

# Sony TRV-900 miniDV Camcorder

Notes by Rob Danielson 9/03

Owner's manual:

<http://www.sonystyle.com/pdfs/3864632142.pdf>

Everything humans might want to know about the TRV-900:

<http://www.bealecorner.com/>

TRV-900/950 User's Group (may find used ones for sale too)

<http://www.camcorderinfo.com/board/list.php?f=13>

## Suggestions:

MANUALLY set these function:

- **Shutter Speed**
- **"Exposure" Aperture setting using with the Zebra display.**
- **Color Balance on White Card**
- **Use an External Mic and set Mic Level Manually**
- **In bright daylight, use ND filter and Set Gain Shift to -3dB**

Check battery condition, it takes about 30-60 minutes to charge.

Check the lens for dust etc, remove the shade and ONLY CLEAN WITH LENS TISSUE!!! Use only lens cleaning tissue - not nose tissue,

When you first turn-on the camcorder, check that the "AUTO Lock" Button is not ON, put this switch in the center position

If you can find it by the main power switch, pull back the "photo mode lock-out" button so it won't go into this mode when you put it into camera mode.

Check these Menu Settings before you shoot (BOLD items are especially important):  
Open side screen, press "menu" button:

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Auto Shutter: ON

Progressive Scan: OFF for live video, ON for taking stills.

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Digital Zoom: ON

**16:9 Wide: OFF**

SteadyShot: ON

AE Shift: Middle Position

Gain Shift: -3dB for Bright Lighting

Frame Record: Off

Int. Rec: Off

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LCD Color: Middle

LCD Brightness: Middle

Zebra: **ON**

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**Record Mode: SP!!!**

**Audio Mode: 16 Bit!!!!**

**Mic Level: Manual. Adjust so peaks do not make the red light come on. Use an external mic and monitor with headphones.**

Remain: Auto

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Clock Set: Set to date, time

Auto TV: OFF

TV Input: Video 1

Letter Size: Normal

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World Time: whatever,..

Beep: OFF

Commander: ON

Display: LCD

Rec Lamp: OFF

Color Bar: OFF

Press "menu" button again to turn off menu options.

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From the "Beale's Corner TRV-900 Website, Other Tips & Tricks:

if you go manual and slow the shutter down then you can also hit the exposure after and remove much of the noise in the picture. But you can't select exposure to reduce the gain and then select shutter! You have to learn the button pressing order .

If you select FF in VTR mode you get a blue screen. But you can hit FF again while it is fastforwarding to temporarily display what you are passing on the tape. When you release it goes back to the FF blue screen

Reducing Gain and Using Neutral Density Filter

The camera can have the gain reduced by 3db, and a "GS" appears in the viewfinder. This reduces the overall gain for normal shooting conditions, yet allows the gain to go up in low light. I recommend this setting for reduced noise.

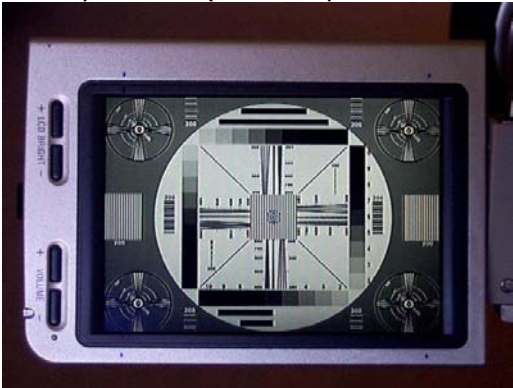
If you cannot figure out why the headphones don't seem to be working, see if the volume control on the flip out screen has been turned right down. In addition to adjusting the headphones level, this control also adjusts the speaker level when headphones are not plugged in.

The Sony VHS VCR remote (model RMT-V158) in mode 1, will control the TRV900. All of the other transport controls work, including using the shuttle for various speed forward/reverse play. The Sony RMT-V229 remote also works.

