



BUYER'S GUIDE

The Best Video Cameras for Web Video: What to Buy and Where to Get Cameras, Microphones and Accessories

by Mike Koenigs, Traffic Geyser Co-Founder
Edited by Meaghan Maples



Mike has been shooting and editing video for more than 20 years and has purchased more than \$750,000 worth of video, audio and studio equipment over his career. He's made every "buyer's" mistake possible – and you can learn from his experience.

Join him as he guides you through the process of finding a camera and microphone that fit your needs—whether you're an absolute beginner or a seasoned professional.

Geek, surfer, marketer, video producer, filmmaker and didgeridoo player, Mike is best known as the guy who co-founded Traffic Geyser, the Web 2.0 syndication service that has distributed more than three million videos in two years and generated top rankings, web traffic and leads—sometimes in minutes—by sending content to over 70 video sites, social bookmark sites, social media, blogs and podcast directories.



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Cameras

<i>Brand & Model</i>	<i>Specs</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Mike's Rating</i>
Panasonic VDR-D50 DVD Camcorder (VDRD50)	Digital Video Camera to record decent quality footage, direct microphone input capability, 3CCD mini Digital Video Camera	\$400-\$500	***



Note: Requires tape, No Webcam, USB/Firewire capability

Canon Vixia HG20	High Definition Tape-Based Camera, includes component output to plug into high definition screen	\$700-\$1,000	***
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Note: Requires tape, no Webcam, USB or Firewire capability



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<i>Brand & Model</i>	<i>Specs</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Mike's Rating</i>
Canon High Def VIXIA HG 10	High Definition Hard Disk Camera, includes component output to plug into high definition screen, USB/Firewire outputs utilizing Webcam capabilities, microphone input	\$500-\$1,000	***



Note: Does not work as webcam, make sure video editing software is compatible with this product



Flip Video Mino	Easy to use one touch record button, plug directly into computer for immediate upload	\$100-\$150	**
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Note: No microphone input or 3CCD lighting settings, no fine lens detail



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<i>Brand & Model</i>	<i>Specs</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Mike's Rating</i>
Casio Exilim EX-S10	Small, Easy to use photo camera, use movie mode for high definition production	+/- \$250	**
			
<i>Note: Does not have microphone input which limits quality</i>			
The Sony HVR-Z1U HDV Camera	Professional HDV Cameras, television quality	+/- \$4,000	*****
			
<i>Note: These type of cameras only need to be used in a studio setting</i>			



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Microphones

<i>Brand & Model</i>	<i>Specs</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Mike's Rating</i>
Azden (cheap) Sennheiser (better)	"Shotgun" microphone, mounts on top of camera, good for interviews, better than the cameras internal pick-up	\$100-\$500	***



Note: Okay for interviews, only picks up sound that comes through the end of the microphone in an "isolated" pattern. These are the microphones that are used in movie production when it isn't practical to wear a wireless device.

Shure Audio Technica	Wired Condenser Microphones, professional sound, clip on with body pack, the cost increases for higher quality product	\$30-\$300+	****
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Note: Battery powered, must use XLR Adapter and XLR cable for proper usage



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<i>Brand & Model</i>	<i>Specs</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Mike's Rating</i>
Sennheiser or Shure	Wireless condenser microphone, good for mobility, professional sound quality	\$300-\$500	***



Note: May pick up radio noise however there are adjustable channels



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Accessories

<i>Brand & Model</i>	<i>Specs</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Mike's Rating</i>
Kodak	Tripod: Use to mount camera for still, professional quality footage	\$50	**



Note: Slight jerkiness during movement, good for stationary shots only

Manfrotto 501HD	Expandable legs with variable height capability, fluid head for smooth action transitions, fully adjustable, built in plate for assured camera mounting	\$350-\$800	****
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BeachTek	XLR Adapter for wired microphones: Model DXA-25, 2 microphone plug-in capability, level adjustment, professional look and sound quality	\$150-180	*****
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Canon	Wide-Angle lens, adjusts the perspective of your camera shot, it's worth the money otherwise there will be a compromised view (such as speckled lens or fisheye)	+/- \$300	*****
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