

Sony DCR-HC52

Sony DCR-HC52 MiniDV Handycam Camcorder User Manual

Your guide to setting up, operating, and maintaining your Sony DCR-HC52 camcorder.

1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Thank you for choosing the Sony DCR-HC52 MiniDV Handycam Camcorder. This manual provides essential information to help you get the most out of your device. The DCR-HC52 is designed for capturing high-quality video on MiniDV tapes, featuring a powerful optical zoom and a clear LCD display.

Key Features:

- **Professional Quality Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens:** Ensures clear and sharp image capture.
- **40X Optical / 2000X Digital Zoom:** Allows for versatile shooting from wide to telephoto.
- **1/6" Advanced HAD CCD Imager, 680K Pixels (Gross):** Provides good image quality for video recording.
- **2.7" Touch Panel SwivelScreen LCD Display (123K Pixels):** Offers flexible viewing angles and intuitive control.
- **InfoLITHIUM Battery with AccuPower Meter System:** Provides accurate battery life indication.

What's in the Box:

- Sony DCR-HC52 MiniDV Handycam Camcorder
- Battery
- Other accessories (e.g., power adapter, cables) may vary depending on the package.



Figure 1.1: The Sony DCR-HC52 camcorder with its LCD screen open, displaying a sample image. This view highlights the compact design and the swivel screen functionality.

2. SETUP

2.1 Charging and Installing the Battery

1. Ensure the camcorder is powered off.
2. Open the battery compartment cover.
3. Insert the InfoLITHIUM battery into the compartment, ensuring it clicks into place.
4. Close the battery compartment cover.
5. Connect the AC power adapter to the camcorder's DC IN jack and then to a wall outlet to charge the battery. The charge indicator will light up during charging.

2.2 Inserting a MiniDV Tape

1. Locate the tape compartment release button, usually marked with an arrow or 'EJECT'.
2. Press the release button to open the tape compartment.
3. Gently insert a MiniDV tape with the window facing outwards until it locks into position.
4. Close the tape compartment cover firmly until it clicks.

2.3 Initial Power On

1. Open the LCD screen or pull out the viewfinder. The camcorder will power on automatically.

2. If the camcorder does not power on, ensure the battery is charged and correctly installed, or connect the AC adapter.

2.4 Connecting to External Devices (TV/Computer)

- **HDMI:** Use an HDMI cable to connect the camcorder's HDMI output to an HDMI input on your TV for high-definition playback.
- **USB:** Connect the camcorder to your computer using a USB cable for transferring video files (requires appropriate software, not included).

3. OPERATING THE CAMCORDER

3.1 Basic Recording

1. Power on the camcorder by opening the LCD screen.
2. Point the lens towards your subject.
3. Press the **REC START/STOP** button to begin recording. The REC indicator will appear on the screen.
4. Press the **REC START/STOP** button again to stop recording.

3.2 Zoom Operation

Use the zoom lever located on the top of the camcorder to adjust the zoom. Push the lever towards 'T' for telephoto (zoom in) and towards 'W' for wide-angle (zoom out). The camcorder features 40x optical zoom and up to 2000x digital zoom.

3.3 Playback

1. Switch the camcorder to playback mode (usually indicated by a 'PLAY/VCR' switch or menu option).
2. Use the playback controls (Play, Stop, Rewind, Fast Forward) to navigate through your recorded footage.
3. View playback on the LCD screen or a connected TV.

3.4 Using the 2.7" Touch Panel SwivelScreen LCD Display

The LCD screen can be rotated for various shooting angles and folded for protection. It is a touch panel, allowing you to navigate menus and settings by touching the screen directly. Refer to the on-screen prompts for specific touch operations.



Figure 3.1: A front view of the Sony DCR-HC52 camcorder, showcasing the Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar lens and the open LCD screen. This perspective highlights the lens cover switch and the overall design.

4. MAINTENANCE

4.1 Cleaning the Lens

Use a soft, lint-free cloth specifically designed for optical lenses to gently wipe the Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar lens. Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive materials that could scratch the lens surface. For stubborn dust, use a lens blower brush.

4.2 Cleaning the LCD Screen

Wipe the 2.7" touch panel LCD screen with a soft, dry cloth. For fingerprints or smudges, slightly dampen the cloth with water or a screen cleaning solution designed for electronics, then wipe gently. Do not apply liquid directly to the screen.

4.3 Battery Care and Storage

- Store the InfoLITHIUM battery in a cool, dry place when not in use.
- For long-term storage, it is recommended to charge the battery to about 50% capacity.
- Avoid exposing the battery to extreme temperatures.

4.4 General Camcorder Care

- Keep the camcorder away from dust, moisture, and direct sunlight.
- Do not expose the camcorder to strong vibrations or impacts.
- Always close the lens cover when not recording to protect the lens.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

This section addresses common issues you might encounter with your Sony DCR-HC52 camcorder. If the problem persists, please refer to the support section.

5.1 Camcorder Does Not Power On

- **Check Battery:** Ensure the battery is fully charged and correctly inserted.
- **AC Adapter:** Try connecting the AC adapter directly to a power outlet.
- **Power Switch/LCD:** Confirm the LCD screen is open or the power switch is in the 'ON' position.

5.2 No Image on Screen During Recording/Playback

- **Lens Cover:** Ensure the lens cover is open.
- **Mode Selection:** Verify the camcorder is in the correct recording or playback mode.
- **External Connection:** If connected to a TV, ensure the TV input is set to the correct source (e.g., HDMI 1, AV).

5.3 Tape Error Message

- **Reinsert Tape:** Eject the MiniDV tape and reinsert it carefully.
- **Try Another Tape:** The tape might be damaged. Try using a new or different tape.
- **Clean Heads:** If the issue persists across multiple tapes, the camcorder's tape heads might need cleaning (refer to professional service).

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Below are the technical specifications for the Sony DCR-HC52 MiniDV Handycam Camcorder:

Feature	Specification
Brand	Sony
Model Number	DCR-HC52
Photo Sensor Technology	CCD
Video Capture Resolution	720p
Optical Zoom	40x
Digital Zoom	2000x
Screen Size	2.7 inches
Connectivity Technology	HDMI, USB
Image Stabilization	Optical
Effective Still Resolution	0.68 MP
Lens Type	Zoom (Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar)
Minimum Focal Length	1.9 millimeters
Maximum Focal Length	7.6 centimeters
Supported Audio Format	AAC, MP3, PCM
UPC	760575452306

7. WARRANTY INFORMATION

This Sony DCR-HC52 MiniDV Handycam Camcorder comes with a **90-day limited warranty**. Please retain your proof of purchase for any warranty claims. The warranty covers manufacturing defects under normal use. It does not cover damage caused by misuse, accidents, unauthorized modifications, or normal wear and tear.

8. SUPPORT

For further assistance, technical support, or service inquiries regarding your Sony DCR-HC52 camcorder, please refer to the following:

- **Sony Official Website:** Visit the official Sony support website for product manuals, FAQs, and driver downloads.
- **Customer Service:** Contact Sony customer service for direct assistance. Refer to your region's Sony website for contact details.

No official product videos from the seller were available for embedding in this manual.

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Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

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Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question