4Kam Official Guide - Helmet Cameras – The Basics.

Why a use a helmet camera?

Ok so you want a mini camera to put in places where you can't put a normal camcorder right? Maybe you could put your camcorder there but it's a bit bulky and expensive to replace if you damage it. 4Kam helmet cameras are small tough and light enabling them to be positioned in the most unlikely of places and take a few scrapes too unlike your camcorder might.

How does it work?

In order to make videos with any decent helmet camera you need to connect the mini camera up to a recording device. Imagine it like this the helmet camera is the 'see-er', the recording device is the 'saver'. The recording device can be anything as long as it has analogue input (av-in) which means it can record from an external device, that being the helmet camera.

What recording device to use?

There are a number of alternative recording devices available, the main 2 varieties being camcorder and digital video recorder.

Camcorder

Many people choose to use a camcorder with av-input, this is not a common function in all camcorders but quite a few do have it. Some camcorders are easier to use than others but on the whole most people find them a quite workable solution. There are 2 problems with the camcorder, one being they are normally quite big which can cause storage problems, the other being their fragility. Camcorders don't take too kindly to being shaken and bumped around so are normally not recommended for those people taking part in motorsport or extreme sports unless they can be guaranteed a more or less smooth ride.

Digital Video Recorder

Another alternative is a digital video recorder (DVR) that records in MP4 computer format. These can come in 2 types, a hard drive DVR and a solid state DVR. Both types are usually much smaller and lighter than a camcorder but the hard drive DVR can suffer from similar fragility traits as the camcorder.

- **Hard drive DVR**

In a nutshell a hard drive is mechanical device with a needle inside which moves across the disk writing the file. If the DVR suffers a bump or jolt the needle can be knocked off course which can result in an error in the video recording and

therefore render the video corrupt. The main benefit to a hard drive DVR is that many gigabytes of memory can be built into one device. This though is bad news if the device gets shaken to destruction!

- **Solid state DVR**

A solid state DVR records video to its internal memory or an optional memory card, neither of which have any moving parts (flash memory). These are much more reliable than hard drive DVR and are normally lighter and smaller too because no hard drive is required. The use of expandable memory with memory cards means that once a recording has been made on a card, that card can be removed and stored safely. Each user can have as many extra cards as they require.

What does 4Kam offer?

4Kam sells sports camera equipment that we know works. It's been tried and tested by people all over the world from extreme sports enthusiasts to the armed forces and TV production personnel.

Having read the above you may have come to your own conclusions about what you need but here is what we at 4Kam recommend:

If you are looking for a cost effective and reliable recording setup then look no further than our own Action Ready Package™. It includes one of our award winning mini sports cameras, a reliable solid state DVR and everything else you need to get started. For those people who need more than one camera we have a number of other packages available and for those who need something specific or just further advice, please get in touch with us – sales@4Kam.com

Thanks for reading our guide, happy filming!

4Kam Team