

SONY

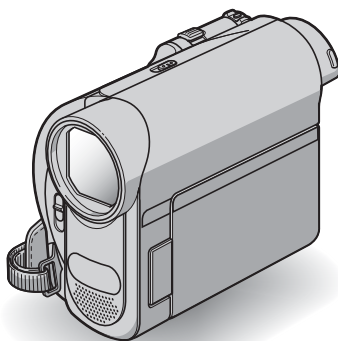
3-278-984-11(1)

Digital Video Camera Recorder

HANDYCAM®

Operating Guide

DCR-HC51E/HC52E/ HC53E/HC54E



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Mini DV Digital
Video
Cassette

InfoLITHIUM™ H
SERIES

Read this first

Before operating the unit, please read this manual thoroughly, and retain it for future reference.

WARNING

To reduce fire or shock hazard, do not expose the unit to rain or moisture.

Do not expose the batteries to excessive heat such as sunshine, fire or the like.

CAUTION

Replace the battery with the specified type only. Otherwise, fire or injury may result.

For customers in the U.S.A.

If you have any questions about this product, you may call:
Sony Customer Information Center 1-800-222-SONY (7669).

The number below is for the FCC related matters only.

Regulatory Information

Declaration of Conformity

Trade Name: SONY

Model No.: DCR-HC52E

Responsible Party: Sony Electronics Inc.

Address: 16530 Via Esprillo, San Diego, CA 92127 U.S.A.

Telephone number: 858-942-2230

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules.

Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

(1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Declaration of Conformity

Trade Name: SONY

Model No.: DCR-HC54E

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Address: 16530 Via Esprillo, San Diego, CA 92127 U.S.A.

Telephone number: 858-942-2230

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules.

Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

(1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

CAUTION

You are cautioned that any changes or modifications not expressly approved in this manual could void your authority to operate this equipment.

Note

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules.

These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications.

However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

The supplied interface cable must be used with the equipment in order to comply with the limits for a digital device pursuant to Subpart B of Part 15 of FCC Rules.



Battery pack

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions:

(1) This device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Notice for customers in the United Kingdom

A moulded plug complying with BS 1363 is fitted to this equipment for your safety and convenience.

Should the fuse in the plug supplied need to be replaced, a fuse of the same rating as the supplied one and approved by ASTA or BSI to BS 1362 (i.e., marked with an  or  mark) must be used.

If the plug supplied with this equipment has a detachable fuse cover, be sure to attach the fuse cover after you change the fuse. Never use the plug without the fuse cover. If you should lose the fuse cover, please contact your nearest Sony service station.

FOR CUSTOMERS IN EUROPE

ATTENTION

The electromagnetic fields at the specific frequencies may influence the picture and sound of this unit.

This product has been tested and found compliant with the limits set out in the EMC Directive for using connection cables shorter than 3 meters (9.8 feet).

Notice

If static electricity or electromagnetism causes data transfer to discontinue midway (fail), restart the application or disconnect and connect the communication cable (i.LINK, etc.) again.

Notice for the customers in the countries applying EU Directives

The manufacturer of this product is Sony Corporation, 1-7-1 Konan Minato-ku Tokyo, 108-0075 Japan. The Authorized Representative for EMC and product safety is Sony Deutschland GmbH, Hedelfinger Strasse 61, 70327 Stuttgart, Germany. For any service or guarantee matters please refer to the addresses given in separate service or guarantee documents.



Disposal of Old Electrical & Electronic Equipment (Applicable in the European Union and other European countries with separate collection systems)

This symbol on the product or on its packaging indicates that this product shall not be treated as household waste. Instead it shall be handed over to the applicable collection point for the recycling of electrical and electronic equipment. By ensuring this product is disposed of correctly, you will help prevent potential negative consequences for the environment and human health, which could otherwise be caused by inappropriate waste handling of this product. The recycling of materials will help to conserve natural resources. For more detailed information about recycling of this product, please contact your local Civic Office, your household waste disposal service or the shop where you purchased the product.



Disposal of waste batteries (applicable in the European Union and other European countries with separate collection systems)

This symbol on the battery or on the packaging indicates that the battery provided with this product shall not be treated as household waste. By ensuring these batteries are disposed of correctly, you will help prevent potentially negative consequences for the environment and human health which could otherwise be caused by inappropriate waste handling of the battery. The recycling of the materials will help to conserve natural resources. In case of products that for safety, performance or data integrity reasons require a permanent connection with an incorporated battery, this battery should be replaced by qualified service staff only. To ensure that the battery will be treated properly, hand over the product at end-of-life to the applicable collection point for the recycling of electrical and electronic equipment. For all other batteries, please view the section on how to remove the battery from the product safely. Hand the battery over to the applicable collection point for the recycling of waste batteries. For more detailed information about recycling of this product or battery, please contact your local Civic Office, your household waste disposal service or the shop where you purchased the product.

Notes on use

About the manuals supplied with your camcorder

- "Operating Guide" (This manual)
- For DCR-HC53E/HC54E
"First Step Guide" for connecting the camcorder to a computer and using the supplied software (stored on the supplied CD-ROM)

Type of cassette you can use in your camcorder

- You can use mini DV cassettes marked with ^{Mini} DV. Your camcorder is not compatible with the Cassette Memory function (p. 59).

Using the camcorder

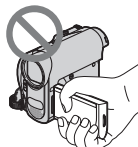
- Do not hold the camcorder by the following parts.



Viewfinder



Battery pack



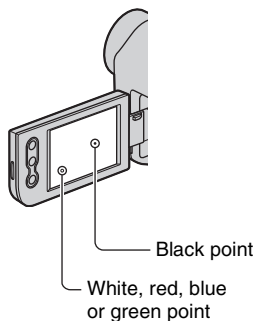
LCD panel

- The camcorder is not dustproof, dripproof or waterproof.
See "On use and care" (p. 62).
- When connecting your camcorder to another device with communication cables, be sure to insert the connector plug in the correct way.
Pushing the plug forcibly into the terminal

will damage the terminal and may result in a malfunction of your camcorder.

About menu items, LCD panel, viewfinder, and lens

- A menu item that is grayed out is not available under the current recording or playback conditions.
- The LCD screen and the viewfinder are manufactured using extremely high-precision technology, so over 99.99% of the pixels are operational for effective use. However, there may be some tiny black points and/or bright points (white, red, blue, or green in color) that appear constantly on the LCD screen and the viewfinder. These points are normal results of the manufacturing process and do not affect the recording in any way.



- Exposing the LCD screen, the viewfinder, or the lens to direct sunlight for long periods of time may cause malfunctions.
- Do not aim at the sun. Doing so might cause your camcorder to malfunction. Take pictures of the sun only in low light conditions, such as at dusk.

About the language setting

- The on-screen displays in each local language are used for illustrating the operating procedures. Change the screen language before using your camcorder if necessary (p. 14).

On recording

- Before starting to record, test the recording function to make sure the picture and sound are recorded without any problems.
- Compensation for the contents of recordings cannot be provided, even if recording or playback is not possible due to a malfunction of the camcorder, storage media, etc.
- TV color systems differ depending on the country/region. To view your recordings on a TV, you need a PAL system-based TV.
- Television programs, films, video tapes, and other materials may be copyrighted. Unauthorized recording of such materials may be contrary to the copyright laws.

About this manual

- The images of the LCD screen and the viewfinder used in this manual for illustration purposes are captured using a digital still camera, and therefore may appear different.
- The illustrations used on this manual are based on the model DCR-HC54E. The model name is indicated on the bottom of your camcorder.
- Design and specifications of recording media and accessories are subject to change without notice.

About the Carl Zeiss lens

Your camcorder is equipped with a Carl Zeiss lens, which was developed jointly by Carl Zeiss, in Germany, and Sony Corporation, and produces superior images. It adopts the MTF* measurement system for

Read this first (Continued)

video cameras and offers a quality typical of a Carl Zeiss lens.

- * MTF stands for Modulation Transfer Function. The number value indicates the amount of light from a subject coming into the lens.

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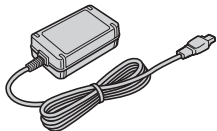
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Step 1: Checking supplied items

Make sure that you have following items supplied with your camcorder. The number in the parentheses indicates the number of that item supplied.

AC Adaptor (1) (p. 10)



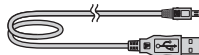
Power cord (Mains lead) (1) (p. 10)



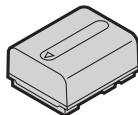
A/V connecting cable (1) (p. 26, 43)



USB cable (1)
(DCR-HC53E/HC54E) (p. 69)



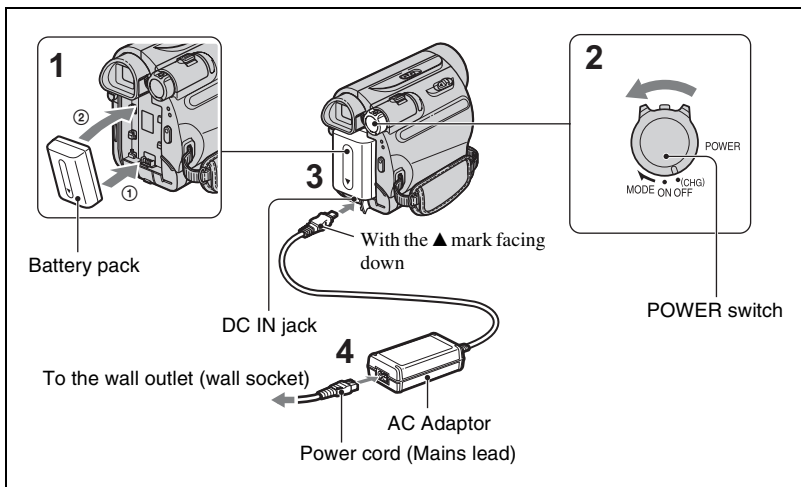
Rechargeable battery pack NP-FH30 (1)
(p. 10, 60)



CD-ROM "Handycam Application Software" (1) (DCR-HC53E/54E)(p. 47)

Operating Guide (This manual) (1)

Step 2: Charging the battery pack



You can charge the “InfoLITHIUM” battery pack (H series) (p. 60) after attaching it to your camcorder.

Notes

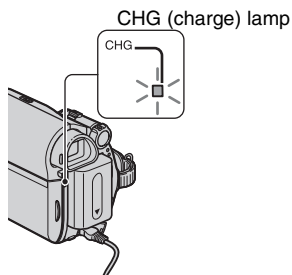
- You cannot attach any “InfoLITHIUM” battery pack other than the H series to your camcorder.

1 Align the terminals of the battery pack and your camcorder ①, then attach the battery pack and click it into place ②.

2 Slide the POWER switch in the direction of the arrow to OFF(CHG) (The default setting).

3 With the ▲ mark on the DC plug facing down, connect the AC Adaptor to the DC IN jack on your camcorder.

4 Connect the power cord (mains lead) to the AC Adaptor and the wall outlet (wall socket).



The CHG (charge) lamp lights up and charging starts. The CHG (charge) lamp turns off when the battery is fully charged. Disconnect the AC Adaptor from the DC IN jack.

Notes

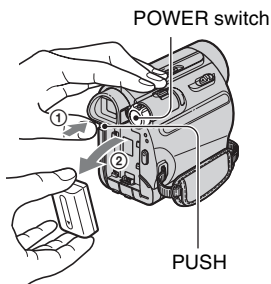
- Disconnect the AC Adaptor from the DC IN jack holding both the camcorder and the DC plug.

To use an outside power source

You can operate your camcorder using the power from the wall outlet (wall socket) by making the same connections as you do when charging the battery pack. The battery pack will not lose its charge in this case.

To remove the battery pack

- 1 Turn off the power, then press PUSH.
- 2 Remove the battery pack in the direction of the arrow.

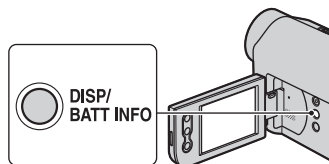


When storing the battery pack

Fully discharge the battery before storing it for an extended period (p. 60).

To check the remaining battery (Battery Info)

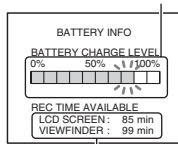
Set the POWER switch to OFF(CHG), then press DISP/BATT INFO.



After a while, the approximate recordable time and battery information appear for about 7 seconds. You can view the battery information for up to 20 seconds by

pressing DISP/BATT INFO again while the information is displayed.

Remaining battery (approx.)



Recording capacity (approx.)

You can check the remaining battery charge on the LCD screen.

Indicator	Status
	Sufficient power remaining
	Battery low, recording/playback will stop soon.
	Replace the battery with a fully charged one, or charge the battery.

Charging time

Approximate time (min.) required when you fully charge a fully discharged battery pack.

Battery pack	Charging time
NP-FH30 (supplied)	115
NP-FH50	135
NP-FH70	170
NP-FH100	390

Step2: Charging the battery pack (Continued)

Recording time

Approximate time (min.) available when you use a fully charged battery pack.

Battery pack	Continuous recording time	Typical recording time*
NP-FH30 (supplied)	95	45
	110	55
NP-FH50	155	75
	180	90
NP-FH70	330	165
	395	195
NP-FH100	760	380
	890	445

* Typical recording time shows the time when you repeat recording start/stop, turning the power on/off and zooming.

Notes

- All times measured under the following conditions:
Top: Recording with LCD screen.
Bottom: Recording with viewfinder while the LCD panel closed.

Playing time

Approximate time (min.) available when you use a fully charged battery pack.

Battery pack	LCD panel opened	LCD panel closed
NP-FH30 (supplied)	105	135
NP-FH50	170	220
NP-FH70	370	465
NP-FH100	845	1065

On the battery pack

- Before changing the battery pack, slide the POWER switch to OFF(CHG).
- The CHG (charge) lamp flashes during charging, or the Battery Info (p. 11) will not be correctly displayed under the following conditions.
 - The battery pack is not attached correctly.
 - The battery pack is damaged.