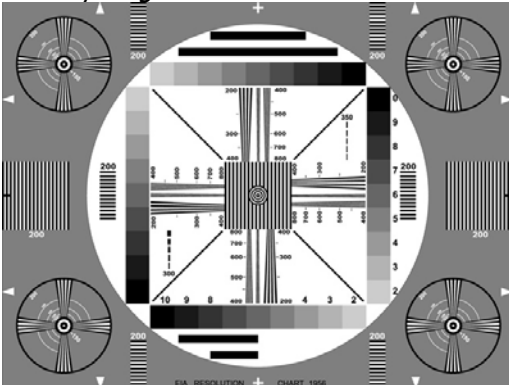
Oddity: The TRV900 can record in DVCAM format if the tape is pre stripped in the DCVcam format. It still uses unlocked audio. DVCAM format normally has locked audio.

Static with mic connections. There's a liquid product called "Stabilant 22" from D.W. Electrochemicals, Ltd. [http://www.posthorn.com/Stab\\_2.html](http://www.posthorn.com/Stab_2.html) that supposedly removes noise from connectors like that of 1/8' (3.5mm) mini-jacks.

What you see: (wider aspect ratio with more on the sides)



What you get on a standard 3:4 video monitor/television:



**trv-900 specs:**

- Audio Recording/Playback System 12/16-bit PCM
- Imaging Device (gross pixels) 3 x 380,000
- Filter Diameter 52mm
- Memory Mode (Digital Still Camera Function) Yes (640 x 480)
- Progressive Shutter Mode Prog. Scan
- Zoom Lens/Digital Zoom 12X/48X
- Super SteadyShot System Yes (Optical)
- Lux Rating 4 Lux
- Shutter Speeds 1/15-1/10,000 AE
- Power Management Stamina Battery Life 8 Hours
- AccuPower Battery Meter Yes
- SwivelScreen LCD Monitor (diag.) 3.5" Precision
- Viewfinder Precision Color
- LaserLink IR Transmission System Yes
- i.LINK DV Interface (IEEE1394) Yes
- Control-L (LANC) Edit Interface Yes
- Analog Audio/Video Inputs Yes
- Drop Frame Time Code Yes
- Built-In Speaker Yes
- Edit Search Yes

World Time Clock Yes  
Intelligent Accessory Shoe Yes  
Remote Control Yes  
Picture Effects 6 Modes  
Digital Picture Effects 5 Modes  
Audio/Video Digital Fader 5 Modes  
16:9 Recording Yes  
Digital Photo Mode Yes  
Memory Mode 640 x 480  
MANUAL CONTROLS  
Program Auto Exposure 5 Modes  
Manual Focus Yes (ring)  
Manual Exposure Yes  
Manual Audio Gain

### **TRV-950 Specs (replaced the 900)**

Imaging Device Three 1/4.7" 1,070K Gross Pixels, Advanced HADTMCCDs  
Video Actual 690K per CCD Imager  
Still Actual 1,000K per CCD Imager  
F: 1.6-2.8  
Focal Distance 3.6-43.2mm  
35mm Conversion 49-588mm (Camera Mode)  
41-492mm (Memory Mode)  
Filter Diameter 37mm  
Optical Zoom 12X  
Digital Zoom 150X  
Focusing Full Range Auto/Manual/Spot(Touch Panel)  
Minimum Illumination 7 Lux  
NightShot Infrared System N/A  
Shutter Speed 1/4-1/10,000(AE Mode)  
Memory Mode Yes, 1152 x 864, 640 x 480  
MPEG Movie EX Mode Yes, 320 x 240, 160 x 112  
Viewfinder Color (180K)  
LCD 3.5" Color (246K)  
Accessory Shoe Yes (Intelligent)  
Portable Printer Capable Yes  
Video Input/Output Yes/Yes (Special and S-Video)  
Audio Input/Output Yes/Yes (Stereo)  
i.LINK® DV Interface (IEEE1394) Yes (4 Pin)  
USB Terminal Yes  
USB Streaming Yes  
Headphone Jack Yes (Mini, Stereo)  
Mic-Input Yes (Stereo)  
White Balance Auto, Outdoor, Indoor, Hold  
Exposure Yes/Dial (24 Step)  
Software OS Compatibility Microsoft® Windows® 98SE, 2000, Me, XP;  
Macintosh® 8.5.1 - 9.1(2)  
Power Consumption (VF/LCD/VF+LCD) 4.9W/6.3W/6.6W