

5 Quick Video Taping Tips

Provided by Susan DeSylvia, M.A.

www.ProHorseProductions.com

303-520-5109

Susan@ProHorseProductions.com



More Tips

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At the Event

- 1) Capture 5 to 10 second candid moments of braiding at the barn, a moment with the trainer, family or friends, a close-up shot of the horse's head, the last minute polishing of the rider's boots, or the spectators clapping after the test, etc. These are special memories of the show, as well! If it's a great test, slowly zoom in to capture just the horse's head/neck and rider's upper body, then slowly zoom out to capture the entire ring as the rider exits.

Always leave 2 seconds after the good footage clip so you have some "space" to add a transition to.

- 2) If filming a Dressage test – set up across from letters B or E (1/2 way along the long side) *and if possible, keep the sun behind you.*
- 3) "Fill The Screen" Zoom in to keep the rider's head at the top of your camcorder screen, and the horse's feet touching the bottom.
- 4) Keep Moving & Zooming! The horse is always moving, so you are always slowly zooming! Slowly zoom in as the horse is moving away, slowly zoom out as the horse moves toward you.
- 5) If video taping without a tripod, consider using just the eye piece and make contact with the camera to your cheek, holding your elbows to your side and pivoting from your waist.

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42493 Pearson Ranch Loop Parker, CO 80138

Selecting a Camcorder

Bottom line for me: I chose a camcorder that uses tapes. When a tape is full, I put in another one. Now I have an "original" that while it will deteriorate over a span of 10 years, I have an original and I don't have to worry about finding a computer at an event when a memory card is full, or wait the time it takes for a DVD camcorder to format a disc.

Before the Event

- 3) Clean your camcorder lens with a lens cloth.
- 4) Make sure your videotape has plenty of space left to record your event.
- 5) Label your videotape and/or tape case with the info for this event.
- 6) Charge your camcorder – be sure the camcorder is turned off.

Indoor Arenas

- If possible, go to a side of the arena where you are not shooting into open doors, light panel or windows, as this washes out the image.
- If you are filming towards an open door, move quickly past it then go back to your normal smooth filming pace.

Sale Horse Productions: 3 min total -- 4 min Max for an FEI horse or jumper.

- *Make your customer want to see more! You are not selling the horse on the tape – you are selling the plane ticket to go see it.*
- Bathe & Braid w/ a clean pad & tack – *this is the ultimate horse show.*
- Early morning outdoor lighting, with the sun behind you is key.
- Uncluttered backgrounds are best.
 - If you don't have a facility with great backgrounds, haul to one.
- Eliminate all background talking...
- Use only Royalty Free Music – not a major hit song.

Now go capture some great raw footage, then bring it to me to edit into a professionally done sale horse production, or a precious video scrapbook.

Want to learn more? Go to www.ProHorseProductions.com to view samples of video scrapbooks and sale horse productions!