



# THE 80D AS VIDEO CAMERA

This handout explains: 1) How to use the Canon 80D camera to make videos, including setting good exposures and color balance. 2) How to use it to record sound.

## CANON 80D FOR VIDEO

**1. LCD screen.** Open the LCD screen and position it so that it's facing you at the angle of the shot. You will use it to frame your shots rather than the viewfinder. For video, you'll rarely have it tucked in flat behind the camera, as with still photography.

**2. Live View shooting switch.** Move the switch to the video camera icon.



**3. Mode Dial.** Set the mode dial to **Auto +**.


**4. Auto focus.** Confirm that the lens is set to AF for auto focusing. By default, **Movie Servo AF: Enable** is set so that the camera will always focus if the switch is AF.



**5. Holding the camera.** Video is best shot from a tripod. Most shots allow the subject to move within a stationary frame. Nothing holds a camera as stationary as a tripod.

If you must move the camera to get the shot you



- Do not point the camera at an intense light source, such as the sun on a sunny day. Doing so will damage the image sensor.
- If you shoot video under fluorescent lighting, the movie may flicker.
- Zooming the lens during shooting is not recommended since doing so can change the exposure during the shot.
- Don't cover up the microphones on top of the camera.
- If the red  Internal Temperature Warning icon appears, discontinue recording within one minute and give the camera time to cool down a few minutes.

need, put the strap around your neck and gently push the camera away from your body. The tension of the strap will keep the camera about reasonably steady as you move about.

**Never hold the camera by the LCD screen.** Hold the body of the camera and keep your hands off the screen except to select the focus point.

**6. Focus the subject.** Press the shutter button down half way to achieve focus on your subject. You can also use the LCD screen to focus the lens—even during recording. Simply touch the object in the frame you want in sharp focus and wait a moment. The camera will keep that object focused even if you move the camera. Once recording, you can gently touch the screen at



another object and the camera will slowly move the focus to that point.

**7. Shoot the movie.** Press the Start/Stop button to start recording. Press it again to stop. While recording, a red dot will glow in the upper right of the screen.

## AUDIO RECORDING WITH THE 80D

### Sync sound.

There are two small microphones on the front of the camera that record stereo sound. They work well for recording synchronous sound that matches the video exactly. They are “omni-directional,” which means they pick up sound over a wide angle of direction. They are especially good at recording the sounds of environments you are recording. They are not so good at recording a single point audio source like a human being talking.




**External microphone.** There are lots of accessory microphones that you can use to record sound that syncs with the video. For interviews, we’d like you to use a small lavalier mic that clips to the speaker’s collar and then plugs into the camera’s audio in port on the left side of the camera.

Gently lift up the rubber cover over the port and plug the 12’ extension cord into the lower of the two ports. Then plug the lav cord into the other end and clip the mic to the subject’s collar. The camera will automatically sense the presence of the external mic and will record its input instead of the built-in mics and will automatically adjust the recording volume levels.

*NOTE> The lavalier microphone records in mono, not stereo.*

**Nat sound.** In addition to interviews and music, we expect you to have nat (natural) sound in your project’s soundtrack. The 80D’s built-in microphone and audio recorder can be used to collect sound without regard to the video that’s also being recorded.

For just sound, get within three or four feet of the source, point the top of the camera at it and push the  button to record. Or you can use the lav mic and just place it about 18 inches from the source of the sound. Be careful not to move your fingers during recording or you’ll hear them rubbing the mic.

In lab, we’ll show you how to use Final Cut Pro to strip away and discard the video so you have just the sound clip.

**Interviews.** When you are conducting your interviews move your subject to the quietest place you can find. The 80D will record all background noises and they are virtually impossible to eliminate during editing. Using the lav mic will reduce ambient sound considerably, but the quieter the location the better regardless of mic.

Mount the camera on a tripod, and position it within three or four feet of your subject. Zoom the lens to about 40mm. For variety, change the camera angle, location (camera subject distance) or zoom length once or twice in the interview.



*The full Canon 80D manual located on Canvas will provide you with considerably more insight into how to operate the camera than this handout can and you are welcome to access it. But following this handout should give you good quality video for your project.*



## MOUNTING THE 80D ON A TRIPOD

Shaky video footage is a sure sign of an amateur, and painful to watch. We expect you to use tripods in C226 — they are especially important for pans, tilts and zooms. Follow these steps:

**1.** The **Manfrotto Be Free** tripod is easy to use. Open the tripod by flipping down its legs and rotating the angle selector to the middle position.

