



When organizing a workshop, insist that people who already own digital still cameras bring them to the workshop. Also, try to find donors who will loan cameras to your workshop. Create a simple checkout system for cameras, such as exchanging for car keys, or an ID.

This guide uses a Canon PowerShot A580 as reference. We recommend this camera because it is an affordable (around \$150) 8MP still camera that can capture movie clips. For a great review visit <http://kenrockwell.com>. While not all cameras will work exactly like this one, the basic functionality will be similar. Refer to the user's manual for your camera if necessary.

2. A computer for downloading movie clips (make certain the proper software is installed).

1. Digital Still Camera(s) that capture movies (bring interface cable that came with the camera)

Assuming you have either scheduled a workshop prior to your Mini Movies Fest, or gathered and organized a group that would like to learn more about creating Mini Movies and a Mini Movie Fest, make certain you have come prepared with the necessary equipment for hosting a workshop. Start with these basics:

THE BASICS

For more details and digital copies of this manual, a Mini Movie Fest User Guide and an instructional guide for making a Mini Cine, please visit – <http://hideousbeast.com> info@hideousbeast.com

It is recommended to have read the Mini Movie Fest User Guide prior to conducting a workshop, so that you understand what a Mini Movie Fest is and why it might be useful.

A Mini Movie Fest Workshop creates a space prior to a Mini Movies Fest for organizers to collaborate in making Mini Movies with willing participants. It is part technical workshop and part exploration of the concepts of a Mini Movie Fest. Share strategies for making Mini Movies by being an example producer.

This is an accompanying guide for a Mini Movie Fest. This Mini Movie Fest Workshop manual explains how to organize workshops that educate groups about making Mini Movies and creating a Mini Movie Fest. Many of the details covered in this guide are technical and will help organizers use and explain equipment that participants will most likely need to create Mini Movies for a Mini Movie Fest.

INTRODUCTION

WORKSHOP

Begin by demonstrating the making of a Mini Movie. Show the different features available in shooting in the movie mode (again, this is taken from the use of a Canon PowerShot A580):

- Changing Movie Recording Pixels/Frame Rates
- You can change the recording pixels and frame rate when the movie mode is set to Standard. The frame rate can be set depending on the recording pixels.
- Press the FUNC./SET button.
 - Use the up or down arrow button to select 640 and the left or right arrow button to change the recording pixels.
 - Press the FUNC./SET button

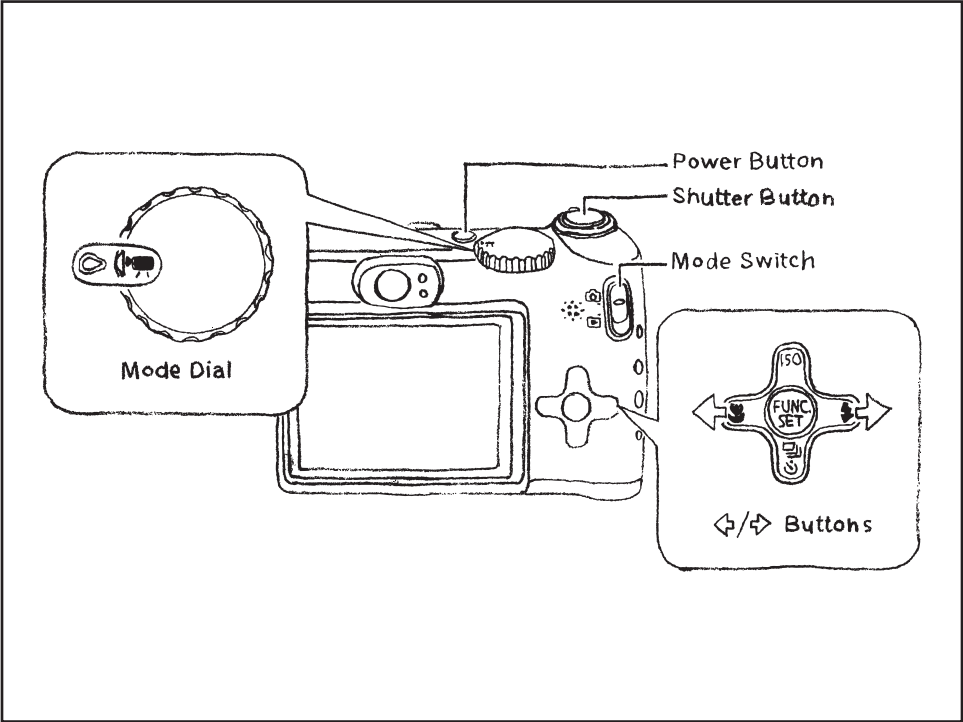
Movie Recording Pixels and Frame Rate

		640 × 480 recording pixels, 20 frames/sec.
		640 × 480 recording pixels, 20 frames/sec. LP
		320 × 240 recording pixels, 30 frames/sec.
		160 × 120 recording pixels, 15 frames/sec.

Frame rates indicate the number of frames recorded or played back each second. The higher the frame rate, the smoother the appearance of motion.

