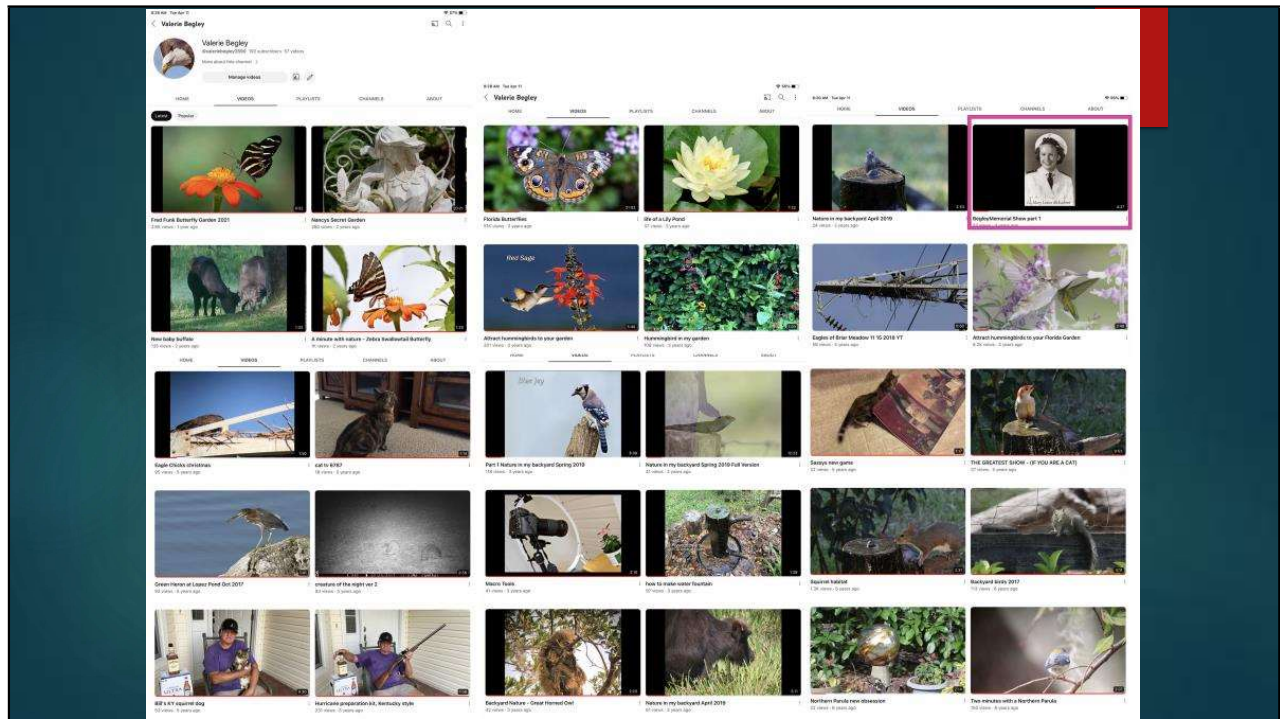




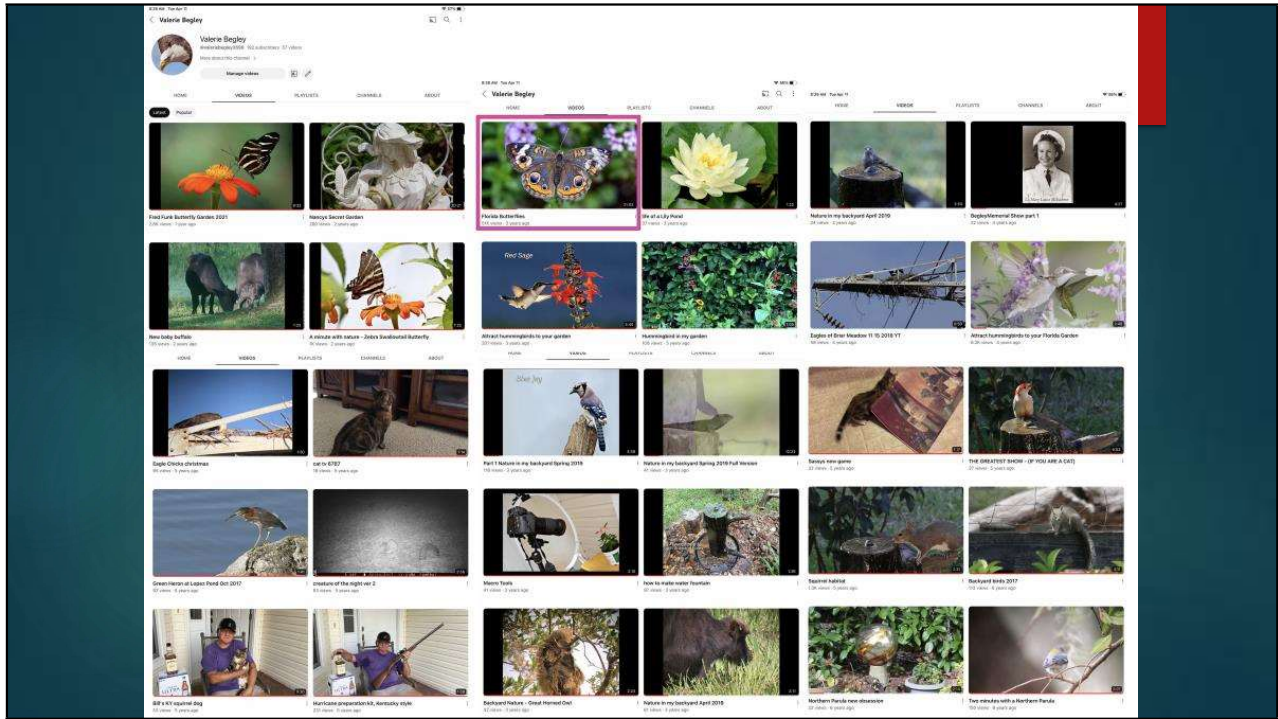
DSLR Video for still photographers

VALERIE BEGLEY

At our last meeting Jim Leonard gave a fabulous presentation on shooting sports highlights. What he taught was how to shoot video, from a professional point of view. I am not going to repeat what he said, but keep in mind that what he taught is relevant to everything I am presenting. I am just going to share with you my amateur experiences from making my personal videos.



This is a screen clip of my YouTube page. I started using YouTube as a way to share my little personal slideshows with