– The battery pack is worn-out (for Battery Info only).

- The power will not be supplied from the battery as long as the AC Adaptor is connected to the DC IN jack of your camcorder, even when the power cord (mains lead) is disconnected from the wall outlet (wall socket).

On the charging/recording/playback time

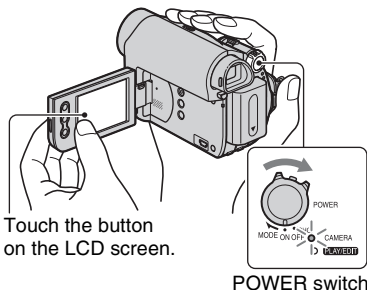
- Times measured with the camcorder at 25 °C (77 °F). (10 °C to 30 °C (50 °F to 86 °F) is recommended.)
- The recording and playback time will be shorter when you use your camcorder in low temperatures.
- The recording and playback time will be shorter depending on the conditions under which you use your camcorder.

On the AC Adaptor

- Use the nearby wall outlet (wall socket) when using the AC Adaptor. Disconnect the AC Adaptor from the wall outlet (wall socket) immediately if any malfunction occurs while using your camcorder.
- Do not use the AC Adaptor placed in a narrow space, such as between a wall and furniture.
- Do not short-circuit the DC plug of the AC Adaptor or battery terminal with any metallic objects. This may cause a malfunction.
- Even if your camcorder is turned off, AC power (house current) is still supplied to it while connected to the wall outlet (wall socket) via the AC Adaptor.

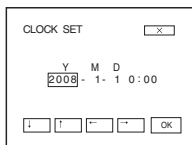
Step 3: Turning the power on and setting the date and time

Set the date and time when using this camcorder for the first time. If you do not set the date and time, the [CLOCK SET] screen appears every time you turn on your camcorder or change the POWER switch position.



- 1 While pressing the green button, slide the POWER switch in the direction of the arrow to turn on the respective lamp.

CAMERA: To record on a tape.
PLAY/EDIT: To play or edit pictures.
 The [CLOCK SET] screen appears.



- 2 Set [Y] (year) with / .
 You can set any year up to the year 2079.

- 3 Move to [M] (month) with , then set with / .

- 4 Move to [D] (day) with , then set with / and repeat for the hour and minute.

- 5 Make sure the date and time settings are correct, then touch .

The clock starts.

To turn off the power

Slide the POWER switch to OFF(CHG).

To reset the date and time

You can set the desired date and time by touching → [PAGE2] → [CLOCK SET] (p. 28).

Notes

- If you do not use your camcorder for **about 3 months**, the built-in rechargeable battery gets discharged and the date and time settings may be cleared from the memory. In that case, charge the rechargeable battery and then set the date and time again (p. 65).
- At the time of purchase, the power is set to turn off automatically if you leave your camcorder without any operation attempted for approximately 5 minutes, to save battery power ([A.SHUT OFF], p. 42).




Tips

- The date and time are not displayed while recording, but they are automatically recorded on the tape, and can be displayed during playback (see page 33 for [DATA CODE] (During Easy Handycam operation, you can set only [DATE/TIME])).
- If the buttons on the touch panel do not work correctly, adjust the touch panel (CALIBRATION) (p. 63).

Step 3: Turning the power on and setting the date and time (Continued)

Changing the language setting

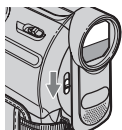
You can change the on-screen displays to show messages in a specified language.

Touch  → [MENU] → 
(SETUP MENU) → [ LANGUAGE],
then select the desired language.

Step 4: Making setting adjustments before recording

Opening the lens cover

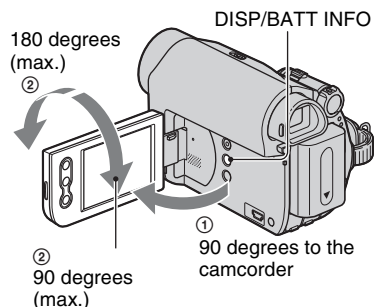
Slide the LENS COVER switch to OPEN.



After recording, set the LENS COVER switch to CLOSE, to close the lens cover.

The LCD panel

Open the LCD panel 90 degrees to the camcorder (1), then rotate it to the best angle to record or play (2).



Notes

- Do not press the buttons on the LCD frame accidentally when you open or adjust the LCD panel.

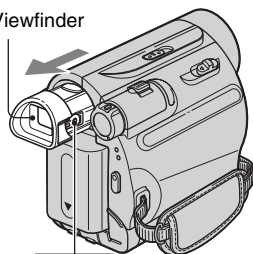
Tips

- If you rotate the LCD panel 180 degrees to the lens side, you can close the LCD panel with the LCD screen facing out. This is convenient during playback operations.
- See [LCD BRT] (p. 33) to adjust the brightness of the LCD screen.
- Press DISP/BATT INFO to toggle the screen indicators (such as Battery Info) on or off.

The viewfinder

You can view pictures using the viewfinder to avoid wearing down the battery, or when the picture seen on the LCD screen is poor.

Viewfinder



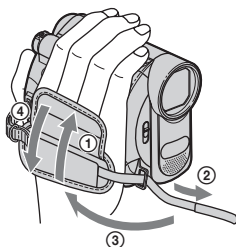
Viewfinder lens adjustment lever
Move it until the picture is clear.

Tips

- You can adjust the brightness of the viewfinder backlight by selecting [] (LCD/VF SET) - [VF B.L.] (p. 40).

The grip belt

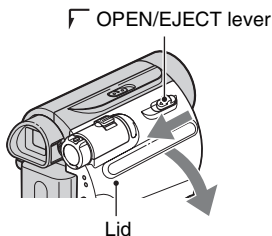
Fasten the grip belt and hold your camcorder correctly.



Step 5: Inserting a Cassette

You can use mini DV **Mini DV** cassettes only (p. 59).

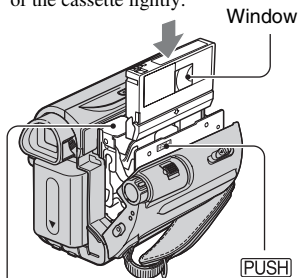
- 1** Slide and hold the **OPEN/EJECT** lever in the direction of the arrow and open the lid.



The cassette compartment automatically comes out and opens up.

- 2** Insert a cassette with its window facing outwards, then press **PUSH**.

Push the center of the back of the cassette lightly.



Cassette compartment

The cassette compartment automatically slides back in.

Notes

- Do not force the cassette compartment closed by pressing the

portion marked **DO NOT PUSH** while it is sliding in. It may cause a malfunction.

- 3** Close the lid.

To eject the cassette

Open the lid following the same procedure as described in step 1 and remove the cassette.

Tips

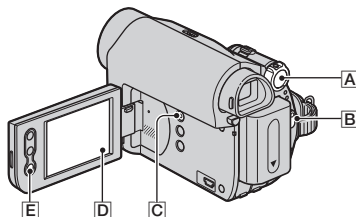
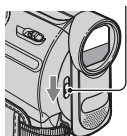
- The recordable time varies depending on [REC MODE] (p. 41).



Easy Recording/Playback (Easy Handycam)

With this Easy Handycam operation, most of the camera settings are automatically optimally adjusted, which frees you from detailed adjustments. The screen font size increases for easy viewing.

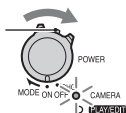
Open the lens cover (p. 15)



Recording

- Slide the POWER switch **A** in the direction of the arrow repeatedly to turn on the CAMERA lamp.

If the POWER switch **A** is set to OFF(CHG), slide it while pressing the green button.



- Press EASY **C**.

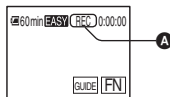


EASY

EASY appears on the screen **D**.

- Press REC START/STOP **B** (or **E**) to start recording.*

The indicator **A** changes from [STBY] to [REC]. To stop recording, press REC START/STOP again.

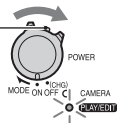


* During Easy Handycam operation, you can only record in the SP mode.

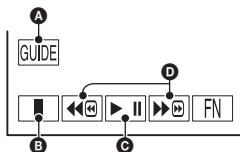
Playback

Slide the **POWER** switch **A** in the direction of the arrow repeatedly to turn on the **PLAY/EDIT** lamp. Touch the buttons on the screen **D** as follows.

If the **POWER** switch is set to **OFF(CHG)**, slide it while pressing the green button.



Touch **◀◀(B)**, then touch **▶▶(D)** to start playback.



- A** GUIDE (p. 23)
- B** Stop
- C** Play/Pause toggles as you touch it
- D** Rewind/Fast forward

■ To cancel Easy Handycam operation

Press **EASY** **C** again. **EASY** disappears from the screen **D**.

■ Adjustable menu settings during Easy Handycam operation

Touch **FN** to display adjustable menu settings. See page 28 for details on setting.

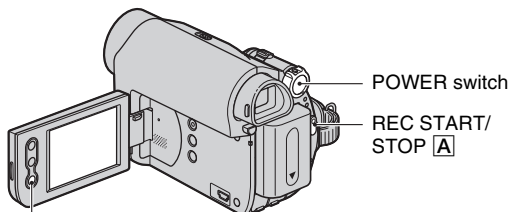
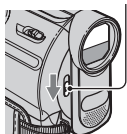
- Almost all the settings return to their defaults automatically (p. 36).
- Cancel Easy Handycam operation if you want to add any effects or settings to the images.

■ Unavailable button during Easy Handycam

During Easy Handycam operation, the **☑** (back light) button (p. 21) is unavailable. [Invalid during Easy Handycam operation.] appears if an attempted operation is not available in Easy Handycam mode.

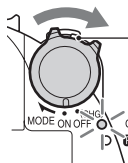
Recording

Open the lens cover (p. 15).



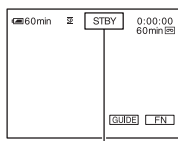
REC START/STOP [B]

- 1 Slide the **POWER** switch in the direction of the arrow repeatedly to turn on the **CAMERA** lamp.

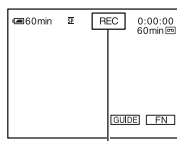


If the **POWER** switch is set to **OFF(CHG)**, slide it while pressing the green button.

- 2 Press **REC START/STOP** [A] (or [B]).



[STBY]



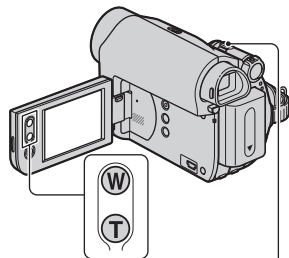
[REC]

To stop recording, press **REC START/STOP** [A] (or [B]) again.

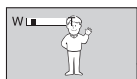
Recording (Continued)

Zooming

You can magnify images up to 40 times the original size with the power zoom lever or the zoom buttons on the LCD frame.



Wider range of view:
(Wide angle)



Close view: (Telephoto)

Move the power zoom lever slightly for a slower zoom. Move it further for a faster zoom.

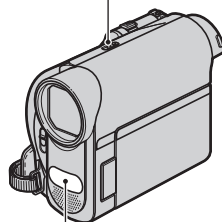
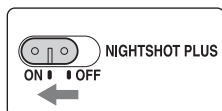
Notes

- [STEADYSHOT] may not reduce image blurring as desired when the power zoom lever is set to the T (Telephoto) side.
- Be sure to keep your finger on the power zoom lever. If you move your finger off the power zoom lever, the operation sound of the power zoom lever may also be recorded.
- You cannot change the zoom speed with the zoom buttons on the LCD frame.
- The minimum possible distance between camcorder and subject while maintaining sharp focus is about 1 cm (about 13/32 in.) for wide angle and about 80 cm (about 2 5/8 feet) for telephoto.

Tips

- You can set [D ZOOM] (p. 38) if you want to zoom to a level greater than 40x.

Recording in dark places (NightShot plus)



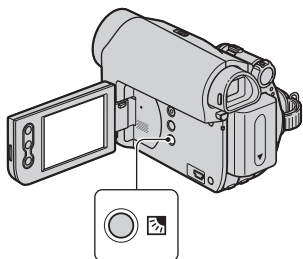
Infrared port




Set the NIGHTSHOT PLUS switch to ON. (📹 and ["NIGHTSHOT PLUS"] appear.)

Notes

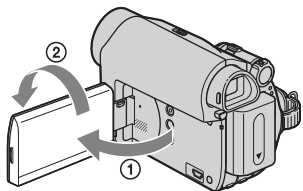
- The NightShot plus function uses infrared light. Therefore, do not cover the infrared port with your fingers or other objects. Remove the conversion lens (optional) if it is attached.
- Adjust the focus manually ([FOCUS], p. 29) when it is hard to focus automatically.
- Do not use the NightShot plus function in bright places. This may cause a malfunction.

Adjusting the exposure for backlit subjects



To adjust the exposure for backlit subjects, press  (back light) to display . To cancel the backlight function, press  (back light) again.

Recording in mirror mode



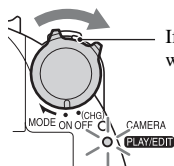
Open the LCD panel 90 degrees to the camcorder (①), then rotate it 180 degrees to the lens side (②).

Tips

- A mirror-image of the subject appears on the LCD screen, but the image will be normal when recorded.

Playback

- 1** Slide the **POWER** switch in the direction of the arrow repeatedly to turn on the **PLAY/EDIT** lamp.

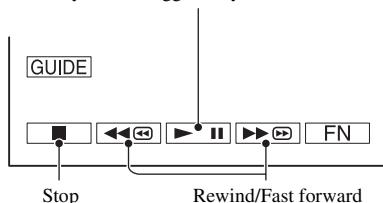


If the **POWER** switch is set to **OFF(CHG)**, slide it while pressing the green button.