MOVIE SHOOTING

- Press the power button.
- Select a shooting mode.
 - Set the mode switch to shooting (not viewing)
 - Set the mode dial to movie.
 - Press the FUNC./SET button.
 - Use the left or right arrow button to select Standard.
 - Press the FUNC./SET button.
- Aim the camera at the subject.
- Press the shutter button halfway to focus.
 - When the camera focuses, it beeps twice and the indicator lights green.
 - The exposure, focus and white balance are automatically set.
- Press the shutter button fully to shoot.
 - Recording starts.
 - During the recording, the elapsed recording time and [●REC.] will display in the LCD monitor.
- Press the shutter button fully again to stop recording.
 - The indicator will blink green and the data will be recorded onto the memory card.
 - Recording will stop automatically when the maximum recording time elapses, or the built-in memory or memory card become full.



VIEWING MOVIES

1. Press the power button.
2. Set the mode switch to playback.
3. Use the left or right arrow button to display a movie and press the FUNC./SET button.
 - a. Images with a SET Movie icon are movies.
4. Use the left or right arrow button to select Play and press the FUNC./SET button.
 - a. The movie will start playing.
 - b. If you press the FUNC./SET button during playback, you can pause and restart the movie.
 - c. You can adjust the playback volume with the up or down arrow button.

DOWNLOADING IMAGES TO A COMPUTER

Hideous Beast primarily uses Macintosh computers and can most accurately describe their use, although all the software we use is either pre-installed on both Macintosh and Windows, or is available via the internet.

1. Connecting the camera to a computer.
 - a. Connect the supplied interface cable to the computer's USB port and to the camera's DIGITAL terminal. Open the camera's terminal cover and insert the interface cable all the way into the connector.
2. Preparing to download images to the computer.
 - a. Set the mode switch to playback
 - b. Your computer should detect you camera as a device. On a Macintosh your computer will most likely open iPhoto and instruct you on how to download your movie. If you prefer not to use iPhoto, you can use Image Capture, a program pre-installed on Macintosh computers. Both programs are very simple to use with instructive help menus.
 - c. Your movie will download as file with a format (.avi, .mov, .mpeg, etc.), all of which you can upload to most video sharing sites.

SHARING ONLINE

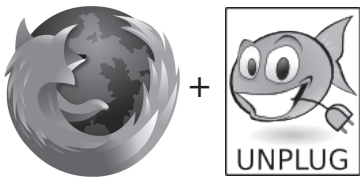
There are many ways to share your videos. If your video file size is under 10MB (on a Mac highlight your file and press “I” while holding down the “command” key to display the file size) simply email it to the organizers of the event. If the file size is larger than 10MB, you can send it via free online file transfer and storage. We recommend <http://www.mediafire.com> or <http://megaupload.com>.

The other option would be to start your own video sharing site. We have been using a service called Start Your Tube. What's unique about this service is that it allows users to create a YouTube style web site for free. Name your site whatever you like. People can then become members of your site, allowing them to upload videos. There's a size limit on the free account, but it's quite generous. Basically, StartYourTube is a content management site you can easily manipulate for your specific needs

CAPTURING AND CONVERTING ONLINE VIDEO

You may also already have videos on a video sharing site, such as YouTube and would like to reclaim the video for sharing with the Mini Movie Fest (this also applies to organizers trying to capture videos for projection offline). It can be quite a process, and there are many methods, but this one has worked for us so far.

1. Working with Firefox web browser (<http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/>), download the plugin UnPLUG – an extension which lets you save video and audio that is embedded on a webpage (<https://addons.mozilla.org/enUS/firefox/addon/2254>).
2. While viewing your video online, use UnPLUG to capture the embedded video. This will allow you to download and save a file with a .flv (flash) file extension.
3. You will need to convert this .flv file for playing in most media players (Quicktime, Windows Media Player, etc.). Visit Zamzar (<http://www.zamzar.com>), a site that converts files without using software. After uploading the file, Zamzar will send you an email with a link to download the file in the format you choose.



IN THE FIELD

Take participants on a field trip, giving them a chance to make Mini Movies. This is an opportunity to discuss different types of movies you could make.

- pay attention to surroundings, people, places, yourself, nature
- make at least 3 films under 30 seconds
- return home and download them, upload to video sites
- consider different types of movies you could make:

1. DOCUMENTARY—an event or happening (a concert, a sporting event), or spontaneous, everyday.
2. SCRIPTED—an activity or shot planned for the camera (can do more than one take), narrative, storytelling.
3. FORMAL—using the limits of the medium; interaction of light with the camera's lense, pixilation/digital rendering of light and color.

Show any examples if possible of Mini Movies. Use YouTube as a source if needed.

CONTENT

Why make a mini movie? Their low quality, short time limit make it seem disposable, so what's the value? Their ease of use and quick creation can lead to spontaneous films not possible with a more complicated setup (with larger, bulkier equipment). The size of the devices allows for mobile and even covert situations (while riding a bike one handed). They can be quickly uploaded and shared via the internet, computer, tv or mobile device.

