

# RECORDING VIDEO WITH A SMARTPHONE

## What makes a smartphone so smart?

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A smartphone has the capacity to connect with the internet, take photos and video, connect with computers, download applications, email, write notes and record audio.

Anyone with a smartphone can gather and distribute media such as video, photos, audio and text.

## Examples of smartphones include:

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iPhone, the latest Nokia, Blackberry, Samsung, Sony phones, and phones with the android operating system.

## Examples of smartphone video footage:

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Examples of video recorded using a smartphone.

- A filmclip for singer FlakJakt shot using an iPhone4  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HymoNGR3G5w>
- ABC Open blog video shot using iPhone4 (footage only)  
<http://open.abc.net.au/openregions/vic-ballarat-42Tn7FB/posts/flamin-good-start-for-young-photographer-70az0sr>

- Approved Live Radiohead concert recorded by 50 fans using their phones.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-QQrSeUku8>

- A feature film shot using Nokia N8 Symbian Smartphone – behind the scenes video (footage only)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKkJrPa7Vm4&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKkJrPa7Vm4&feature=player_embedded)

## Advantages of using your smartphone as video recording device:

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- Your smartphone can record video and the quality can be sufficient for broadcast, with the right quality of audio, footage and video resolution.
- Your smartphone is compact, handy and easy to use.
- Your smartphone is less intrusive than a traditional video camera.
- You can download video editing apps to adjust the footage, add special effects and titles, and edit on the go.
- Once you have recorded your video and if it's small enough you can quickly email it to your contacts or upload it to the internet.

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## The limitations:

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- You may need to download an app to gain more control over your recording device
- The internal mic is not as powerful and flexible as a handheld mic.
- Some devices will not allow for you to hear the audio while it's recording.
- Some video formats may not be playable on your computer. You may need to convert your files to another format for editing or playback.
- Smartphones are small and handling them requires extra control so footage doesn't end up shakey.
- Editing video on a small device is not ideal. Some apps have limited capabilities, like one audio track. The small screen makes editing and trimming clips harder.

## How to use your smartphone as a video camera:

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Identify where the camera is positioned on your smartphone. For most smartphones the camera can be found on the back.

Identify where the microphone is on your phone. Video looks great when it sounds good. Bad audio can distract from your video even if it's well shot.



For most smartphones the mic is on the bottom of the phone. Remember to point this end of the phone towards the subject or sound you are recording.

## Know your smartphone:

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Many smartphones can now shoot video in HD Video 1080p format.

What type of camera does your smartphone have?

Digital cameras capture images as pixel elements. 1 mega pixel is equal to a million pixels. The higher the mega pixel generally means the better the quality of video footage.

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## Hold your camera steady:

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- Use a tripod. Some adapters on market can fit your smartphone to a standard tripod.
- Look for something to lean on - a table, the top of a chair, a wall, anything to give your body and arm holding the camera some stability. If you can rest the camera itself on something, even better.
- Hold the camera or phone close to your body rather than too far out in front.
- Work out a position that's natural and comfortable for your body. It can help to keep your elbows pointing down and rest your arms while filming.
- Bend your elbows and knees slightly to center your weight. Make sure you move from your body's centre, not your wrists, if you're planning to pan with your camera.
- Shoot wide and close and move your body in and out rather than zooming with your camera.
- Give yourself some time to focus. It's easy to lose concentration if you're shooting in an exciting environment so make sure you take a second to think about what you're trying to achieve and concentrate.
- Workout if your smartphone is level and correctly adjust the angle of your shot. Use a spirit level app. Some smartphone have these in the phone.

## Ready to record:

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Many Smartphone platforms come with inbuilt video recording software.

Look for the video camera symbol or camera lens button on your smartphone.

For the iPhone, the video camera mode is in the same app as the still camera. Use the slider to toggle between the two.

Some smartphone cameras have inbuilt lights. Select light on/off or auto.

It's always best to use natural light or the lights around you.

## Getting a better sound

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- Get a better sound by adding a microphone to your smartphone.
- Don't have a mic - don't panic! Get up close to your subject.



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## Video recording and editing apps for smartphones

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Download a video editing or recording app to your phone. These apps are designed to make recording easier and more controlled. Apps can have greater features than the recording software that comes with your phone; like focus, effects and zoom.

Download these apps from your phone's online store.

## Tips on recording video

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- Close down all other apps on your phone. Because of radio waves the input might get noisy. Turn on airplane-mode before you start.

**IPHONE TIP:** Close down all other apps by holding menu button down. Press the X on opened apps to close down.

- Make sure you've tested your smartphone and video camera apps and are familiar with how to get the best recording.
- Charge your phone and bring the adaptor just in case. Don't forget your headphones.
- Use natural light when you can. Although some smartphones have lights, nothing looks better than natural light. If you are indoors look for windows. Outdoor shoots – look for light sources. Lack of light will make your footage darker and grainier.
- In regards to sound: Avoid windy areas: especially if you are using the internal smartphone mic.
- Try using your parked car as a mobile insulated audio booth.

## Export the recorded video from your phone and onto your computer:

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Make sure you install the software that came with your smartphone.

- Connect your smartphone to your computer using a USB connection. Depending on the brand of phone, it should appear like a flash drive on your desktop. Simply click on the drive to find the audio files contained within.
- Synch your smartphone to your computer. iPhones need to be synched with iphoto software. Your video will appear with your photos in iphoto. Select and import the video.
- Email your video as an attachment. Check the size before your email, as the video files are large.
- Do you have 3G connection? Upload your video to an online video site or social media site.
- Some smartphones can connect to computers via Bluetooth. Make sure you have bluetooth on your phone and your computer is switched on.

## Now you have recorded video, what next?

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Import your video into an editing program on your computer.

Software you can use e.g.: Windows Movie Maker or imovie

Or: Edit your video using a video editing App on your phone.