- 2** **Start playing back.**

Touch to rewind the tape to the desired point, then touch to start playback.

Play/Pause* toggles as you touch it



* Playback automatically stops if pause is engaged for more than 3 minutes.

To adjust the volume

Touch → [PAGE1] → [VOL], then / to adjust the volume.

To search for a scene during playback

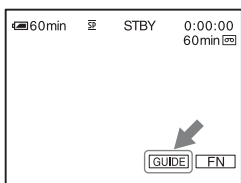
Touch and hold / during playback (Picture Search), or / while fast forwarding or rewinding the tape (Skip Scan).

Tips

- You can play back in various modes ([V SPD PLAY], p. 33).

Using the guide functions (USAGE GUIDE)

You can easily select the desired setting screens by using the guide functions (USAGE GUIDE).



Your camcorder has 2 guide functions as shown below.

SHOOT GUIDE:	Takes you to the setting screens related to recording.
DISP GUIDE:	Enables you to check the meaning of each indicator that appears on the LCD screen. See page 72 for details.

1 Touch [GUIDE].

2 Select the desired item.

e.g., to record night views

Touch [SHOOT GUIDE] → [SELECT SCENE] → [PAGE ↓]/[PAGE ↑] to display [To keep the mood of a night view].

3 Touch [SET].

The desired setting screen appears.

Adjust the settings according to your purpose.

Unavailable settings during Easy Handycam

During Easy Handycam operation, some items are unavailable. If an attempted setting is not available, but still desired, touch [SET] to display an on-screen instruction. Follow the instruction to cancel Easy Handycam operation and then select the setting.

💡 Tips

- If [SET] is not displayed in step 3, follow the instruction on the screen.

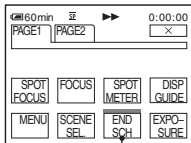
Searching for the starting point

Make sure that the CAMERA lamp lights up (p. 19).

Searching for the last scene of the most recent recording (END SEARCH)

[END SCH] (END SEARCH) will not work once you eject the cassette after you have recorded on the tape.

Touch **[FN]** → **[PAGE1]**, then touch **[END SCH]**.



Touch here again to cancel the operation.

The last scene of the most recent recording is played back for about 5 seconds, and the camcorder enters the standby mode at the point where the last recording has finished.

Notes

- [END SCH] will not work correctly when there is a blank section between recorded sections on the tape.

Tips

- This operation is also available when the POWER switch is set to PLAY/EDIT.

Searching manually (EDIT SEARCH)

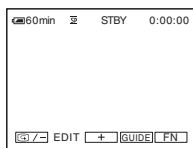
You can search for the start point to start the next recording while viewing the pictures on the screen. The sound is not played back during the search.

1 Touch **[FN]** → **[PAGE1]** → **[MENU]**.

2 Select **[CAMERA SET]** with **[↓]** / **[↑]**, then touch **[EXEC]**.

3 Select **[EDITSEARCH]** with **[↓]** / **[↑]**, then touch **[EXEC]**.

4 Select **[ON]** with **[↓]** / **[↑]**, then touch **[EXEC]** → **[X]**.





5 Touch and hold **[←]** (to go backward) / **[+]** (to go forward) and release it at the point where you want the recording to start.




Reviewing the most recently recorded scenes (Rec review)

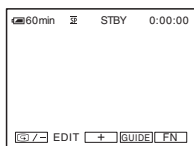
You can view about 2 seconds of the scene recorded just before you stopped the tape.

1 Touch **[FN]** → **[PAGE1]** → **[MENU]**.

2 Select **[CAMERA SET]** with **[↓]** / **[↑]**, then touch **[EXEC]**.

3 Select [EDITSEARCH] with  / , then touch [EXEC].

4 Select [ON] with  / , then touch [EXEC] → .

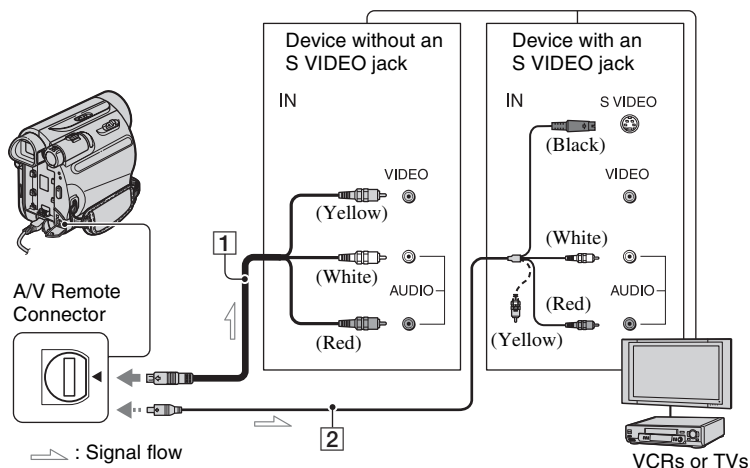


5 Touch  / .

The last 2 seconds (approx.) of the most recently recorded scene are played back. Then, your camcorder is set to standby.

Playing the picture on a TV

You can connect your camcorder to the input jack of a TV or a VCR using the A/V connecting cable (1) or the A/V connecting cable with S VIDEO (2). Connect your camcorder to the wall outlet (wall socket) using the supplied AC Adaptor for this operation (p. 10). Refer also to the instruction manuals supplied with the devices to be connected.



1 A/V connecting cable (supplied)

Connect to the input jack of another device.

2 A/V connecting cable with S VIDEO (optional)

When connecting to another device via the S VIDEO jack, by using the A/V connecting cable with an S VIDEO cable, pictures can be reproduced more faithfully than with the supplied A/V cable connection.

Connect the white and red plugs (left/right audio) and S VIDEO plug (S VIDEO channel) of an A/V connecting cable. In this case, the yellow (standard video) plug connection is not necessary. S VIDEO connection only will not output audio.

💡 Tips

- You can display the time code on the TV screen by setting [DISP OUT] to [V-OUT/LCD] (p. 42).

When connecting your camcorder to a TV through a VCR

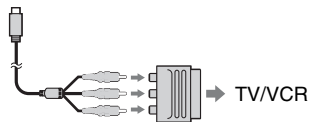
Connect your camcorder to the LINE IN input on the VCR. Set the input selector on the VCR to LINE (VIDEO 1, VIDEO 2, etc.), if the VCR has an input selector.

When your TV is monaural (Only one audio input jack)

Connect the yellow plug of the A/V connecting cable to the video input jack and connect the white (left channel) or the red (right channel) plug to the audio input jack of your TV or VCR.

If your TV/VCR has a 21-pin adaptor (EUROCONNECTOR)

You need the 21-pin adaptor (optional) to connect your camcorder to a TV for viewing recorded images. This adaptor is designed for output use only.

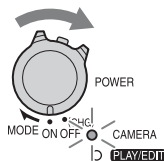


Using the menu items

- 1** Slide the **POWER** switch in the direction of the arrow repeatedly to turn on the respective lamp.

CAMERA lamp: settings for recording on a tape

PLAY/EDIT lamp: settings for viewing/editing



- 2** Touch the LCD screen to select the menu item.

Unavailable items will be grayed out.

■ To use the operation buttons on PAGE1/PAGE2/PAGE3

For details of the button items, see page 29.

- ① Touch .
- ② Touch the desired page.
- ③ Touch the desired button.
- ④ Select the desired setting, then touch → (Close).

⚡ Notes

- With some settings, you do not have to touch .

■ To use menu items

For details of the items, see page 36.

- ① Touch → [MENU] on [PAGE1].
The menu index screen appears.

- ② Select the desired menu.

Touch / to select the item, then touch [EXEC]. (The process in step ③ and ④ is the same as that in step ②.)

- ③ Select the desired item.
- ④ Customize the item.

After finishing the settings, touch (close) to hide the menu screen. Each touch of [RET.] takes you to the previous screen.

■ To use menu items during Easy Handycam operation

- ① Touch .
- ② Select the desired button.
- ③ Change your item setting.

After finishing the settings, touch (close).

⚡ Notes

- Cancel Easy Handycam operation to use menu items normally.

Operation button items

Available operation buttons vary depending on the position of the lamp and the display (PAGE).

The default settings are marked with ▶. The indicators in parentheses appear when the items are selected.

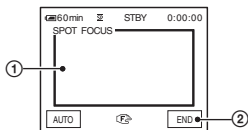
The available functions during Easy Handycam operation are marked with “***”. See page 28 for details on selecting button items.

When the CAMERA lamp lights up

[PAGE1]

SPOT FOCUS

You can select and adjust the focal point to a subject not located in the center of the screen.



① Touch the point where you want to focus on in the frame.

F appears.

② Touch [END].

To adjust the focus automatically, touch [AUTO] or set [FOCUS] to [AUTO].

Notes

- If you set [SPOT FOCUS], [FOCUS] is automatically set to [MANUAL].

FOCUS

You can adjust the focus manually. You can select this function also when you want to focus on a certain subject intentionally.



① Touch [MANUAL].

F appears.

② Touch [M] (focusing on close subjects)/ [D] (focusing on distant subjects) to sharpen the focus. M appears when the focus cannot be adjusted any closer, and D appears when the focus cannot be adjusted farther away.

③ Touch [OK].

To adjust the focus automatically, touch [AUTO].

Notes

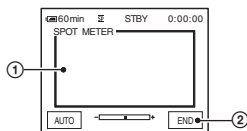
- The minimum possible distance between camcorder and subject while maintaining sharp focus is about 1 cm (about 13/32 in.) for wide angle and about 80 cm (about 2 5/8 feet) for telephoto.

Tips

- It is easier to focus on the subject by moving the power zoom lever towards T (telephoto) to adjust the focus, then towards W (wide angle) to adjust the zoom for recording. When you want to record a subject at close range, move the power zoom lever to W (wide angle), then adjust the focus.

SPOT METER (Flexible spot meter)

You can adjust and fix the exposure to the subject, so that it is recorded in suitable brightness even when there is strong contrast between the subject and the background, such as subjects in the spotlight on stage.



① Touch the point where you want to fix and adjust the exposure on the screen.

← → appears.

② Touch [END].

To return the setting to automatic exposure, touch [AUTO] or set [EXPOSURE] to [AUTO].

Notes

- If you set [SPOT METER], [EXPOSURE] is automatically set to [MANUAL].

DISP GUIDE (Display Guide)*

See page 72.

MENU

See page 36.

SCENE SEL.

You can record pictures effectively in various situations with the SCENE SEL. function.

▶ AUTO

Select to automatically record pictures effectively without the [SCENE SEL.] function.

TWILIGHT* (☾)

Select to maintain the darkening atmosphere of the distant surroundings in twilight scenes.



SUNRSSUNST* (Sunrise & Sunset)



Select to maintain the atmosphere of situations such as sunsets and sunrises.



LANDSCAPE* (🏞️)

Select to shoot distant subjects clearly. This setting also prevents your camcorder from focusing on glass or metal mesh in windows between the camcorder and the subject.



PORTRAIT (Soft portrait) (👤)

Select to bring out the subject such as people or flowers while creating a soft background.



SPOTLIGHT** (🎤)

Select to prevent people's faces from appearing excessively white when subjects are lit by strong light.



Operation button items (Continued)

BLACK



MOSC. FADER



MONOTONE

When fading in, the picture gradually changes from black and white to color. When fading out, it gradually changes from color to black and white.

WHT BAL (White balance)

You can adjust the color balance to the brightness of the recording environment.

▶ AUTO

The white balance is adjusted automatically.

OUTDOOR (☀)

The white balance is appropriately adjusted for the following recording conditions:

- Outdoors
- Night views, neon signs and fireworks
- Sunrise or sunset
- Under daylight fluorescent lamps

INDOOR (☀)

The white balance is appropriately adjusted for the following recording conditions:

- Indoors
- At party scenes or studios where the lighting conditions change quickly
- Under video lamps in a studio, or under sodium lamps or incandescent-like color lamps

ONE PUSH (☑)

The white balance will be adjusted according to the ambient light.

- ① Touch [ONE PUSH].

- ② Frame a white object such as a piece of paper, to fill the screen under the same lighting conditions as you will shoot the subject.

- ③ Touch . flashes quickly. When the white balance has been adjusted and stored in the memory, the indicator stops flashing.

⚡ Notes

- Set [WHT BAL] to [AUTO] or [ONE PUSH] under white or cool white fluorescent lamps.
- When you select [ONE PUSH], keep framing white object while is flashing quickly.
- flashes slowly if [ONE PUSH] could not be set.
- When [ONE PUSH] was selected, if keeps flashing after touching [OK], set [WHT BAL] to [AUTO].
- If you set [WHT BAL], [SCENE SEL.] setting is canceled.

💡 Tips

- If you have changed the battery pack while [AUTO] was selected, or taken your camcorder outdoors after inside use with the [EXPOSURE] set (or vice versa), select [AUTO] and aim your camcorder at a nearby white object for about 10 seconds for better color balance adjustment.
- When the white balance has been set with [ONE PUSH], if you change the [SCENE SEL.] settings, or bring your camcorder outdoors from inside the house, or vice versa, you need to redo the [ONE PUSH] procedure to readjust the white balance.

BEEP*

▶ ON

A beeping sound starts when you start/stop recording, or operate the touch panel.

OFF



Cancels the beeping sound and shutter sound.

CLOCK SET*

See page 13.

LCD BRT (LCD bright)

You can adjust the brightness of the LCD screen. The recorded picture will not be affected by this operation.

Adjust the brightness with  / .

When the PLAY/EDIT lamp lights up

You can use the video operation buttons ( /  /  /  /  /  /  /  / ) on every PAGE.