family and friends. Highlighted in purple top right is the very first slideshow I ever made around 2008. I used Photodex Proshow gold which is no longer available. I did not know how it worked so I created all my visuals in photoshop and then imported them into proshow, added music and transitions. That is the most basic way to use one of these programs and it still will be all some of you will ever need.



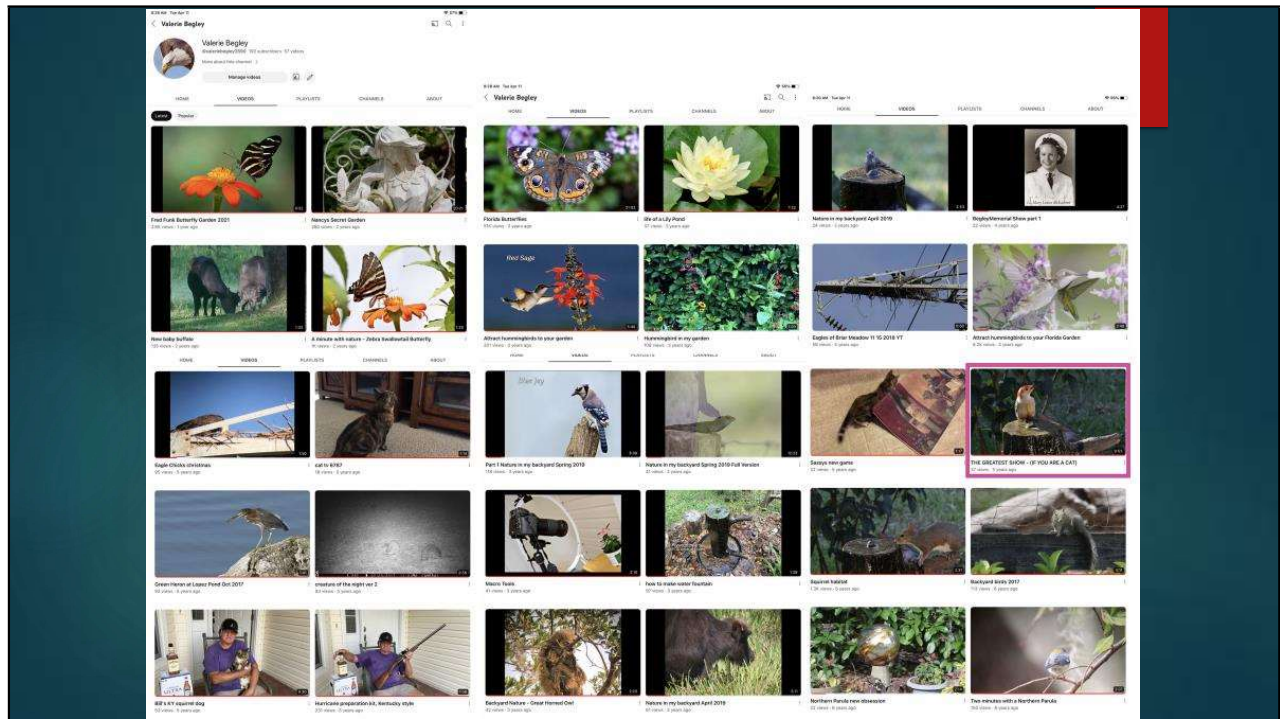
Then in 2013 I bought a Canon 60D for the sole purpose that it shot video. I created this Florida Butterflies slideshow\video with the first videos I ever shot with this camera.