**2.** Extend and lock each of its three legs, and set the tripod on a solid surface. The shorter the tripod, the more steady the camera. The first rise should be to drop the largest of the leg's extension. Flip the biggest tab and the extension will drop. Flip that tab back to lock it in place. If you need more height, drop the second largest and then the smallest extension.

**3.** Check the handle to make sure there is free movement, but with a degree of resistance, so you will be able to pan and tilt smoothly. The knob for the tilt is on the front of the head, and the entire head can be tightened or loosened by spinning the head with the handle.

*Warning! It is possible to unscrew and remove the entire head of the tripod, which could be disastrous if a camera is attached. DO NOT unscrew the head all the way.*

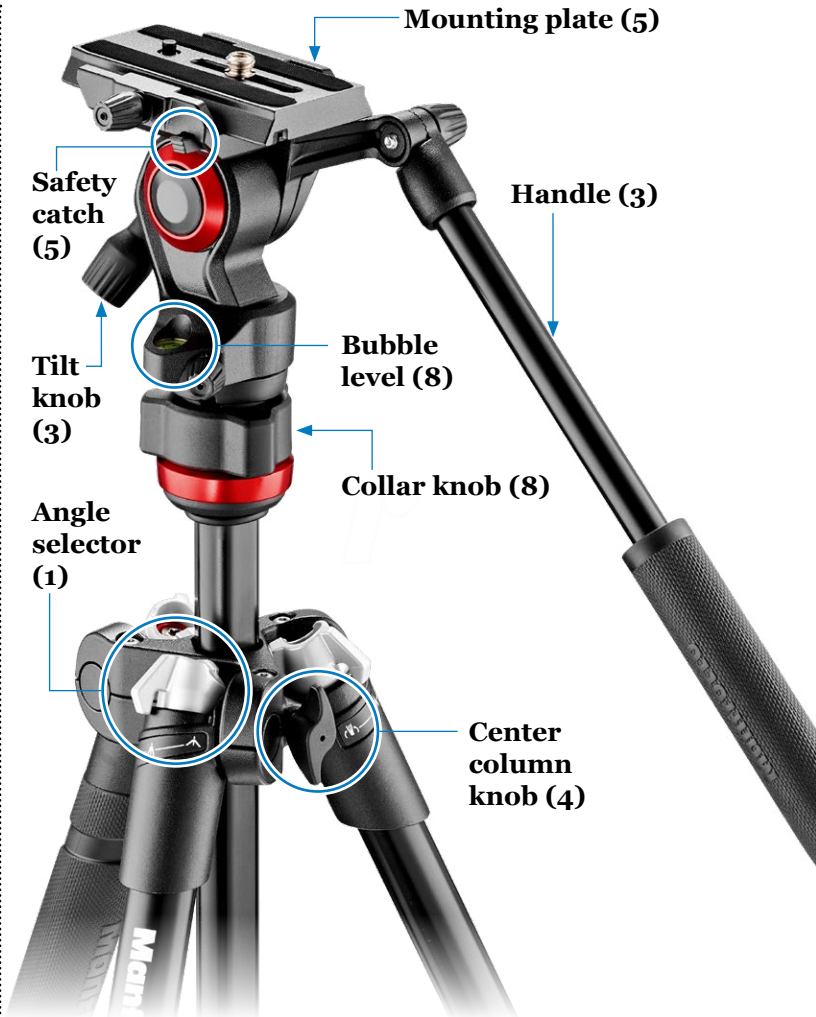
**4** To release the centre column, loosen the knob adjacent to where the legs attach. Adjust the height of the column as required, then tighten the knob to lock the column in position.

**5.** Next, remove the mounting plate by unscrewing the small knob next to the plate, and press the safety catch to release. Slide the plate out.

**6.** Remove the plate and screw it into the bottom of the 80D. Make sure the “LENS” indicator is pointing forward. Use a coin to tighten.

**7.** Press the safety catch again, and slide the camera into place. Release the safety catch, then position the camera so the weight is evenly distributed front and back. Once it is balanced, tighten the small knob near the mounting plate.

**8.** There is a bubble level on the head of the tripod, at the top of the center column. When the



bubble is in the circle, the camera is level front to back and side to side. If the bubble is off-center, unscrew the large collar knob just below the bubble, and adjust as necessary. Once the bubble is centered, tighten the knob.

***When carrying the tripod with a camera mounted, be sure to have one hand on the camera, and one on the tripod.***

For a short demo on the Manfrotto tripod, go to  
<https://sites.mediaschool.indiana.edu/learn/manfrotto-befree-tripod-demo/>