[PAGE1]

MENU

See page 36.

VOL* (Volume)

See page 22.

END SCH (END SEARCH)

See page 24.

DISP GUIDE (Display Guide)*

See page 72.

[PAGE2]

DATA CODE*

During playback, displays information (data code) recorded automatically at the time of recording.

▶ OFF

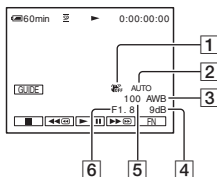
Data code is not displayed.

CAM DATA (below)

Displays camera setting data.

DATE/TIME

Displays the date and time.



- 1 SteadyShot off
- 2 Exposure
- 3 White balance
- 4 Gain
- 5 Shutter speed
- 6 Aperture value

🗨 Notes

- In the [DATE/TIME] data display, the date and time are displayed in the same area. If you record a picture without setting the clock, [-- --] and [--:--:--] will appear.
- During Easy Handycam operation, you can set [DATE/TIME] only.

BEEP*

See page 32.

CLOCK SET

See page 13.

[PAGE3]

V SPD PLAY (Various speed playback)

You can play back in various modes while viewing movies.

- ① Touch the following buttons during playback.

Operation button items (Continued)

To	Touch
change the playback direction*	(frame)
play back slowly**	[SLOW] To reverse direction: (frame) → [SLOW]
play back 2 times faster (double speed)	(double speed) To reverse direction: (frame) → (double speed)
play back frame by frame	(frame) during playback pause. To reverse direction: (frame) during frame playback.

* Horizontal lines may appear at the top, bottom, or in the center of the screen. This is not a malfunction.

**Pictures output from the DV Interface (i.LINK) cannot be played back smoothly in slow mode.

② Touch [RET.] → .

To return to the normal playback mode, touch (Play/Pause) twice (once from frame playback).

Notes

- You will not hear the recorded sound. You may see mosaic-like images of the previously played picture.

A DUB CTRL (Audio dubbing)

Using the internal stereo microphone (p. 68), you can add sound to a tape already recorded in 12-bit mode (p. 41) without erasing the original sound.

Notes

- You cannot record additional audio:
 - When the tape has been recorded in the 16-bit mode (p. 41).
 - When the tape has been recorded in the LP mode.

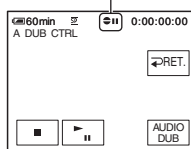
- When your camcorder is connected via an i.LINK cable.
 - When the tape has been recorded in 4CH MIC mode on other camcorders.
 - On blank sections of the tape.
 - When the tape has been recorded in a TV color system other than that of your camcorder (p. 58).
 - When the write-protect tab of the cassette is set to SAVE (p. 59).
 - On sections recorded in HDV format.
- When you add sound, the picture will not be output from the A/V Remote Connector. Check the picture on the LCD screen or the viewfinder.
 - You can only record additional audio over a tape recorded on your camcorder. The sound may deteriorate when you dub audio on a tape recorded on other camcorders (including other DCR-HC51E/HC52E/HC53E/HC54E camcorders).

Recording sound

Insert a recorded cassette into your camcorder beforehand.

- Slide the POWER switch repeatedly to turn on the PLAY/EDIT lamp.
- Touch (Play/Pause) to play back the tape, then touch it again at the point where you want to start recording the sound.
- Touch [FN] → [PAGE3] → [A DUB CTRL] → [AUDIO DUB].


appears.





- Touch (Play).

Your camcorder starts audio recording via the internal stereo microphone.






appears while recording the new sound in stereo 2 (ST2) during the playback of the tape.

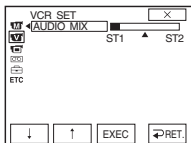
- ⑤ Touch  (Stop) when you want to stop recording.



To dub on other scenes, repeat step ② to select scenes, then touch [AUDIO DUB].

- ⑥ Touch [ RET.] → .

To check the recorded sound

- ① Play back the tape on which you have recorded audio (p. 22).
- ② Touch  → [PAGE1] → [MENU].
- ③ Select  (PLAYER SET) for the DCR-HC51E/HC53E, or  (VCR SET) for the DCR-HC52E/HC54E, then touch  /  to select [AUDIO MIX], then touch [EXEC].



- ④ Touch  /  to adjust the balance of the original sound (ST1) and the new sound (ST2), then touch [EXEC].

Notes

- The original sound (ST1) is output at the default setting.

REC CTRL (Recording control) (DCR-HC52E/HC54E)

See page 45.

LCD BRT (LCD bright)

See page 33.

Menu items

- Available menu items (●) vary depending on which lamp is lit.
- During Easy Handycam operation, the following settings are automatically applied (p. 17).

	CAMERA	PLAY/EDIT	Easy Handycam
MANUAL SET menu (p. 37)			
P EFFECT	●	●	OFF
CAMERA SET menu (p. 38)			
D ZOOM	●	–	OFF
WIDE SEL	●	–	4:3
STEADYSHOT	●	–	ON
EDITSEARCH	●	–	OFF
N.S.LIGHT	●	–	ON
PLAYER SET (DCR-HC51E/HC53E)/			
VCR SET (DCR-HC52E/HC54E) menu (p. 39)			
AUDIO MIX	–	●	–
LCD/VF SET menu (p. 40)			
LCD B.L.	●	●	BRT NORMAL
LCD COLOR	●	●	–
VF B.L.	●	●	BRT NORMAL
WIDE DISP	●	●	–
TAPE SET menu (p. 41)			
REC MODE (DCR-HC51E/HC53E)	●	–	SP
REC MODE (DCR-HC52E/HC54E)	●	●	SP
AUDIO MODE	●	–	12BIT
REMAIN	●	●	AUTO
SETUP MENU menu (p. 41)			
USB STREAM (DCR-HC53E/HC54E)	●	●	OFF
LANGUAGE	●	●	●
DEMO MODE	●	–	ON
OTHERS menu (p. 42)			
WORLD TIME	●	●	–*
A.SHUT OFF	●	●	5min
DISP OUT	●	●	LCD
GUIDEFAME	●	–	OFF

* The value set before Easy Handycam operation will be retained during Easy Handycam operation.

- P EFFECT

The default setting is marked with ►.
The indicators in parentheses appear when the items are selected.

See page 28 for details on selecting menu items.

P EFFECT (Picture effect)

You can add special effects to a picture during recording or playback. [P+] appears.

► OFF

Does not use [P EFFECT] setting.

NEG.ART

The color and brightness are reversed.



SEPIA

Pictures appear in sepia.

B&W

Pictures appear in black and white.

SOLARIZE

Pictures appear as an illustration with strong contrast.



PASTEL *

Pictures appear as a pale pastel drawing.



MOSAIC*

Pictures appear mosaic-patterned.



* Not available during playback.

⚙ Notes

- Effects added to the playback pictures are not output via the i.LINK DV Interface (i.LINK). Only the original pictures can be output.
- For DCR-HC52E/HC54E:
You cannot add effects to externally input pictures.

💡 Tips

- You can record pictures edited with special effects on another VCR/DVD device, etc. (p. 43).

CAMERA SET menu

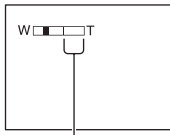
– D ZOOM/WIDE SEL/STEADYSHOT, etc.

The default settings are marked with ►. The indicators in parentheses appear when the items are selected.

See page 28 for details on selecting menu items.

D ZOOM (Digital zoom)

You can select the maximum zoom level in case you want to zoom to a level greater than 40× (the default setting) while recording on a tape. Note that the image quality decreases when you are using the digital zoom.



The right side of the bar shows the digital zooming factor. The zooming zone appears when you select the zooming level.

► OFF

Up to 40× zoom is performed optically.

80×

Up to 40× zoom is performed optically, and after that, up to 80× zoom is performed digitally.

2000×

Up to 40× zoom is performed optically, and after that, up to 2,000× zoom is performed digitally.

WIDE SEL (Wide select)

You can record a picture in a ratio suitable for the screen on which it will be displayed. Refer also to the operating instructions supplied with your TV for details.

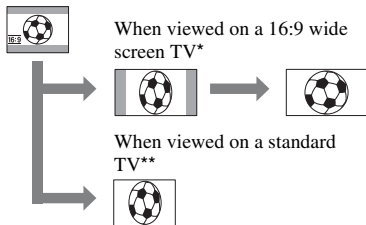
► 4:3

Standard setting (to record pictures to be played back on a 4:3 TV).

16:9 WIDE (16:9)

Records pictures to be played back on a 16:9 wide TV in full screen mode.

When viewed on the LCD screen/viewfinder with [16:9 WIDE] selected.



* Picture appears in full screen mode when the wide-screen TV switches to full mode.



** Played in 4:3 mode. When you play a picture in the wide mode, it appears as you saw it on the LCD screen or in the viewfinder.

STEADYSHOT



You can compensate for camera shake (the default setting is [ON]). Set [STEADYSHOT] to [OFF] (🚫) when using a tripod (optional) or the conversion lens (optional), then the image becomes natural.

EDITSEARCH

► OFF

Does not display  or  on the LCD screen.

ON

Displays  and  on the LCD screen, and enables the EDIT SEARCH function and Rec review (p. 24).

PLAYER SET/ **VCR SET menu**

– AUDIO MIX

The **PLAYER SET** menu is for the DCR-HC51E/HC53E, and the **VCR SET** menu is for the DCR-HC52E/HC54E.

AUDIO MIX

See page 35.

N.S.LIGHT (NightShot Light)

When using the NightShot plus (p. 20) function to record, you can record clearer pictures by setting [N.S.LIGHT], which emits infrared light (invisible), to [ON] (the default setting).

Notes

- Do not cover the infrared port with your fingers or other objects (p. 68).
- Remove the conversion lens (optional) if it is attached.
- The maximum shooting distance using [N.S.LIGHT] is about 3 m (10 feet).

Tips

- If you record subjects in dark places, such as night scenes or in moonlight, set [N.S.LIGHT] to [OFF]. You can make the image color deeper this way.

LCD/VF SET menu

– LCD B.L./LCD COLOR/VF B.L., etc

The default settings are marked with ►.

See page 28 for details on selecting menu items.

LCD B.L. (LCD back light)

You can adjust the brightness of the LCD screen's backlight. The recorded picture will not be affected by this operation.

► BRT NORMAL

Standard brightness.



BRIGHT

Brightens the LCD screen.

Notes

- When you connect your camcorder to outside power sources, [BRIGHT] is automatically selected for the setting.
- When you select [BRIGHT], battery life is slightly reduced during recording.

LCD COLOR

You can adjust the color on the LCD screen with  / . The recorded picture will not be affected by this operation.



Low intensity High intensity

VF B.L. (Viewfinder back light)

You can adjust the brightness of the viewfinder. The recorded picture will not be affected by this operation.

► BRT NORMAL

Standard brightness.

BRIGHT

Brightens the viewfinder screen.

Notes

- When you connect your camcorder to outside power sources, [BRIGHT] is automatically selected for the setting.
- When you select [BRIGHT], battery life is slightly reduced during recording.

WIDE DISP (Wide display)

You can select how a 16:9 aspect ratio picture appears in the viewfinder and the LCD screen by setting [WIDE SEL] to [16:9 WIDE]. The recorded picture will not be affected by this operation.

► LETTER BOX

Normal setting (standard type of display)

SQUEEZE

Expands the picture vertically if black bands at the top and bottom in 16:9 aspect ratio are undesirable.

TAPE SET menu

– REC MODE/AUDIO MODE/REMAIN

The default settings are marked with ►.
The indicators in parentheses appear when the items are selected.

See page 28 for details on selecting menu items.

REC MODE (Recording mode)

► **SP (SP)**

Records in the SP (Standard Play) mode on a cassette.

LP (LP)

Increases the recording time to 1.5 times the SP mode (Long Play).

Notes

- If you record in the LP mode, pictures may appear mosaic-like or sound may be interrupted when you play back the tape on other camcorders or VCRs.
- When you mix recordings in the SP mode and in the LP mode on one tape, the playback picture may be distorted or the time code may not be written properly between the scenes.

AUDIO MODE

► **12BIT**

Records in the 12-bit mode (2 stereo sounds).


16BIT (16b)

Records in the 16-bit mode (1 stereo sound with high quality).

REMAIN

► **AUTO**

Displays the remaining tape indicator for about 8 seconds in situations such as those described below.

- When you set the POWER switch to PLAY/EDIT or CAMERA with a cassette inserted.
- When you touch  (Play/Pause).

ON

Always displays the remaining tape indicator.

SETUP MENU **menu**

– USB STREAM/LANGUAGE, etc.

See page 28 for details on selecting menu items.

USB STREAM (DCR-HC53E/HC54E)

You can view the pictures displayed on the screen of your camcorder on your computer (USB Streaming) via the USB cable. See “First Step Guide” in the supplied CD-ROM for details (p. 50).

LANGUAGE

You can select the language to be used on the LCD screen.

- Your camcorder offers [ENG[SIMP]] (simplified English) for when you cannot find your native tongue among the options.

DEMO MODE

The default setting is [ON], allowing you to view the demonstration about 10 minutes after you have removed a cassette from your camcorder, and slide the POWER switch repeatedly to turn on the CAMERA lamp.

Tips



- The demonstration will be suspended in situations such as those described below.
 - When you touch the screen during the demonstration. (The demonstration starts again after about 10 minutes.)
 - When a cassette is inserted.
 - When the POWER switch is set to other than CAMERA.

ETC OTHERS menu

– WORLD TIME, etc.

The default settings are marked with ►.
See page 28 for details on selecting menu items.

WORLD TIME

When using your camcorder abroad, you can set the time difference by touching  / , the clock will be adjusted in accordance with the time difference. If you set the time difference to 0, the clock returns to the originally set time.