I did not know anything about how to shoot video. I just put it in video mode and pressed the button.

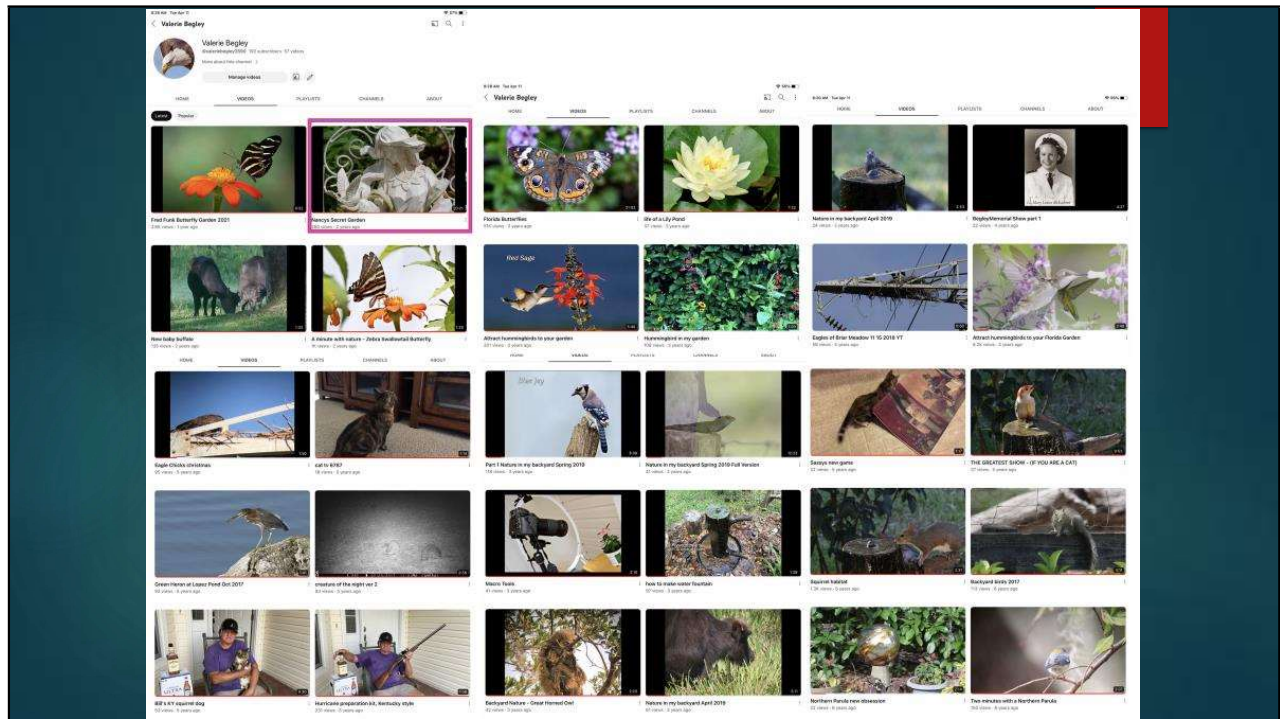
In fact this camera gave me no option.

Look at my video Florida Butterflies on YouTube. Don't you agree the addition of video is so much better than having just still photos?

