

Panasonic GH3 Guide (for Video Users)



Vixia Camcorder

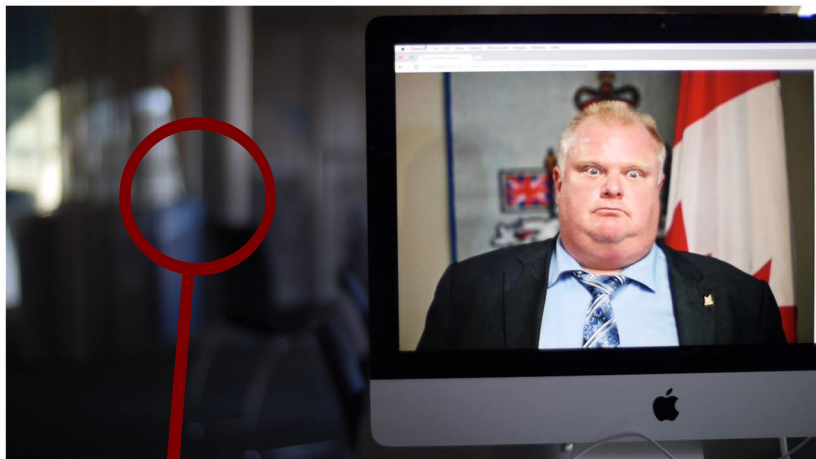
Overview

This camera can be used for still photography as well as videography. This guide covers the basic use of this camera for videography. It is not a comprehensive guide or instruction manual.

Why use the GH3 for video?

The GH3 takes advantage of the features of a DSLR/M camera (interchangeable lenses, low-light performance, depth of field) and applies them to video. See the comparison below as an example:

GH3 DSLM



SHALLOW DEPTH OF FIELD - Background Out of Focus

DEEP DEPTH OF FIELD - Background Still in Focus

Depth of Field

Depth of field is the term for how much or how little a camera's lens blurs objects outside of its focus area. Images with greater depth of field have blurrier backgrounds, which is generally considered to look more "cinematic," while images where nearly everything is in focus often are considered to look more amateurish. DSLR/M cameras like the GH3 are capable of producing images with greater depth of field than cameras like the Vixia.

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Quickstart Guide

If you follow these steps from start to finish, you will be able to set up the camera for use in the production of an interview. As mentioned on page one, this guide is not comprehensive. Consult the full manual for questions outside of the scope of this guide.

1. The Menu



Turn the camera on using the switch on the top of the camera body. Make sure that the wheel next to the on/off switch is turned so that the image of the movie camera with an M next to it is aligned with the white line to the left. This puts the camera in movie recording mode.



Use the Menu/Set button to enter the menu. You can turn or press the wheel around the menu button to navigate through the menu options. On the left side of the screen, navigate to the wrench option, and then navigate to the FORMAT option. Use this to format your card. NOTE: this will completely erase the contents of your memory card. Make sure you have backed up any images of movies you may have saved on your card.

Now, set your menu options so that they match the following screenshots:

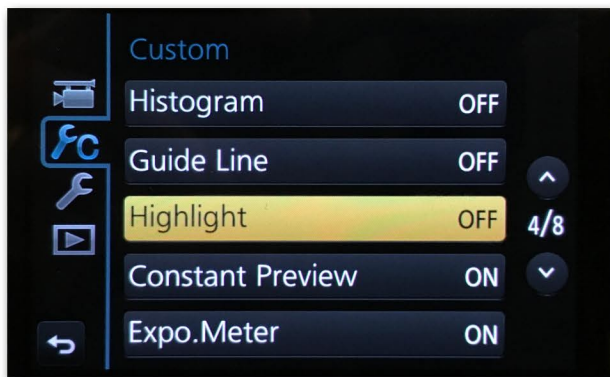
(you can ignore menu screens not listed here for now)



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Set your menu options so that they match the following screenshots:

(continued)



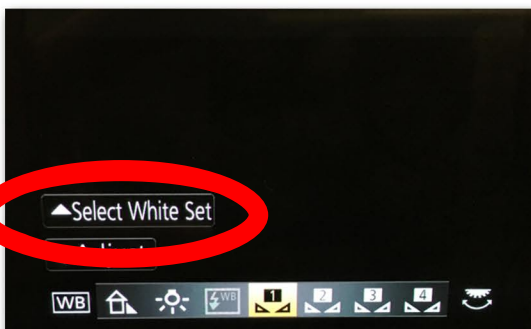
2. Video Settings

On the top of the camera, find the White Balance (WB) button. Set your white balance to Auto (AWB) if you're filming b-roll.

If you will be shooting a sit-down interview, follow these steps to set custom WB:

a. Press the WB button and navigate to one of the four custom WB icons. Then press "Select White Set"

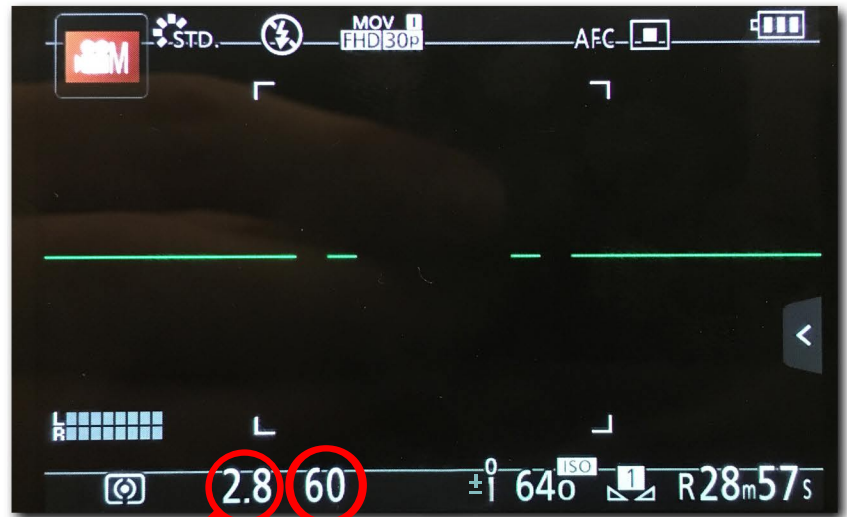
b. Align a white piece of paper in the yellow rectangle in full view of your light source. Press "set" and your WB will be set for your current lighting environment.



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2. Video Settings (continued)

On the back of your camera, above the menu button, press the DISP button until your screen displays the following information:



You will use the knobs indicated on the left as well as the ISO button to set your exposure.

Here are the rules to remember:

1. Keep your shutter speed at 60.
2. Set your settings so that the light meter at the bottom of the screen reads at or near ± 0

3. Use the lowest ISO and aperture numbers possible.

To begin recording your video, press the red, circular button on the back of the camera. You will know that you are recording if you see a flashing red dot on your screen as well as a timer that counts up from zero.

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3. Audio

The GH3, like most DSLR/M cameras, is not well-suited to recording audio internally. If you record audio through a mic attached to the GH3, you can expect that your recording will include some degree of hissing, which can be very difficult to fix in post production. For this reason, if you plan to shoot with the GH3, **you are strongly recommended to record your audio externally using a recorder like the Zoom H4N or the Edirol recorder**, both of which are available in the equipment room.



If you decide to record externally, please note the following:

1. You will need another memory card for your external recorder in addition to your video camera's card.
2. Because the external recorder will record a separate audio file, you will need to sync your separate audio with your video in the editing stage.

If you decide to record audio internally on the GH3 anyway, note that the headphone and microphone jacks are located on the left side of the camera (if the lens is facing away from you).