A.SHUT OFF (Auto shut off)

► 5min

The camcorder is automatically turned off when you do not operate your camcorder for more than approximately 5 minutes.

NEVER

The camcorder is not automatically turned off.

Notes

- When you connect your camcorder to a wall outlet (wall socket), [A.SHUT OFF] is automatically set to [NEVER].

DISP OUT (Display output)

► LCD

Shows displays such as the time code on the LCD screen and in the viewfinder.

V-OUT/LCD

Shows displays such as the time code on the TV screen, LCD screen, and in the viewfinder.

GUIDEFAME

You can display the frame and check that the subject is horizontal or vertical by setting [GUIDEFAME] to [ON]. The frame is not recorded. Press DISP/BATT INFO to make the frame disappear.

Tips

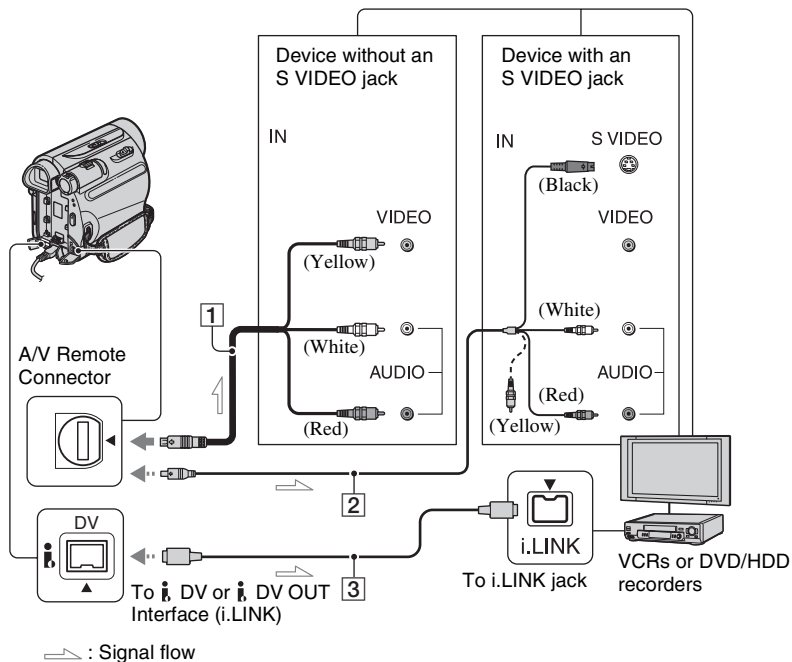
- Placing the subject at the cross point of the guide frame makes a balanced composition.

Dubbing to VCR or DVD/HDD recorders

You can dub images played back on your camcorder to other recording devices, such as VCRs or DVD/HDD recorders.

You can connect your camcorder to VCRs or DVD/HDD recorders, using the A/V connecting cable (1), the A/V connecting cable with S VIDEO (2), or the i.LINK cable (3).

Connect your camcorder to the wall outlet (wall socket) using the supplied AC Adaptor for this operation (p. 10). Refer also to the instruction manuals supplied with the devices to be connected.



1 A/V connecting cable (supplied)

Connect to the input jack of another device.

2 A/V connecting cable with S VIDEO (optional)

When connecting to another device via the S VIDEO jack, by using the A/V connecting cable with an S VIDEO cable, pictures can be reproduced more faithfully than with the supplied A/V cable connection. Connect the white and red plugs (left/right audio) and S VIDEO plug (S VIDEO channel) of an A/V connecting cable. In this case, the yellow

(standard video) plug connection is not necessary. S VIDEO connection only will not output audio.

3 i.LINK cable (optional)

Use an i.LINK cable to connect your camcorder to another device equipped with an i.LINK jack. The video and audio signals are transmitted digitally, producing high quality pictures and sound. Note that you cannot output picture and sound separately.

Notes

- When you are connecting your camcorder to a monaural device, connect the yellow plug of the A/V connecting cable to the video input jack, and the red (right channel) or the white (left channel) plug to the audio input jack on the device.
- When you connect a device via an A/V connecting cable, set [DISP OUT] to [LCD] (the default setting) (p. 42).

1 Prepare your camcorder for playback.

Insert the recorded cassette.

Slide the POWER switch repeatedly to turn on the PLAY/EDIT lamp.

2 Insert the recording media in the recording device.

If your recording device has an input selector, set it to the appropriate input (such as video input1, video input2).

3 Connect your camcorder to the recording device (VCR or DVD/HDD recorder) with the A/V connecting cable (supplied) [1], an A/V connecting cable with S VIDEO (optional) [2] or an i.LINK cable (optional) [3].

Connect your camcorder to the input jacks of the recording device.

4 Start playback on the camcorder, and recording on the recording device.

Refer to the operating instructions supplied with your recording device for details.

5 When dubbing is complete, stop your camcorder and the recording device.

Notes

- To record the date/time and camera settings data when connected by the A/V connecting cable, display them on the screen (p. 33).
- The following cannot be output via the DV Interface (i.LINK):
 - Indicators
 - Pictures edited using [P EFFECT] (p. 37)
- When connected using an i.LINK cable, the recorded picture becomes rough when a picture is paused on your camcorder while recording.
- When connected using an i.LINK cable, data code (date/time/camera settings data) may not be displayed or recorded depending on the device or application.

Recording pictures from a VCR, etc. (DCR-HC52E/HC54E)

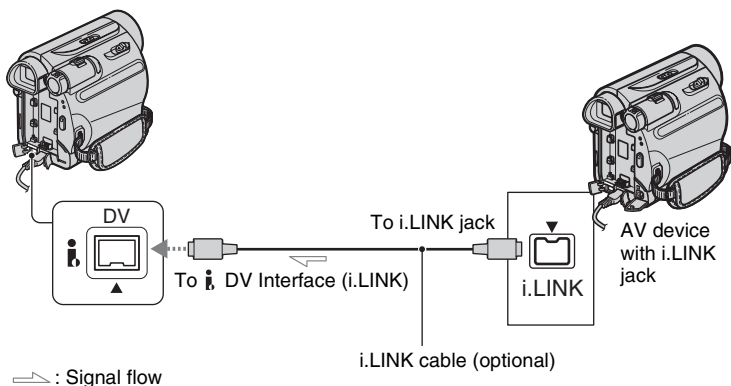
Using an i.LINK cable (optional), you can record pictures from a VCR, etc., on a tape. Be sure to insert a cassette for recording in your camcorder beforehand.

You can connect your camcorder to a VCR or an i.LINK-compatible device using the i.LINK cable (optional).

Connect your camcorder to the wall outlet (wall socket) using the supplied AC Adaptor for this operation (p. 10). Refer also to the instruction manuals supplied with the devices to be connected.

⚡ Notes

- You cannot record pictures on your camcorder from a VCR that does not have an i.LINK jack.



When connecting your camcorder to another device using an i.LINK cable, the video and audio signals are transmitted digitally, producing high quality pictures and sound. Note that you cannot output picture and sound separately.

1 Connect your VCR, etc., to your camcorder with an i.LINK cable.

2 Insert a cassette into the VCR.

3 Slide the POWER switch repeatedly to turn on the PLAY/EDIT lamp.

4 Set your camcorder to recording pause mode.


Touch **FN** → [PAGE3] → [REC CTRL] → [REC PAUSE].

5 Start playing the cassette on the VCR.

The picture played on the connected device appears on the LCD screen of your camcorder.

6 Touch [REC START] at the point you want to start recording.

7 Stop recording.

Touch  (Stop) or [REC PAUSE].

8 Touch [RET.] → .

Notes

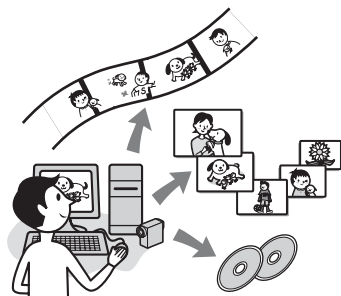
- The DV_{IN} indicator appears when you connect your camcorder and other devices via an i.LINK cable. (This indicator may also appear on the connected device.)

What you can do with Windows computer (DCR-HC53E/54E)

When you install the “Picture Motion Browser” on a Windows computer from the supplied CD-ROM, you can enjoy the following operations.

Notes

- You cannot install the supplied software, “Picture Motion Browser”, on a Macintosh computer.



Main functions

■ Importing/Viewing movies taken with your camcorder

You can manage movies by date and time of shooting, and select movies you want to view as thumbnails. These thumbnails can be enlarged and played in a slide show.

■ Editing movies imported to a computer

You can edit imported movies on a computer.

■ Exporting movies from your computer to your camcorder

You can export movies that have been imported to a computer from your camcorder, back to your camcorder.

About “First Step Guide”

The “First Step Guide” is an instruction manual you can refer to on your computer. This describes basic operations, from initial hookup of your camcorder and computer and making settings, to general operation the first time you use the software “Picture Motion Browser” stored on the CD-ROM (supplied).

Referring to “Installing the “First Step Guide”” (p. 48), start the “First Step Guide”, then follow the instructions.

About the help function of the software

The Help guide explains all the functions of all the software applications. Refer to the Help guide for further detailed operations after reading the “First Step Guide” thoroughly.

To display the Help guide, click the [?] mark on the screen.

System requirements

When using “Picture Motion Browser”

OS: Windows 2000 Professional SP4, Windows XP SP2*, Windows Vista*
*64-bit editions and Starter (Edition) are not supported.
Standard installation is required.
Operation is not assured if the above OS has been upgraded or in a multi-boot environment.

CPU: Intel Pentium III 800 MHz or faster

Application: DirectX 9.0c or later (This product is based on DirectX technology. It is necessary to have DirectX installed.)

Sound system: Direct Sound compatible sound card

What you can do with Windows computer (DCR-HC53E/54E) (Continued)

Memory: 256 MB or more

Hard disk: Disc volume required for installation: Approximately 350 MB

Display: Minimum 1024 × 768 dots

Others: ψ USB port (this must be provided as standard, Hi-Speed USB (USB 2.0 compatible) is recommended), DV Interface (IEEE1394, i.LINK) (to connect via an i.LINK cable), disc drive (CD-ROM drive is necessary for installation)

⚡ Notes

- Operations are not guaranteed on a computer environment that does not meet the system requirements.
- Operations are not guaranteed on all the recommended environments.
For example, other open or background applications running on currently may limit product performance.
- If you use a Notebook PC, connect it to the AC Adaptor as the power source. Otherwise, the software will not work properly due to the power saving function of the PC.

Installing the “First Step Guide” and software (DCR-HC53E/54E)

You need to install the “First Step Guide” and software to your Windows computer **before connecting your camcorder to the computer**. The installation is required only for the first time. Contents to be installed and procedures may differ depending on your OS.

Installing the “First Step Guide”

- 1 Confirm that your camcorder is not connected to the computer.**
- 2 Turn on the computer.**
 - Log on as an Administrator for installation.
 - Close all applications running on the computer before installing the software.
- 3 Place the supplied CD-ROM in the disc drive of your computer.**

The installation screen appears.



If the screen does not appear

- ① Click [Start], then click [My Computer]. (For Windows 2000, double-click [My Computer].)
- ② Double-click [SONYPICTUTIL (E:)] (CD-ROM) (disc drive).*

* Drive names (such as (E:)) may vary depending on the computer.

- 4 Click [FirstStepGuide].**

-
- 5** Select the desired language and the model name of your camcorder from the pull-down menu.



-
- 6** Click [FirstStepGuide(HTML)].

Installation starts.

When [Save is complete] appears, click [OK] to finish the installation.

To view the “First Step Guide” in PDF

In step 6, click [FirstStepGuide(PDF)].

To install the software “Adobe Reader” to display the PDF file

In step 6, click [Adobe(R) Reader(R)].

Installing the software

-
- 1** Perform steps 1 to 3 in “Installing the “First Step Guide”” (p. 48).
-
- 2** Click [Install].
-
- 3** Select the language for the application to be installed, then click [Next].
-
- 4** Check your country/region, then click [Next].

-
- 5** Read [License Agreement], select [I accept the terms of the license agreement] when you agree, then click [Next].


-
- 6** Follow the on-screen instructions to install the software.

Depending on the computer, you may need to install third party software (shown below). If the installation screen appears, follow the instructions to install the required software.

■ Microsoft DirectX 9.0c

Software required to handle movies

Restart the computer if required to complete the installation.

The short-cut icons, such as [] (Picture Motion Browser), appear on the desktop.



-
- 7** Remove the CD-ROM from the disc drive of your computer.
-

Viewing “First Step Guide” (DCR-HC53E/54E)

To view “First Step Guide” on your computer, Microsoft Internet Explorer Ver.6.0 or later is recommended.

Double-click the short-cut icon for your camcorder’s “First Step Guide” on the desktop.

Tips

- You can also start by selecting [Start] → [Programs] ([All Programs] for Windows XP) → [Sony Picture Utility] → [FirstStepGuide] → Your camcorder’s folder → “First Step Guide” in HTML.
- To view “First Step Guide” in HTML without installing, copy the desired language folder from the [FirstStepGuide] folder on the CD-ROM, and then double-click [Index.html].
- Refer to the “First Step Guide” in PDF in the following cases:
 - When printing the desired topics of “First Step Guide”
 - When “First Step Guide” is not displayed correctly due to the browser setting even in recommended environment.
 - When the HTML version of “First Step Guide” cannot be installed.

Troubleshooting

If you run into any problems using your camcorder, use the following table to troubleshoot the problem. If the problem persists, disconnect the power source and contact your Sony dealer.

- Overall operations/Easy Handycam 51
- Batteries/Power sources 51
- LCD screen/viewfinder 52
- Cassette tapes 52
- Recording 53
- Playback 54
- Dubbing/Editing/Connecting to other devices 54
- Connecting to a computer 55
- Functions that cannot be used together 55

Overall operations/Easy Handycam

The power does not turn on.