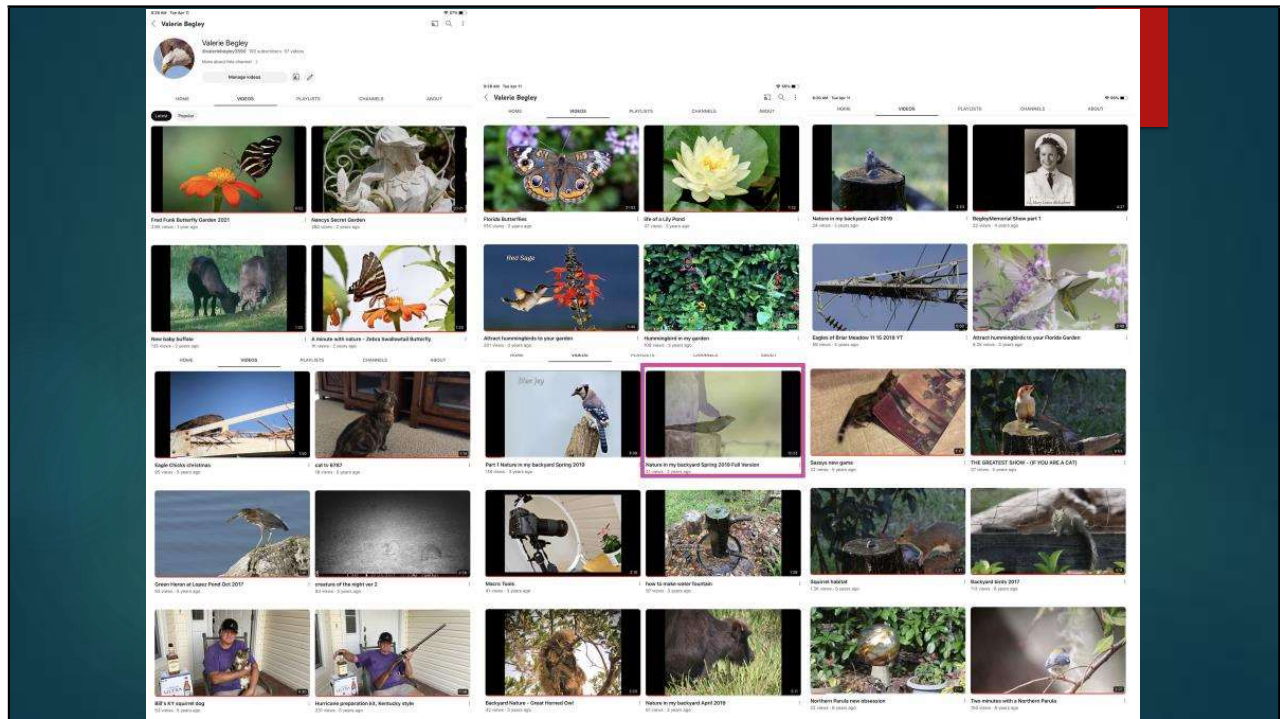
YouTube\Valerie Begley
Florida Butterflies
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teeMD-sSDMI>



I consider myself a still photographer and if someone asks me to shoot video for a wedding or a meeting I say no. But the medium of video is sometimes the best way to capture a scene and tell a story, or teach a topic. All of these videos I did for me, for fun. The video "The Greatest Show, if you're a cat" is the closest I have come to telling a story. It was inspired by me watching my new cat fascinated with the wildlife in my backyard.



Nancys Secret Garden was created because I bought a gimbal for my iphone and I wanted to learn to use it. I have a friend who has a fabulous garden and she let me photograph in it to create this video. This is primarily iphone video and DSLR stills.



Then I made Nature in my backyard to show off the variety of wildlife that I love to watch in my backyard. This is a combination of DSLR video and still photos and a little bit of iPhone video.

I wanted to share some of what I do as an amateur, to show that you don't have to be a professional to have sharable quality. We have the tools available to us, so take advantage them.

Samples

▶ Florida Butterflies

▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teeMD-sSDMI>

▶ Nature in my backyard

▶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_6cdMMJI28

Watch a few minutes of a couple of "videos" I have made. This is just a reference point for further discussion.

the videos on my youtube channel you will see that I don't have storylines or scripts. I have never made a storyboard.

Storyboards are used to help create a storyline and communicate to a team what is needed to tell the story.

