optical)
Connectivity Technology	Infrared, USB, i.LINK (DV)
Features	NightShot Plus Infrared System, Built-In White LED Light, Easy Handycam Button
Power Source	NP-FM30 InfoLithium Battery (1 required)
Item Weight	2 Pounds
Dimensions (D x W x H)	6"D x 3.9"W x 3.4"H

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The Sony DCR-TRV280 Digital8 Handycam Camcorder is manufactured by Sony. For detailed warranty information, product registration, and technical support, please visit the official Sony support website or contact Sony customer service. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