- Attach a charged battery pack to the camcorder (p. 10).
- Use the AC Adaptor to connect to a wall outlet (wall socket) (p. 10).

The camcorder does not operate even when the power is set to on.

- Disconnect the AC Adaptor from the wall outlet (wall socket) or remove the battery pack, then reconnect it after about 1 minute.
- Press the RESET button (p. 69) using a sharp-pointed object. (If you press the RESET button, all settings are reset.)

Buttons do not work.

- During Easy Handycam operation, not all buttons are functional (p. 18).

Settings change during Easy Handycam operation.

- During Easy Handycam operation, the settings of the functions that are not displayed on the screen return to their defaults (p. 17, 36).

The menu item settings have changed unexpectedly.

- The following settings return to the default settings automatically when you set the POWER switch to OFF(CHG) for more than 12 hours.
 - backlight
 - [SPOT FOCUS]
 - [FOCUS]
 - [SPOT METER]
 - [SCENE SEL.]
 - [EXPOSURE]
 - [WHT BAL]
 - [AUDIO MIX]

The camcorder gets warm.

- The camcorder may get warmer while you use it. This is not a malfunction.

Batteries/Power sources

The power abruptly turns off.

- When approximately 5 minutes have elapsed while you do not operate your camcorder, the camcorder is automatically turned off [A.SHUT OFF]. Change the setting of [A.SHUT OFF] (p. 42), or turn on the power again (p. 13), or use the AC Adaptor.
- Charge the battery pack (p. 10).
- The battery is fully discharged, or almost discharged.

The CHG (charge) lamp does not light while the battery pack is being charged.

- Slide the POWER switch to OFF(CHG) (p. 10).

Troubleshooting (Continued)

- Attach the battery pack to the camcorder correctly (p. 10).
- Connect the power cord (mains lead) to the wall outlet (wall socket) properly (p. 10).
- The battery charge is completed (p. 10).

The CHG (charge) lamp flashes while the battery pack is being charged.

- Attach the battery pack to the camcorder correctly (p. 10). If the problem persists, disconnect the AC Adaptor from the wall outlet (wall socket) and contact your Sony dealer. The battery pack may be worn-out.

The remaining battery time indicator does not indicate the correct time.

- Ambient temperature is too high or too low, or the battery pack has not been charged enough. This is not a malfunction.
- Fully charge the battery again. If the problem persists, the battery may be worn-out. Replace it with a new one (p. 10, 60).
- The indicated time may not be correct in certain circumstances. For example, when you open or close the LCD panel, it takes about 1 minute to display the correct remaining battery time.

The battery pack discharges too quickly.

- Ambient temperature is too high or too low, or the battery pack has not been charged enough. This is not a malfunction.
- Fully charge the battery again. If the problem persists, the battery may be worn-out. Replace it with a new one (p. 10, 60).

LCD screen/viewfinder

A rippling effect appears on the LCD screen when you touch it.

- This is not a malfunction. Do not press hard on the LCD screen.

The buttons do not appear on the touch panel.

- Touch the LCD screen lightly.
- Press DISP/BATT INFO on your camcorder (p. 69).

The buttons on the touch panel do not work correctly or do not work at all.

- Adjust the touch panel ([CALIBRATION]) (p. 63).

Menu items are grayed out.

- You cannot select grayed items in the current recording/playback situation.

The picture in the viewfinder is not clear.

- Move the viewfinder lens adjustment lever until the picture appears clearly (p. 15).

The picture in the viewfinder has disappeared.

- Close the LCD panel. The picture is not displayed in the viewfinder when the LCD panel is open (p. 15).

Dots in lines appear on the LCD screen.

- This is not a malfunction. These dots are not recorded.

Cassette tapes

The cassette cannot be ejected from the compartment.

- Make sure the power source (battery pack or AC Adaptor) is connected correctly (p. 10).
- Moisture condensation has occurred inside the camcorder (p. 62).

The Cassette Memory indicator or title display does not appear while using a cassette with Cassette Memory.

- This camcorder does not support Cassette Memory, so the indicator does not appear.

The remaining tape indicator is not displayed.

- Set [REMAIN] to [ON] to always display the remaining tape indicator (p. 41).

The cassette is noisier during rewinding or fast-forwarding.

- When using the AC Adaptor, rewind/fast forward speed increases (compared with battery operation) and therefore increases noise. This is not a malfunction.

Recording

The tape does not start when you press REC START/STOP.

- Slide the POWER switch repeatedly to turn on the CAMERA lamp (p. 19).
- The tape has reached the end. Rewind it, or insert a new cassette.
- Set the write-protect tab to REC or insert a new cassette (p. 59).
- The tape is stuck to the drum due to moisture condensation. Remove the cassette and leave your camcorder for at least 1 hour, then re-insert the cassette (p. 62).

You cannot record a smooth transition on a tape from the last recorded scene to the next.

- Perform [END SCH] (p. 24).
- Do not remove the cassette. (The picture will be recorded continuously without a break even when you turn the power off.)
- Do not record pictures in SP mode and LP mode on the same tape.

- Avoid stopping then recording a movie in the LP mode.

[END SCH] does not work.

- Do not eject the cassette after recording (p. 24).
- There is nothing recorded on the cassette.
- There is a blank section between recorded sections of the tape. This is not a malfunction.

The auto focus does not function.

- Set [FOCUS] to [AUTO] (p. 29).
- The recording conditions are not suitable for auto focus. Adjust the focus manually (p. 29).

[STEADYSHOT] does not function.

- Set [STEADYSHOT] to [ON] (p. 38).

The backlight function does not function.

- In the following settings, the backlight function is canceled.
 - [MANUAL] of [EXPOSURE]
 - [SPOT METER]
- The backlight function does not work during Easy Handycam operation (p. 18).

A vertical band appears when recording candlelight or electric light in the dark.

- This occurs when the contrast between the subject and the background is too high. This is not a malfunction.

A vertical band appears when recording a bright subject.

- This phenomenon is called the smear effect. This is not a malfunction.

The color of the picture is not correctly displayed.

- Deactivate the NightShot plus function (p. 20).

The screen picture is bright, and the subject does not appear on the screen.

- Deactivate the NightShot plus function (p. 20), or cancel the backlight function (p. 21).

Undesirable flicker occurs.

- This anomaly may occur when recording pictures under the discharge tube, such as a fluorescent lamp, sodium lamp, or mercury lamp, with [PORTRAIT] or [SPORT]. This is not a malfunction.

Black bands appear when you record a TV screen or computer screen.

- Set [STEADYSHOT] to [OFF] (p. 38).

[The lens cover might be closed. Check the cover.] appears on the screen when the lens cover is open.

- There is not enough light, or the lens is covered by your finger or other object.

Playback

You cannot play back a tape.

- Slide the POWER switch repeatedly to turn on the PLAY/EDIT lamp (p. 22).
- Rewind the tape (p. 22).

Horizontal lines appear on the picture. The displayed pictures are not clear or do not appear.

- Clean the head using the cleaning cassette (optional) (p. 63).

No sound or only a low sound is heard.

- Turn up the volume (p. 22).
- Adjust [AUDIO MIX] until the sound is heard appropriately (p. 35).
- If you are using an S VIDEO plug, make sure the red and white plugs of the A/V connecting cable are also connected (p. 26).

The sound breaks off.

- Clean the head using the cleaning cassette (optional) (p. 63).

“---” is displayed on the screen.

- The tape you are playing was recorded without setting the date and time.
- A blank section on the tape is being played.
- The data code on a tape with a scratch or noise cannot be read.

Noises appear and **NBC** is displayed on the screen.

- The tape was recorded in a TV color system other than that of your camcorder (PAL). This is not a malfunction (p. 58).

4ch-12b is displayed on the screen.

- The tape you are playing was recorded on another device with a 4ch microphone (4CH MIC REC). Your camcorder is not compatible with 4ch microphone recording.

Dubbing/Editing/Connecting to other devices

Time code and other information appear on the display of the connected device.

- Set [DISP OUT] to [LCD] while connected with an A/V connecting cable (p. 42).

You cannot dub correctly using the A/V connecting cable.

- The A/V connecting cable is not connected properly. Make sure that the A/V connecting cable is connected to the input jack of another device for dubbing a picture from your camcorder (p. 43).

New sound added to a recorded tape is not heard.

- Adjust [AUDIO MIX] until the sound is heard appropriately (p. 35).

Pictures from connected devices are not displayed correctly.

- The input signal is not PAL (p. 58).

Connecting to a computer (DCR-HC53E/54E)

The computer does not recognize your camcorder.

- Install the “Picture Motion Browser” (p. 48).
- The computer may not recognize your camcorder for a few moments after you connect it. Wait for a while.
- Disconnect USB devices other than the keyboard, the mouse, and the camcorder from the Ψ (USB) jack on the computer.
- Disconnect the cable from the computer and camcorder, restart the computer, then connect them again correctly.

You cannot install the supplied software, “Picture Motion Browser,” on a Macintosh computer.

- You can install “Picture Motion Browser” only on a Windows computer.

Functions that cannot be used together

Depending on the functions, you may not be able to use them together. The following list shows examples of functions that cannot be used at the same time.

Not available	If this function is set
backlight	[SPOT METER], [EXPOSURE]
[SPOT FOCUS]	[SCENE SEL.]
[SPOT METER]	NightShot plus
[SCENE SEL.]	NightShot plus
[EXPOSURE]	NightShot plus
[WHT BAL]	NightShot plus

Warning indicators and messages

Self-diagnosis display/Warning indicators

If indicators appear on the LCD screen or in the viewfinder, check the following. Some symptoms you can fix by yourself. If the problem persists even after you have tried a couple of times, contact your Sony dealer or local authorized Sony service facility.

C:(or E:) □□:□□ (Self-diagnosis display)

C:04:□□

- The battery pack is not an “InfoLITHIUM” battery pack (H series). Use an “InfoLITHIUM” battery pack (H series) (p. 60).
- Connect the DC plug of the AC Adaptor to the DC IN jack of your camcorder securely (p. 10).

C:21:□□

- Moisture condensation has occurred. Remove the cassette and leave your camcorder for at least 1 hour, then re-insert the cassette (p. 62).

C:22:□□

- Clean the head using a cleaning cassette (optional) (p. 63).

C:31:□□ / C:32:□□


- Symptoms that are not described above have occurred. Remove and insert the cassette, then operate your camcorder again. Do not perform this procedure if moisture condensation has occurred (p. 62).
- Remove the power source. Reconnect it and operate your camcorder again.
- Change the cassette. Press RESET (p. 69), and operate your camcorder again.

E:61:□□ / E:62:□□

- Contact your Sony dealer or local authorized Sony service facility. Inform

them of the 5-digit code, which starts from “E.”

(Battery level warning)

- The battery pack is nearly used up.
- Depending on the operating, environment, or battery conditions,  may flash, even if there are approximately 5 to 10 minutes remaining.

(Moisture condensation warning)*

- Eject the cassette, remove the power source, and then leave it for about 1 hour with the cassette lid open (p. 62).

(Warning indicators pertaining to the tape)

Slow flashing:

- There is less than 5 minutes remaining on the tape.
- No cassette is inserted.*
- The write-protect tab on the cassette is set to lock (p. 59).*

Fast flashing:

- The tape has run out.*

(Eject cassette warning)*

Slow flashing:

- The write-protect tab on the cassette is set to lock (p. 59).


Fast flashing:

- Moisture condensation has occurred (p. 62).
- The self-diagnosis display code is displayed (p. 56).


* You hear a melody when the warning indicators appear on the screen (p. 32).

Examples of warning messages


If messages appear on the screen, follow the instructions.

 **Moisture condensation. Eject the cassette** (p. 62)

 **Moisture condensation. Turn off for 1H.** (p. 62)

 **Reinsert the cassette.** (p. 16)

- Check if the cassette is damaged.

  **The tape is locked - check the tab.** (p. 59)

Using your camcorder abroad

Power supply

You can use your camcorder in any country/region using the AC Adaptor supplied with your camcorder within the AC 100 V to 240 V, 50/60 Hz range.

On TV color systems

Your camcorder is PAL system, so its picture can only be viewed on a PAL system TV with an AUDIO/VIDEO input jack.

System	Used in
PAL	Australia, Austria, Belgium, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Holland, Hong Kong, Hungary, Italy, Kuwait, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, etc.
PAL - M	Brazil
PAL - N	Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay.
SECAM	Bulgaria, France, Guiana, Iran, Iraq, Monaco, Russia, Ukraine, etc.
NTSC	Bahama Islands, Bolivia, Canada, Central America, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Peru, Surinam, Taiwan, the Philippines, the U.S.A., Venezuela, etc.

Simple setting of the clock by time difference

You can easily set the clock to the local time abroad by entering the time difference between where you live and where you are. Select [WORLD TIME] in the **[ETC]** (OTHERS) menu, then set the time difference (p. 42).

Maintenance and precautions

Usable cassette tapes

You can use mini DV format cassettes only. Use a cassette with the **Mini DV** mark. Your camcorder is not compatible with the Cassette Memory function.

To prevent a blank section from being created on the tape

Go to the end of the recorded section using END SEARCH (p. 24) before you begin the next recording in the following cases:

- You have played back the tape.
- You have used EDIT SEARCH.

Copyright signal

■ When you play back

If the cassette you play back on your camcorder contains copyright signals, you cannot copy it to a tape in another video camera connected to your camcorder.

■ For DCR-HC52E/HC54E: When you record

You cannot record software on your camcorder that contains copyright control signals for copyright protection of software. [Cannot record due to copyright protection.] appears on the LCD screen, or on the viewfinder if you try to record such software. Your camcorder does not record copyright control signals on the tape when it records.