With my videos I am mostly just sharing some of the nature I have seen or making a short instructional video. Since it is just me I have the idea in my head and it never gets to storyboard form.

The video, Florida Butterflies was done with a Canon 60D. I did not know or research anything about how to shoot video I just put it in video mode and shot.

This is not an easy camera to shoot video with, compared to my Canon 5D mark iv that has a touch screen LED. It makes it Sooooo much easier to focus.

Looking at what I had shot and created with non-discriminating amateur eyes I was happy with what I got and put the images together to make this video.

In the "Nature in my backyard" I have also used some iphone video for my wide

shots. And the advantage of my DSLR is my telephoto lens to get in close to the nature for their close-up.




- The difference between shooting video with a Video camera, DSLR camera, and a phone camera

- ▶ Video cameras

- ▶ designed primarily for Video
- ▶ have better autofocus and stabilization features, which makes them easier to use for shooting video.
- ▶ typically have fixed lenses, but there are some video cameras that do have interchangeable lenses.

So now lets get to the instructional part of this presentation.

- 
- The difference between shooting video with a Video camera, DSLR camera, and a phone camera
 - ▶ DSLR cameras
 - ▶ designed primarily for still photography
 - ▶ have larger sensors than video cameras, which means they can capture more light and produce images with better detail
 - ▶ have interchangeable lenses, which gives you more flexibility in terms of the look and feel of your videos

- 
- The difference between shooting video with a Video camera, DSLR camera, and a phone camera
 - ▶ Phone cameras
 - ▶ Designed for easy use for still and video photography
 - ▶ Have smaller sensors than video and still cameras,
 - ▶ Difficult to "lock in" exposure and focus settings
 - ▶ Although they have "special effects" such as slo-mo and timelapse these effects need to be re-edited in in your production editing software to achieve that effect.
 - ▶ Benefit: You almost always have it with you!!!

During covid did you notice how many Broadcast TV shows were using phone cameras for their off-site video interviews.

Choose the right camera and lens

- ▶ Not all DSLR cameras are created equal, and some are better suited for video than others. If you're serious about shooting video, you'll want to invest in a camera with a dedicated video mode and a lens that is compatible with video recording.

Back in the day I had a Canon 50D. It did not have video capabilities so I upgraded to a Canon 60D just to shoot video.

This was not an easy camera to photograph video. Now I use my Canon 5D mark iv and due to the touch screen on the back and a dedicated video mode it is much easier to shoot video.

Has anyone with a mirrorless camera shot video with it. I am sure that the advantage of real time live view is a tremendous advantage.

Set up your camera

- ▶ Make sure you have a tripod.
- ▶ You'll also want to set the white balance and adjust the exposure settings.

When shooting video you really need a tripod. I don't think anyone can hand hold a camera still enough to shoot video. If you are serious about doing video they do have gimbals for both phone cameras and DSLRs

In Jim Leonard's last presentation he gave some examples of camera stabilization that he has used when photographing action. He also have tips about setting your white balance and exposure. I am not going to go into great detail about that here but I will stress what he said about making sure your whites aren't blown out.

He called it Zebra stripes, but most DSLR show it a "blinkies" when your whites are overexposed.

Compose your shot

- ▶ Before you start recording, take a few minutes to think about what you want to capture. What is the subject of your video? What are you trying to say with your video?

When I decided to create my videos I knew I wanted a variety of shots and angles to choose from. Think about when you are watching a TV show. Often they start with a ariel view of a city. Then maybe a shot of a building, then the shot of a room, then someone enters the room, then your get a close up. My videos and not as complex, but I do want to start with a wide shot and then start moving it for specifics.

I usually have an end in mind so I know if I want a wide shot or a close in shot it. Am I shooting a scene or a subject.

Sometimes when I am watching a nature show on TV and they have all these videos about what is going on in the life of an animal such as a bear cub. Someone has taken a lot of video of a bear or maybe many different bears over a season or maybe many seasons. Someone has to look at all these clips. Write a story to make out of them and then the editor has to put all these video clips into something resembling a story. If you have a photographers eye you might notice that some of these shows are using some random images and trying to connect them to create a dramatic story about the life of this bear/ lion/meercat.

Start recording.

▶ What to capture

I am going to reference Jim Leonard again. He recommended that it is best to shoot short segments. This helps in many ways.

1. Let's face it, we all have short attention spans. when I put the final clips in my video I keep it as short as I can to communicate what is happening in the shot. I don't want to lose the attention of the viewer.

