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Canon XA20

Canon XA20 Professional Camcorder User Manual

1. Product Overview

The Canon XA20 is a compact, professional HD camcorder designed for high-quality video capture. It features a powerful Genuine Canon 20x HD Video Lens with an 8-blade circular aperture, capable of focusing down to 23.6 inches (60cm). The camcorder includes a 3.5-inch OLED Touch Panel Display and a tiltable electronic viewfinder. It supports multiple HD/SD recording rates, including 24p for a cinematic look, with industry-standard MP4 (up to 35 Mbps) and AVCHD (up to 28 Mbps) codecs. Its robust features make it suitable for independent filmmaking, documentary production, event videography, and educational use.



Figure 1.1: The Canon XA20 Professional Camcorder, showcasing its compact design and detachable handle with audio controls.

Key Features

- **Genuine Canon 20x HD Video Lens:** Features a 35mm equivalent focal length of 26.8mm–576mm with an 8-blade circular aperture and manual focus ring.
- **High-Quality Recording:** Supports 1080/60p recording in MP4 (35 Mbps) and AVCHD Progressive (28 Mbps), including Slow- and Fast-Motion recording and Native 24p.
- **Advanced Imaging:** Equipped with a new Canon 2.91 Megapixel HD CMOS Pro Image Sensor and DIGIC DV 4 Image Processor for high sensitivity and wide dynamic range.
- **Built-in Wi-Fi:** Dual-band (5 GHz/2.4 GHz) Wi-Fi technology for wireless file transfer and internet uploads.
- **Detachable Handle:** Provides expanded audio functionality with two built-in XLR audio input terminals (phantom power, manual gain), an infrared emitter and diffuser light, an accessory shoe, and zoom control.
- **Infrared Shooting Mode:** Enables recording in extreme low-light conditions.

2. Getting Started

2.1 Unpacking and Initial Inspection

Carefully unpack all components from the box. Verify that all items listed in the packing contents are present and undamaged. Retain the packaging for future transport or storage.



Figure 2.1: Included components with the Canon XA20 Camcorder, including the main unit, detachable handle, battery, power adapter, and cables.

2.2 Battery and Memory Card Installation

1. **Charge the Battery:** Connect the supplied power adapter to the battery charger and fully charge the battery before first use.
2. **Install Battery:** Slide the charged battery into the battery slot on the rear of the camcorder until it clicks into place.
3. **Insert SD Cards:** Open the SD card slot cover. Insert up to two SDHC/SDXC memory cards into the slots until they click. Ensure the cards are inserted in the correct orientation.

2.3 Attaching the Detachable Handle

The detachable handle provides additional audio inputs and controls. Align the handle's mounting shoe with the camcorder's accessory shoe and slide it forward until it locks. Secure it with the locking screw. Connect the handle's electrical contacts to the camcorder for full functionality.



Figure 2.2: Rear view of the Canon XA20 with the detachable handle attached and the OLED touchscreen display open.

3. Basic Operation

3.1 Powering On/Off

To power on the camcorder, slide the POWER switch to the CAMERA position. To power off, slide the POWER switch to the OFF position.

3.2 Recording Video

1. **Select Mode:** Use the mode dial to select your desired recording mode (e.g., AUTO, Manual).
2. **Start/Stop Recording:** Press the REC START/STOP button to begin recording. Press it again to stop.
3. **Monitor Footage:** Use the OLED touch panel display or the electronic viewfinder to monitor your shot.

3.3 Using the OLED Touch Panel Display

The 3.5-inch OLED touch panel display allows for intuitive control of camcorder settings. Tap icons to navigate menus, adjust parameters, and review footage. The display can be tilted and rotated for flexible viewing angles.

3.4 Zoom and Focus Control

Use the zoom rocker on the camcorder body or the zoom control on the detachable handle for optical zoom. For focus, switch between auto-focus (AF) and manual focus (MF) using the AF/MF switch. In manual focus, rotate the focus ring on the lens.