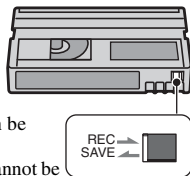
Notes on use

■ When not using your camcorder for a long time

Remove the cassette and store it.

■ To prevent accidental erasure

Slide the write-protect tab on the cassette to set it to SAVE.

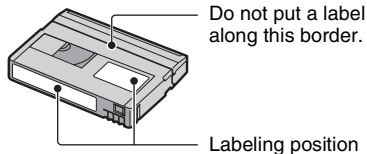


REC: The cassette can be recorded.

SAVE: The cassette cannot be recorded (write-protected).

■ When labeling the cassette

Be sure to place the label only on the locations shown in the following illustration so as not to cause a malfunction of your camcorder.



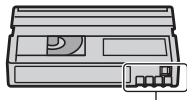
■ After using the cassette

Rewind the tape to the beginning to avoid distortion of the picture or the sound. The cassette should then be put in its case, and stored in an upright position.

■ When cleaning the gold-plated connector


Generally, clean the gold-plated connector on a cassette with a cotton-wool swab after every 10 times it has been ejected.

If the gold-plated connector on the cassette is dirty or dusty, the remaining tape indicator may not show correctly.



Gold-plated connector

About the “InfoLITHIUM” battery pack

This unit is compatible with an “InfoLITHIUM” battery pack (H series). Your camcorder operates only with an “InfoLITHIUM” battery pack. “InfoLITHIUM” H series battery packs have the  mark.

What is an “InfoLITHIUM” battery pack?

An “InfoLITHIUM” battery pack is a lithium-ion battery pack that has functions for communicating information related to operating conditions between your camcorder and an optional AC Adaptor/charger.

The “InfoLITHIUM” battery pack calculates the power consumption according to the operating conditions of your camcorder, and displays the remaining battery time in minutes.

To charge the battery pack

- Be sure to charge the battery pack before you start using your camcorder.
- We recommend charging the battery pack in an ambient temperature of between 10 °C to 30 °C (50 °F to 86 °F) until the CHG (charge) lamp turns off. If you charge the battery pack outside of this temperature range, you may not be able to charge it efficiently.
- When charging the battery pack while the AC Adaptor is connected to your camcorder, after charging is complete, disconnect the cable from the DC IN jack on your camcorder or remove the battery pack.


To use the battery pack effectively

- Battery pack performance decreases when the surrounding temperature is 10 °C (50 °F) or below, and the length of time you can use the battery pack becomes shorter. In that case, do one of the following to use the battery pack for a longer time.
 - Put the battery pack in a pocket to warm it up, and insert it in your camcorder right before you start taking shots.


- Use a large capacity battery pack: NP-FH70/FH100 (optional).

- Frequent use of the LCD screen or a frequent playback, fast forward or rewind operation wears out the battery pack faster. We recommend using a large capacity battery pack: NP-FH70/FH100 (optional).
- Be sure to set the POWER switch to OFF(CHG) when not recording or playing back on your camcorder. The battery pack is also consumed when your camcorder is in recording standby or playback pause.
- Have spare battery packs ready for two or three times the expected recording time, and make trial recordings before making the actual recording.
- Do not expose the battery pack to water. The battery pack is not water resistant.

About the remaining battery time indicator

- When the power goes off even though the remaining battery time indicator indicates that the battery pack has enough power to operate, charge the battery pack fully again. Remaining battery time will be indicated correctly. Note, however, that the battery indication will not be restored if it is used in high temperatures for a long time, or if left in a fully charged state, or when the battery pack is frequently used. Use the remaining battery time indication as a rough guide only.
- The  mark that indicates low battery flashes even if there are still 5 to 10 minutes of battery time remaining, depending on the operating conditions or ambient temperature.

About storage of the battery pack

- If the battery pack is not used for a long time, fully charge the battery pack and use it up on your camcorder once a year to maintain proper function. To store the battery pack, remove it from your camcorder and put it in a dry, cool place.
- To discharge the battery pack on your camcorder completely, set [A.SHUT OFF] to [NEVER] on the  (OTHERS) menu and leave your camcorder in tape recording standby until the power goes off (p. 42).

About battery life

- Battery capacity decreases over time and through repeated use. If decreased usage time between charges becomes significant, it is probably time to replace it with a new one.
- Each battery's life is governed by storage, operating and environmental conditions.

About i.LINK

The DV Interface on this unit is an i.LINK-compliant DV Interface. This section describes the i.LINK standard and its features.

What is i.LINK?

i.LINK is a digital serial interface for transferring digital video, digital audio, and other data to other i.LINK-compatible devices. You can also control other devices using the i.LINK.

i.LINK-compatible devices can be connected using an i.LINK cable. Possible applications are operations and data transactions with various digital AV devices.

When two or more i.LINK-compatible devices are daisy-chained with the unit, operation becomes possible from any device in the chain. Note that operation method may vary, or data transactions may not be possible, depending on specifications and characteristics of the connected devices.

Notes

- Normally, only one device can be connected to this unit with an i.LINK cable. When connecting this unit to an i.LINK-compatible device having two or more DV Interfaces, refer to the operating instructions of the device to be connected.

Tips

- i.LINK is a more familiar term for the IEEE 1394 data transport bus proposed by Sony, and is a trademark approved by many corporations.

- IEEE 1394 is an international standard standardized by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

About the i.LINK Baud rate

i.LINK's maximum baud rate varies according to the device. There are 3 types.

S100 (approx. 100Mbps*)

S200 (approx. 200Mbps)

S400 (approx. 400Mbps)

The baud rate is listed under "Specifications" in the operating instructions of each piece of equipment. It is also indicated near the i.LINK interface on some devices.

The baud rate may differ from the indicated value when the unit is connected to a device with a different maximum baud rate.

* What is Mbps?

Mbps stands for "megabits per second," or the amount of data that can be sent or received in one second. For example, a baud rate of 100 Mbps means that 100 megabits of data can be sent in one second.

To use i.LINK functions on this unit

For details on how to dub when this unit is connected to other video devices having a DV Interface, see page 43, 45.

This unit can also be connected to other i.LINK (DV Interface) compatible devices made by Sony (e.g. a VAIO series personal computer) as well as to video devices. Some i.LINK compatible video devices, such as Digital Televisions, DVD, MICROMV or HDV recorders/players are not compatible with DV devices. Before connecting to other devices, be sure to confirm whether the device is compatible with a DV device or not. For details on precautions and compatible application software, refer also to the operating instructions for the device to be connected.

Maintenance and precautions (Continued)

🔊 Notes

- When connecting your camcorder to another i.LINK-compatible device, be sure to turn off the power of the device and disconnect the AC Adaptor from the wall outlet (wall socket) before connecting or disconnecting the i.LINK cable.

About the required i.LINK cable

Use the Sony i.LINK 4-pin-to-4-pin cable (during DV dubbing).

On using your camcorder

On use and care




- Do not use or store the camcorder and accessories in the following locations.
 - Anywhere extremely hot, cold or humid. Never leave them exposed to temperatures above 60 °C (140 °F), such as under direct sunlight, near heaters or in a car parked in the sun. They may malfunction or become deformed.
 - Near strong magnetic fields or mechanical vibration. The camcorder may malfunction.
 - Near strong radio waves or radiation. The camcorder may not be able to record properly.
 - Near AM receivers and video equipment. Noise may occur.
 - On a sandy beach or anywhere dusty. If sand or dust gets in your camcorder, it may malfunction. Sometimes this malfunction cannot be repaired.
 - Near windows or outdoors, where the LCD screen, the viewfinder, or the lens may be exposed to direct sunlight. This damages the inside of the viewfinder or the LCD screen.
- Operate your camcorder on DC 6.8 V/7.2 V (battery pack) or DC 8.4 V (AC Adaptor).
- For DC or AC operation, use the accessories recommended in these operating instructions.
- Do not let your camcorder get wet, for example, from rain or sea water. If your camcorder gets wet, it may malfunction. Sometimes this malfunction cannot be repaired.
- If any solid object or liquid gets inside the casing, unplug your camcorder and have it checked by a Sony dealer before operating it any further.

- Avoid rough handling, disassembling, modifying, physical shock, or impact such as hammering, dropping or stepping on the product. Be particularly careful of the lens.
- Keep the POWER switch setting to OFF(CHG) when you are not using your camcorder.
- Do not wrap your camcorder with a towel, for example, and operate it. Doing so might cause heat to build up inside.
- When disconnecting the power cord (mains lead), pull it by the plug and not the cord.
- Do not damage the power cord (mains lead) such as by placing anything heavy on it.
- Keep metal contacts clean.
- If the battery electrolytic liquid has leaked,
 - consult your local authorized Sony service facility.
 - wash off any liquid that may have contacted your skin
 - if any liquid gets in your eyes, wash with plenty of water and consult a doctor.

■ When not using your camcorder for a long time



- Periodically turn on the camcorder and play a cassette for about 3 minutes.
- Use up the battery pack completely before storing it.

Moisture condensation

If your camcorder is brought directly from a cold place to a warm place, moisture may condense inside your camcorder, on the surface of the tape, or on the lens. In this state, the tape may stick to the head drum and be damaged or your camcorder may not operate correctly. If there is moisture inside your camcorder, []  Moisture condensation. Eject the cassette] or [] Moisture condensation. Turn off for 1H.] appears. The indicator will not appear when the moisture condenses on the lens.

■ If moisture condensation has occurred

None of the functions except cassette ejection will work. Eject the cassette, turn off your camcorder, and leave it for about one hour with the cassette lid open. Your camcorder can be used again when both of the following conditions are met:

- The warning message does not appear when the power is turned on.
- Neither  or  flash when a cassette is inserted and video operation buttons are touched.

If moisture starts to condense, your camcorder sometimes cannot detect condensation. If this happens, the cassette is sometimes not ejected for 10 seconds after the cassette lid is opened. This is not a malfunction. Do not close the cassette lid until the cassette is ejected.

■ Note on moisture condensation

Moisture may condense when you bring your camcorder from a cold place into a warm place (or vice versa) or when you use your camcorder in a humid place as shown below.

- When you bring your camcorder from a ski slope into a place warmed up by a heating device.
- When you bring your camcorder from an air conditioned car or room into a hot place outside.
- When you use your camcorder after a squall or a shower.
- When you use your camcorder in a hot and humid place.

■ How to avoid moisture condensation


When you bring your camcorder from a cold place into a warm place, put your camcorder in a plastic bag and seal it tightly. Remove the bag when the air temperature inside the plastic bag has reached the surrounding temperature (after about one hour).

Video head

It is recommended you use a cleaning cassette (optional) before recording anything important.

- If the video heads are dirty, video or sound distortion may be apparent.
- If the following problem occurs, clean the video heads for 10 seconds with the Sony DVM-12CLD cleaning cassette (optional).
 - Mosaic-pattern noise appears on the playback picture or the screen is displayed in blue.



- Playback pictures do not move.
- Playback pictures do not appear or the sound breaks off.
-  Dirty video head. Use a cleaning cassette. [LCD error] appears on the screen during recording/playback.
- The video heads will wear after long use. If you cannot obtain a clear image even after using a cleaning cassette (optional), it might be because the video heads are worn. Please contact your Sony dealer or local authorized Sony service facility to have the video heads replaced.

LCD screen

- Do not exert excessive pressure on the LCD screen, as it may cause damage.
- If your camcorder is used in a cold place, a residual image may appear on the LCD screen. This is not a malfunction.
- While using your camcorder, the back of the LCD screen may heat up. This is not a malfunction.

■ To clean the LCD screen

If fingerprints or dust make the LCD screen dirty, it is recommended you use a soft cloth to clean it. When you use the LCD Cleaning Kit (optional), do not apply the cleaning liquid directly to the LCD screen. Use cleaning paper moistened with the liquid.

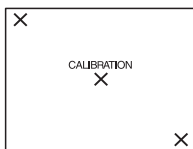
■ On adjustment of the touch panel (CALIBRATION)

The buttons on the touch panel may not work correctly. If this happens, follow the procedure below. It is recommended you connect your camcorder to the wall outlet (wall socket) using the supplied AC Adaptor during the operation.

- ① Turn off the power, then slide the POWER switch repeatedly to turn on the PLAY/EDIT lamp while pressing DISP/BATT INFO on your camcorder, and keep pressing down DISP/BATT INFO for about 5 seconds.

Maintenance and precautions (Continued)

- ② Touch the “x” displayed on the screen with the corner of the “Memory Stick” or the like.



The position of the “x” changes. If you did not press the right spot, start from step ② again.

- You cannot calibrate the LCD screen if it is rotated.

On handling the casing

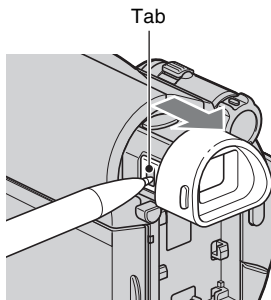
- If the casing is soiled, clean the camcorder body with a soft cloth lightly moistened with water, and then wipe the casing with a dry soft cloth.
- Avoid the following to avoid damage to the finish.
 - Using chemicals such as thinner, benzine, alcohol, chemical cloths, repellent, insecticide and sunscreen.
 - Handling with above substances on your hands.
 - Leaving the casing in contact with rubber or vinyl objects for a long period of time.

About care and storage of the lens

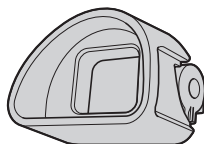
- Wipe the surface of the lens clean with a soft cloth in the following instances:
 - When there are fingerprints on the lens surface.
 - In hot or humid locations
 - When the lens is exposed to salty air such as at the seaside.
- Store in a well-ventilated location subject to little dirt or dust.
- To prevent mold, periodically clean the lens as described above. It is recommended that you operate your camcorder about once a month to keep it in optimum state for a long time.

