

PREPARATION CHECKLIST FOR HOME VIDEO STUDIO SETUP

- Be sure that all electronic devices have ample power for the recording session. Check both conventional battery power and charged battery packs. Devices to check include the camera, remotes, recorders, microphones, lights, etc.
- Turn off all lights that are not relevant to the shoot such as room ceiling lights that are not part of your lighting setup for the shoot. Close blinds that bring in the external light that is not intended to be part of the shoot. Consider that if you depend on outside window lighting, you will get different results at different times of the day.
- Turn on all lights that need to be on for the shoot. Remember the settings for consistent output.
- Be far enough from the green screen so you don't get unwanted reflections.
- If possible, have a monitor hooked up (via HDMI) to your camera (if there is not a flip/touch screen) so that you can see the output quality of the lighting and the focus.
- When recording in manual mode, check or adjust the following settings:
 - 24 fps (movies and film) or 30 fps (TV and use for YT and online video)
 - for 24fps, set the shutter speed to 1/50; for 30fps, set the shutter speed to 1/60
 - ISO and aperture need to be adjusted accordingly based on your shutter setting
 - take auto white balance off so that you can manually set it for consistency
 - use manual focus because continuous auto-focus is unreliable
 - set white balance with a white card and save as a preset; recall preset
- Position all elements (tripod and leg height, light stands, backdrop, etc.) in the studio to be where they are supposed to be. Knowing the exact measurements and retaining a checklist is helpful, especially if you have to take down and rebuild your setup for each shot. Retain a diagram of the setup with the position and distance measurements on it.
- Shut down or unplug anything that will make noise. Turn off or manage unwanted ambient noise as best you can. For example, turn off air conditioning or heating, running washer/dryer if you are in a house.
- Turn phones off or set to Do Not Disturb to avoid unwanted external noises.
- Be sure that all device levels are set appropriately for consistency between shoots.
- Test the audio output quality using headphones.

- Prepare memory cards for the camera so that you have ample data storage space to accommodate the length of time and number of clips you plan to shoot.
- Use a timer to monitor the length of a clip so that you don't run out of file size. For example, many DSLRs have a 20-minute file length (maximum file size when shooting HD).
- Change your wardrobe if you are shooting multiple videos at one time.
- If you are sitting down for your video shoot, be sure to demonstrate good posture by not leaning back or too far forward. If standing, make sure you are not slouching or projecting the appearance of "tight" shoulders.

MESSAGE FROM GORD

Although many of the ideas in here will help you “technically” improve the visual aspects of your video production, these improvements do not displace the core requirement for success that you need - to create engaging quality content. Your ability to hook the viewer, engage them and keep them interested to watch your video through to the end are paramount because if you aren’t interesting or engaging, no one will stay to watch, regardless of how great the video looks and sounds.

I hope you have benefitted from the information provided here!

I’d love to hear your feedback and comments about what you’d like to see expanded upon or included in future versions of this document. You can contact me at gord@gordisman.com or on Facebook at <http://fb.com/gordisman> . My YouTube Channel is <https://www.youtube.com/c/GordIsman> .

To your video success!

Cheers,

Gord