3.5 Audio Input and Monitoring

The camcorder features a built-in stereo microphone. For professional audio, utilize the two XLR inputs on the detachable handle. These inputs support phantom power for condenser microphones and offer manual gain control. Monitor audio levels using the on-screen meters and connect headphones to the headphone jack.

3.6 Wi-Fi Connectivity

The built-in dual-band Wi-Fi allows for wireless control, file transfer, and live streaming. Refer to the detailed network settings in the full user manual for configuration instructions.

4. Advanced Features

4.1 Image Stabilization

The XA20 incorporates an Intelligent Optical Image Stabilization system with Powered and Dynamic Modes. This system effectively reduces camera shake across five axes, ensuring stable and clear footage even when shooting handheld or in motion. The automatic correction circuit also minimizes image distortion.

4.2 Infrared Shooting Mode

For shooting in extremely low-light or no-light conditions, activate the Infrared (IR) shooting mode. The detachable handle includes an IR light to assist in these environments, making it ideal for surveillance or wildlife observation.

4.3 Recording Formats and Rates

The camcorder supports versatile recording options:

- **MP4:** Up to 1080/60p at 35 Mbps.
- **AVCHD:** Up to 1080/60p at 28 Mbps.
- **Native 24p:** For a film-like aesthetic.
- **Slow & Fast Motion:** Creative recording options for varying playback speeds.

5. Maintenance and Care

5.1 Cleaning the Camcorder

- **Lens:** Use a soft, lint-free cloth specifically designed for optical lenses. Avoid touching the lens surface directly.
- **Body:** Wipe the camcorder body with a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn dirt, slightly dampen the cloth with water and then wipe dry. Do not use organic solvents or strong cleaning agents.
- **Display:** Gently wipe the OLED screen with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid pressing hard on the screen.

5.2 Storage

When not in use for extended periods, store the camcorder in a cool, dry, and well-ventilated area, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. Remove the battery to prevent leakage. Use a desiccant if storing in a humid environment.

6. Troubleshooting

This section provides solutions to common issues. For more detailed troubleshooting, refer to the comprehensive user manual.

- **Camcorder does not power on:** Ensure the battery is fully charged and correctly inserted. Check that the power switch is in the CAMERA position.
- **No image on display/viewfinder:** Check if the lens cap is removed. Ensure the display is open and the viewfinder is extended. Adjust brightness settings if necessary.
- **Cannot record:** Verify that an SD card is inserted and has sufficient free space. Check if the card is locked (write-protected). Ensure the camcorder is not in playback mode.
- **Poor audio quality:** Check microphone connections and settings. Ensure audio levels are not too high (causing distortion) or too low. Clean microphone ports if necessary.
- **Wi-Fi connection issues:** Ensure Wi-Fi is enabled on the camcorder and your connecting device. Check network settings and password.

7. Technical Specifications

Feature	Specification
Brand	Canon
Model Name	XA20
Model Number	8453B002
Video Capture Resolution	1080p
Optical Zoom	20x
Digital Zoom	400x
Minimum Focal Length	26.8 millimeters
Maximum Focal Length	57.6 centimeters
Image Stabilization	Optical (SuperRange)
Screen Size	3.5 inches (OLED Touch Panel)
Connectivity Technology	Bluetooth, HDMI, Infrared, USB, Wi-Fi
Video Capture Format	AVCHD, MP4
Supported Audio Format	PCM, Dolby Digital/AC-3
Flash Memory Type	SDHC/SDXC
Item Weight	2.5 pounds
Manufacturer	Canon Cameras US

8. Warranty and Support

For detailed warranty information, please refer to the documentation included with your product or visit the official Canon website. For further assistance, technical support, or service, please contact Canon customer support.

An official user manual in PDF format is available for download:

- Download User Manual (PDF)

You can also visit the official Canon store for product information and accessories:

- Visit the Canon Store on Amazon

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