Recommended Settings

The Student Filmmaking Kit provides access to professional level filmmaking tools -- as such, some of the equipment has a complex array of menu settings, which may be intimidating. While we encourage you to check out the linked manuals to get a more advanced grasp of what the equipment can do, this guide aims to outline a solid starting point, so you can get pretty good results right away, and to keep the technical details from getting in the way of shooting your movie.

If you are just starting your project, you may want to check the camera and audio recorder to make sure the kit has been restored to these settings before you begin.

Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera

Access settings by clicking "Menu", using arrow buttons to navigate selection to "Settings", and click "Ok". Return to normal operation by clicking "Menu" again.

- Camera
    - ISO
        - 800
    - White Balance
        - 5600K for shooting in daylight
        - 3200K for shooting with tungsten light bulbs
    - Shutter Angle
        - 180°
- Audio
    - Microphone Input
        - 50%
    - Speaker Volume
        - 50%
- Recording
    - Codec
        - ProRes LT
    - Dynamic Range
        - "Film" if you intend to color grade
        - "Video" otherwise
    - Frame Rate
        - 24fps
    - Timelapse Interval
        - Off
- Display
    - Dynamic Range
        - Match setting in Recording menu
    - Brightness
        - 50%
    - Zebra Level
        - 100%
    - LCD Overlay
        - On

ZOOM H4N Audio Recorder

Switch active inputs by clicking either the MIC button on the front face (for the on-board mic on top), or the 1 or 2 button below it (to select the mic inputs on the bottom of the recorder).

Menu can be accessed by pressing "Menu" button. To back up out of a menu, press the "Menu" button. Use scroll-wheel by the Menu button to navigate, and press the scroll-wheel in to select.

- INPUT
    - ½ LINK, MONO MIX
        - On, if using one input mic
        - Off, if using onboard stereo mic, or multiple input mics
    - PHANTOM
        - Off, if using battery in mic
        - +24V if not using battery in mic
    - PLUG-IN
        - Off, if running recorder off batteries
        - On, if using plug-in power
    - LO-CUT, COMP/LIM, MONITOR, LEVEL AUTO, MS MATRIX
        - Off
- REC
    - REC FORMAT
        - 48kHz/24 bit
    - AUTO REC, PRE REC
        - Off
    - FILE NAME
        - Default
- SYSTEM
    - If configuration is all messed up, the Factory Reset is under SYSTEM->FAC RESET
- SD CARD
    - To format SD card, ensure there's nothing on it you want to save, and apply SD CARD->FORMAT