

14 TIPS AND TRICKS TO RECORD A VIDEO WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE

Nowadays, everybody is able to record his own videos with a smartphone. And everybody does so, teenagers to managers. But the quality of these videos varies a lot. We hope these 14 tips and tricks might help you out!

1. PUT YOUR PHONE ON AIRPLANE MODE

It's a pity when you have to pause your recording because of someone calling you or because someone sends you a message on Whatsapp. By putting your phone on airplane mode, you can be sure no one can interrupt you while recording. This will result in a more efficient recording process.

2. USE THE REAR CAMERA OF YOUR SMARTPHONE

The front camera of your phone is of a lower quality than the rear camera. So always use the rear camera while videotaping! You want to look straight into the camera, but there's no one around to record you? Avoid using your front camera and use a stand to achieve the best result.

For example, the difference between front and rear camera of an iPhone X is 5 megapixels!

3. VERTICAL VS. HORIZONTAL VIDEO

Always decide in advance if you want to create a horizontal or vertical video. The answer on this question depends on which channel you want to share this video. Normally, you always have to use a horizontal video. The only exception is videos for Instagram Stories or Facebook Stories.

4. BE SURE YOU HAVE ENOUGH PHONE MEMORY

Video files are big files, especially when filming in HD or 4K. It would be a pity to start recording and to have to stop after a couple minutes because your phone is out of memory. Be sure you have enough phone memory to record a few takes without having to stop your recording.

5. PREPARE YOUR STORY



Recording videos takes a lot of time. If you prepare yourself well, your recording will be much more efficient.

Think about these topics:

- Script: what has to be said by whom?
- Location: is there a chance of interrupting by external factors, such as the weather or passersby?
- Composition: what has to be recorded and when (and how)?

A strong preparation will lead to a strong video.

6. NEVER USE THE ZOOM FUNCTION

It's not the best idea to use the zoom function on your phone. It will lead to a loss of pixels, stability and quality and will lead to a blurry result. When you have to record something that requires using the zoom function, you might want to use a professional camera.

When you don't have a professional camera available, approach the subject instead of zooming. This will lead to sharp images.



7. USE NATURAL LIGHT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

Lighting is one of the most important elements of recording. It doesn't matter whether you use a camera or a smartphone, both underexposure as overexposure will result in bad and non professional videos. Furthermore you will limit the possibilities in assembly and post-production.



You can buy a lot of light sources, but there is one source free and always easy to find: the sun. Natural light is always the best option.

When recording inside, choose a location with big windows, so you have enough light. When your room doesn't have windows, use enough light sources.

8. DON'T GO FROM A DARK PLACE TO A LIGHT ONE OR VICE VERSA

As said earlier, lighting is important for your recording. Imagine recording with bright sunlight. The last thing you want to do is going to a darker place. Your camera adapts to the sunlight and won't adapt immediately to the dark space.

When you have switch between light and dark spaces, record this scene in more takes. Otherwise you won't have a nice result.

9. USE TIMELAPSE & SLOWMOTION OPTIONS AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE

Most smartphone cameras feature new options, such as a slowmotion camera. Some smartphones even allow you to record a timelapse. As nice these options are to try, we don't recommend to use them for commercial videos.

By recording in standard mode, you keep your options open. After recording you can easily slow them down or speed them up during the post production of your video.

10. LOCK EXPOSURE AND FOCUS

When taking pictures, it is useful for your smartphone to adapt the clarity and focus automatically to the situation. But when videotaping, this can be a disaster. Sudden changes can cause a video of bad quality.

Therefore, when videotaping, always configure exposure and focus by yourself. This will result in videos with your own settings instead of those your smartphone uses automatically.

11. ENSURE A CLEAN LENS

Most smartphones are in pockets or handbags, where they have a lot of contact with dust, dirt and your fingerprints. Before you start filming, be sure you clean your lens. The littlest dirt or fingerprint can affect the quality of your video.

12. ENSURE STABILITY

Wobbly images are not pleasant to watch. They're not professional en cause headaches after a while. Stability is essential to a professional looking video. You can achieve this stability in 4 ways:

- Use a stand for images on one location.
- Use a stabilisator when the subject is moving.
- You don't have a stand or stabilisator? Use both hands to support your smartphone as good as possible.
- When doing this, use flowing movements to avoid trembling and wobbly images.

13. ENSURE QUALITY SOUND



The microphone of your smartphone is rarely good enough to achieve a good result. To improve this, we have 2 tips and tricks:

- Get as close as possible to the sound source. This way your microphone will absorb most of the sound and ambient noise will have a smaller impact on the end result.
- Still not happy with your audio? Think about buying an external microphone to improve the audio quality.

14. PROVIDE YOUR SMARTPHONE WITH THE RIGHT ACCESSORIES

Accessories are not mandatory. You can do a lot with only your smartphone. But keep in mind that accessories will make your recording smoother and more efficient.

We put together a set ourselves. For more info, please visit our webpage <https://www.motcha.be/smartphone-accessoires>.

We recommend to buy your accessories in a specialized shop and to avoid (too) budget-friendly gadgets.