2. It helps when writing the image to the card. You need to have a high speed card to write video. Shorter clips will save faster.

3. Having shorter segments helps when organizing and storing the files. Jim recommended to organize the clips by type of shot wide, close-up etc.

When I made my Nature in my Backyard video I would gather my clips of a specific subject in a folder, then do exactly that, sort by shot type.

Video files are large and take a lot of storage space. If you have short organized clips it is faster to review and discard any un needed clips.

Recording video – Make it interesting

- ▶ Use short segments
- ▶ Vary camera angles
- ▶ Use wide, medium and close-ups
- ▶ Experiment with angles and lighting if possible

To Review

Capturing Sound

- ▶ **Built-in microphone** on your DSLR camera.
- ▶ However, the sound quality will not be as good as if you used an external microphone.

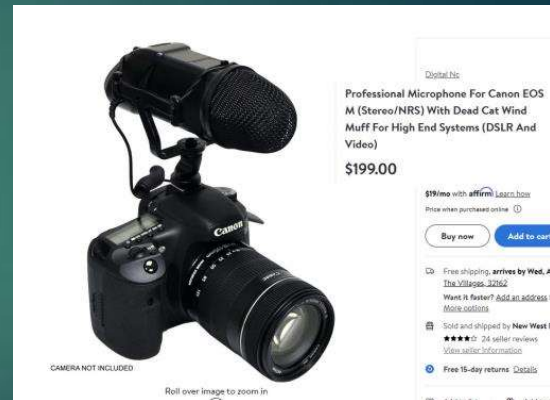


Choices for capturing sound. The microphone already in your camera.

There is a reason I rarely do video where I have to record sound. It is difficult to shoot live video and not get the sound of wind whistling through the microphone. My experience is that since it is almost always windy in Florida the wind noise is a real problem if you need to capture the actual sound in the scene.

Capturing Sound

- ▶ **Use an external microphone.** External microphones will provide better sound quality than the built-in microphone on your DSLR camera.



External microphones can be directional and help capture sound and help reduce background noise

Capturing Sound

► Use an external microphone.



This is the on camera directional external microphone I bought. In my non-scientific sound tests, I did not notice a significant difference in the quality of the sound and I still had wind noise, even using the "dead cat" muff.

If you are filming inside try to be in a quiet place and use an external mic or a lavalier that you can clip on a person who is speaking.

If you are filming around your home or other photographers and you need the Ambient sound of the scene, make sure they know you are photographing video and tell them to be quiet.

There is a reason why in post editing I drop out the sound and use a music soundtrack in the background. My husband can't tell when I am taking a photo or shooting video and often he will walk up and start talking to me while I am shooting video.

Capturing Sound

- ▶ **Position the microphone close to your subject.** The closer the microphone is to your subject, the better the sound will be.



If you have to film someone speaking and this is something you want to do regularly I highly recommend getting a wireless lavalier. They even have Dead cat wind muffs for them.

NTSC or PAL – Natural frame rates

- ▶ NTSC – North America 24fps 60hz
- ▶ PAL – Europe 25fps 50hz

In North America we use the NTSC format



Map of where they use NTSC vs PAL

If you go on vacation to Europe and you come home to edit your videos Shoot in NTSC

Video Frame rates

- ▶ The frame rate is the number of frames that are captured each second when shooting video.

YouTube:
[Ultimate Guide to FRAME RATES for CINEMATIC VIDEO - When to use 24, 25, 30, 50, 60, 100, 120 FPS?](#)
[Jacques Crafford](#)

Video frame rates were a big mystery to me. I did all the videos on my youtube channel without knowing anything about frame rates.

However

I am going to do a quick overview, because knowing a little about something will always help you have more success and control of the finished project.

I watched many YouTube videos on frame rate, this was the easiest and most concise that I found.

Ultimate Guide to FRAME RATES for CINEMATIC VIDEO – Jacques Crafford

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9KPy3LrhVQ>

Video Frame rates NTSC

- ▶ The most common frame rates for DSLR video are 24 fps, 30 fps, and 60 fps.
 - ▶ 24 fps is the "natural" or standard frame rate for cinema in North America
 - ▶ 30 fps is the standard frame rate for broadcast television
 - ▶ 60 fps is often used for slow-motion video.