To remove dust from inside the viewfinder

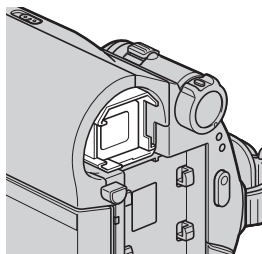
- ① Pull out the viewfinder.
- ② While pushing in the tab on the side with a fine-tipped implement such as a ball point pen, pull the eyecup block in the direction of the arrow to remove.



- ③ Remove dust from the eyecup block with a camera blower, etc.

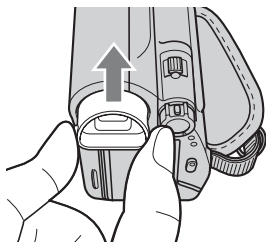


- ④ Press the viewfinder onto the body of the camcorder.
- ⑤ Remove dust from the inside area where the eyecup block was attached with a camera blower, etc.



Specifications

- ⑥ Attach the eyecup block to the viewfinder, pushing it straight on until it clicks.



Notes

- The eyecup block is a precision part. Do not disassemble it further.
- Do not touch the lens of the eyecup block.

On charging the pre-installed rechargeable battery

Your camcorder has a pre-installed rechargeable battery to retain the date, time, and other settings even when the POWER switch is set to OFF(CHG). The pre-installed rechargeable battery is always charged while your camcorder is connected to the wall outlet (wall socket) via the AC Adaptor or while the battery pack is attached. The rechargeable battery will be fully discharged in **about 3 months** if you do not use your camcorder at all without the AC Adaptor connected or the battery pack attached. Use your camcorder after charging the pre-installed rechargeable battery. However, even if the pre-installed rechargeable battery is not charged, the camcorder operation will not be affected as long as you are not recording the date.

Procedures

Connect your camcorder to a wall outlet (wall socket) using the supplied AC Adaptor, and leave it with the POWER switch set to OFF(CHG) for more than 24 hours.

System

Video recording system

2 rotary heads, Helical scanning system

Audio recording system

Rotary heads, PCM system

Quantization: 12 bits (Fs 32 kHz, stereo 1, stereo 2), 16 bits (Fs 48 kHz, stereo)

Video signal

PAL color, CCIR standards

Usable cassette

Mini DV cassette with the ^{Mini}DV mark printed

Tape speed

SP: Approx. 18.81 mm/s

LP: Approx. 12.56 mm/s

Recording/playback time

SP: 60 min (using a DVM60 cassette)

LP: 90 min (using a DVM60 cassette)

Fast forward/rewind time

Approx. 2 min 40 s (using a DVM60 cassette and rechargeable battery pack)

Approx. 1 min 45 s (using a DVM60 cassette and AC Adaptor)

Viewfinder

Electric viewfinder (color)

Image device

3.0 mm (1/6 type) CCD (Charge Coupled Device)

Gross: Approx. 800 000 pixels

Effective (movie): Approx. 400 000 pixels

Lens

Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar

40 × (Optical), 2 000 × (Digital)

Focal length

f=1.9 ~ 76 mm (3/32 ~ 3 in.)

When converted to a 35 mm still camera

In CAMERA: 36 ~ 1 440 mm (1 7/16 ~ 56 3/4 in.)

F1.8 ~ 4.1

Filter diameter: 30 mm (1 3/16 in.)

Specifications (Continued)

Color temperature

[AUTO], [ONE PUSH], [INDOOR]
(3 200 K), [OUTDOOR] (5 800 K)

Minimum illumination

11 lx (lux) (F 1.8)
0 lx (lux) (during NightShot plus
function)

Input/Output connectors

A/V Remote Connector

10-pin connector
Video signal: 1 Vp-p, 75 Ω (ohms)
Luminance signal: 1 Vp-p, 75 Ω (ohms)
Chrominance signal: 0.3 Vp-p, 75 Ω
(ohms)
Audio signal: 327 mV (at load
impedance 47 kΩ (kilohms)), Output
impedance with less than 2.2 kΩ
(kilohms)

USB jack (DCR-HC53E/HC54E)

mini-B

DV input/output jack (DCR-HC52E/ HC54E)

i.LINK Interface (IEEE1394, 4-pin
connector S100)

DV output jack (DCR-HC51E/HC53E)

i.LINK Interface (IEEE1394, 4-pin
connector S100)

LCD screen

Picture

6.2 cm (2.5 type)

Total dot number

123 200 (560 × 220)

General

Power requirements

DC 6.8 V/7.2 V (battery pack)
DC 8.4 V (AC Adaptor)

Average power consumption

During camera recording using the
viewfinder 1.8 W

During camera recording using the
LCD 2.1 W

Operating temperature

0 °C to 40 °C (32 °F to 104 °F)

Storage temperature

-20 °C to +60 °C (-4 °F to +140 °F)

Dimensions (approx.)

63 × 85 × 114 mm
(2 1/2 × 3 3/8 × 4 1/2 in.) (w/h/d)
including the projecting parts
63 × 85 × 115 mm
(2 1/2 × 3 3/8 × 4 5/8 in.) (w/h/d)
including the projecting parts with
supplied battery pack NP-FH30
attached

Mass (approx.)

380g(13oz) main unit only
440g(15oz) including the NP-FH30
rechargeable battery pack and DVM60
cassette.

Supplied accessories

See page 9.

AC Adaptor AC-L200/L200B

Power requirements

AC 100 V - 240 V, 50/60 Hz

Current consumption

0.35 - 0.18 A

Power consumption

18 W

Output voltage

DC 8.4 V*

Operating temperature

0 °C to 40 °C (32 °F to 104 °F)

Storage temperature

-20 °C to +60 °C (-4 °F to +140 °F)

Dimensions (approx.)

48 × 29 × 81 mm (1 15/16 × 1 3/16 ×
3 1/4 in.) (w/h/d) excluding the
projecting parts

Mass (approx.)

170 g (6.0 oz) excluding the power cord
(mains lead)

* See the label on the AC Adaptor for other specifications.

Rechargeable battery pack (NP-FH30)

Maximum output voltage

DC 8.4 V

Output voltage

DC 7.2 V

Capacity

3.6 Wh (500 mAh)

Dimensions (approx.)

31.8 × 18.5 × 45.0 mm
(1 5/16 × 3/4 × 1 13/16 in) (w/h/d)

Mass (approx.)

40 g (1.5 oz)

Operating temperature

0 °C to 40 °C (32 °F to 104 °F)

Type

Lithium ion

Design and specifications are subject to change without notice.

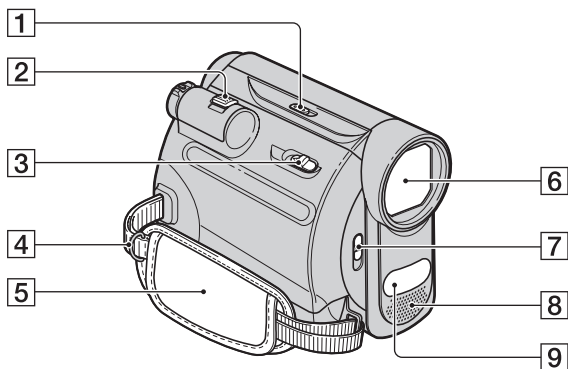
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Identifying parts and controls

The numbers in () are reference pages.



1 NIGHTSHOT PLUS switch (20)

2 Power zoom lever (20)

3  OPEN/EJECT lever (16)

4 Hooks for a shoulder belt
Attach a shoulder belt (optional).

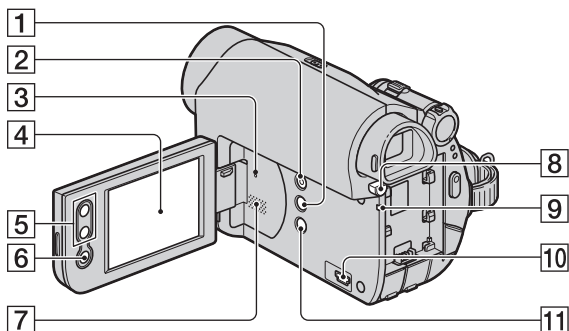
5 Grip belt (15)


6 Lens (Carl Zeiss Lens) (5)

7 LENS COVER switch (15)

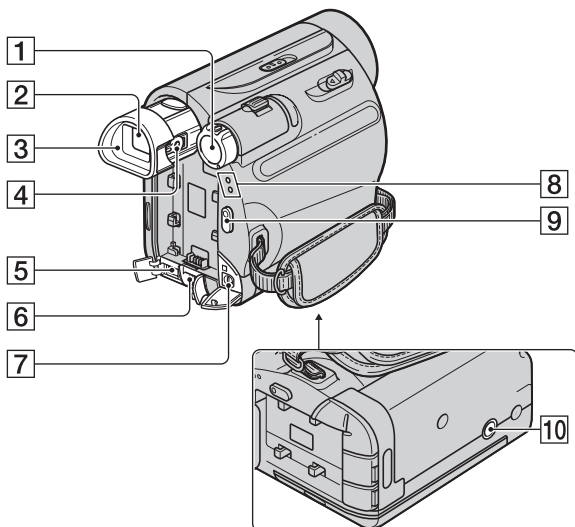
8 Internal stereo microphone (34)

9 Infrared port (20)



- 1** DISP/BATT INFO button (11, 15)
- 2** EASY button (17)
- 3** RESET button
Initializes all the settings, including the setting of the date and time.
- 4** LCD screen/touch panel (15, 71)
- 5** Zoom buttons (20)
- 6** REC START/STOP button (17, 19)
- 7** Speaker
Playback sounds comes out from the speaker. For how to adjust the volume, see page 22.
- 8** BATT (battery release) PUSH button (11)
- 9** CHG (charge) lamp (10)
- 10** For DCR-HC53E/HC54E:
ψ (USB) jack
- 11**  (back light) button (21)

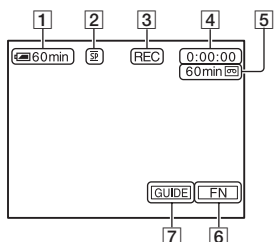
Identifying parts and controls (Continued)



- 1** POWER switch (13)
- 2** Viewfinder (15)
- 3** Eyecup (64)
- 4** Viewfinder lens adjustment lever (15)
- 5** For DCR-HC51E/HC53E:
ⓘ DV OUT interface (43)
For DCR-HC52E/HC54E:
ⓘ DV interface (43, 45)
- 6** DC IN jack (10)
- 7** A/V Remote Connector (26, 43)
- 8** CAMERA, PLAY/EDIT lamp (13)
- 9** REC START/STOP button (17, 19)
- 10** Tripod receptacle
Attach the tripod (optional: the length of the screw must be less than 5.5 mm (7/32 in.)) to the tripod receptacle using a tripod screw.

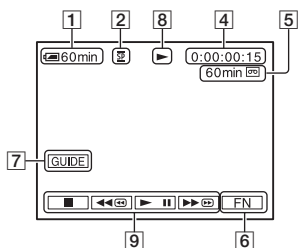
Indicators displayed during recording/playback

Recording



- 1 Remaining battery (approx.)
- 2 Recording mode (SP or LP) (41)
- 3 Recording status ([STBY] (standby) or [REC] (recording))
- 4 Recording: Tape counter (hour: minute: second)
Playback: Time code (hour: minute: second: frame)
- 5 Recording capacity of the tape (approx.) (41)
- 6 Function button (28)
- 7 Guide button (23)
- 8 Tape transport indicator
- 9 Video operation buttons (22)

Viewing



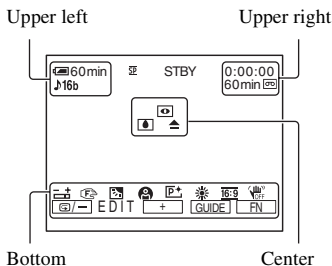
Indicators displayed during recording/playback (Continued)

Indicators when you made changes

You can use [DISP GUIDE] (p. 72) to check the function of each indicator that appears on the LCD screen.

Notes

- Some of the indicators may not appear when you use [DISP GUIDE].



Upper left

Indicator	Meaning
16b	AUDIO MODE (41)

Upper right

Indicator	Meaning
DVIN	DV input (45)

Center

Indicator	Meaning
NightShot plus icon	NightShot plus (20)
Warning icon	Warning (56)

Bottom

Indicator	Meaning
Flexible spot meter/exposure icon	Flexible spot meter (30)/ Manual exposure (31)
Manual exposure icon	Manual exposure (29)
Backlight icon	Backlight (21)

Indicator	Meaning
SCENE SEL. icons	SCENE SEL. (30)
Picture effect icon	Picture effect (37)
White balance icons	White balance (32)
Wide select icon	Wide select (38)
SteadyShot off icon	SteadyShot off (38)
EDITSEARCH icon	EDITSEARCH (38)

Notes

- The content and the position of the indicator are normal. It may differ from the actual display.

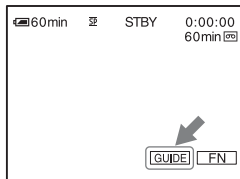
Data code during recording

The date/time during recording and the camera setting data will be recorded automatically. They do not appear on the screen during recording, but you can check them as [DATA CODE] during playback (p. 33).

Checking the screen indicators (Display guide)

You can easily check the meaning of each indicator that appears on the LCD screen.

- Touch [GUIDE] → [DISP GUIDE].




- Touch the area including the indicator that you want to check.

The meanings of the indicators in the area are listed on the screen. If you cannot find the indicator you want to check, touch [PAGE ↓]/[PAGE ↑] to toggle.

To finish the operation, touch [END].

 **Tips**

- You can also operate by touching  → [DISP GUIDE].

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Additional information on this product and answers to frequently asked questions can be found at our Customer Support Website.

<http://www.sony.net/>



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