In North America 24fps is the "natural" frame rate. It is what you use to make everything look normal

When researching this topic I found that 30fps is used for broadcast TV. I don't video for TV and I don't know anything more about that.

60fps is what you want to shoot in if you KNOW you will be making a slow motion sequence.

Frame Rate Slow Motion (Slo-Mo)

- ▶ When used intentionally this is a really cool effect
- ▶ To capture slo-mo use a higher frame rate to capture more images per second
- ▶ Save your slo-mo for a special moment to add more impact by creating contrast when transitioning from a natural scene

Frame Rate - Dialog

- ▶ Use the "natural" frame rate when recording dialog otherwise it might ruin the speed of talking and cause syncing problems once you import the video into an editing program.

If you are capturing dialog only shoot in the natural frame rate 24fps. If you change the frame rate for dialog and put it into your editing software. It will ruin the speed of talking causing syncing problems with the audio natural frame rate in the software.

Frame Rate and Shutter Speed - Capturing Movement

- ▶ How fast is your subject moving?
 - ▶ Do you want to show it as it really is?
- ▶ The shutter speed rule states that your shutter speed should always be double that of your frame rate to maintain natural motion
- ▶ If frame rate is 24, shutter speed should be at 1\50 of a sec

When shooting ask yourself "How fast is the movement, Who or what am I shooting? Do I want the viewer to see things as they really are? the shutter speed rule states that your shutter speed should always be double that of your frame rate to maintain natural motion.

Jim Leonard recommended using a variable neutral density filter. This is like adding a fourth item to add to the exposure triangle.

Let's think this through. You are shooting on a bright sunny day. You have enough light to use ISO 200, You want shallow depth of field so you want to photograph say at F\4 but based on the exposure triangle your light meter says you need to use a shutter speed of 1\500th sec to get the correct exposure. This shutter speed could cause your video to look very choppy.

The addition of a Variable Neutral Density filter can cut down the light entering the camera allowing you to use the preferred 1/50th sec shutter speed. This shutter speed actually causes a little blur between frames causing the video to look more smooth. Breaking the shutter rule could cause some items to look unrealistic.

Getting Started

Edit your video.

Once you have your footage, you can start editing it in a video editing program. There are many different programs available, and each one has its own strengths and weaknesses.

Last year I gave a presentation on video and slideshow software so I am not going into detail on that topic here.

If you are serious about becoming a videographer they are great professional video editing software like DaVinci Resolve, Adobe Premier Pro and many others.

Personally they are way over my head and I don't need that much control for what I do.

If you are already an Adobe creative cloud subscriber you already have access to Adobe Premier Rush. Other free "Slideshow and video editors are Windows movie maker, iMovie on mac and ipad\iphone.

I admit I am still using Photodex Proshow producer. The company went out of business but my software still works in a limited capacity on my laptop and works for what I need to do.

Many slideshow editors have some video editing capabilities such as trimming a longer video to a shorter clip. Some allow you to slow down video such as I did in some clips in my Florida Butterfly video.

Some of the Slideshow software you can even tweak the color, brightness and contrast.

That is another advantage of photographing in small clips. They are easier to edit in post.

Getting Started

Add music and sound effects.

- ▶ Music and sound effects can add a lot to your video. They can help to create the mood of your video and make it more engaging.

I add music to my slideshow. I hate the sound of my voice so I never do any voice overs. I would rather put text on the scene then listen to me talk.

Keep in mind that if you use popular music it is copyrighted.

If you remember last year when I presented our year end slideshow I used many popular songs.

That is not strictly legal but I did it because I am only showing it in this meeting and I have it on a private link on my website. It is not "Public"

If I tried to upload it to YouTube or Facebook they would NOT let me. I have tried and they check and block copyrighted material.

There is Royalty free music available on the internet. Most you have to pay a small fee but you can find some that is free.

Getting Started

Share your video.

- ▶ Once you're happy with your video, you can share it with the world. There are many different ways to do this, including uploading it to YouTube, Vimeo, or Facebook.

When I export video from my slideshow software I have it as "high resolution for web devices".

Then whatever media I upload it to converts it to meet their requirements.

Samples

- ▶ Florida Butterflies
- ▶ Nature in my backyard

In the "Nature in my backyard" I have also used some iphone video for my wide shots. And the advantage of my DSLR is my telephoto lens to get in close to the nature for their close-up.

Go Experiment!!!

**Adding video to your toolbox is
an easy and fun way to share
your vision with family and
friends**