

HDCAM MEDIA FAQs

How are HDCAM tapes different from other tapes?

HDCAM tape is specifically designed to capture the shorter wavelengths of the HDCAM format.

What are the differences between different brands of HDCAM tape?

Sony's recorder and media groups exclusively co-developed the HDCAM format. This has allowed Sony to provide totally optimized recorder / media performance. Remember, tape care and handling along with proper recorder maintenance are critical factors in high quality recording, playback and archiving.

Can I use large and small HDCAM cassettes in all HDCAM recorders?

HDCAM camcorders only accept small shell cassettes (40 minute maximum record time in 60i mode, 50 minutes in 24P mode). HDCAM VTRs can take both large and small shell HDCAM cassettes.

Where do I go to purchase HDCAM cassettes?

HDCAM videocassettes can be purchased from Authorized Sony Professional Media dealers. You can look up an Authorized Dealer on the following website: www.mediabysony.com

What do I do if my tape has broken or has some other problem?

You have the following technical support options to choose from:

1. You should first alert the Authorized Dealer the product was purchased from. They will bring in Sony Technical Support to assist you.
2. The Sony Professional Media Regional Sales Offices can also be called to request assistance:

Northern region	201-599-3501
Southern / Central region	770-662-3803
West	714-229-4246
3. Several companies are in the business of recovering (or attempting to recover) damaged cassettes (or other forms of recording media). Sony's media manufacturing plant in Dothan, AL, also has the capability to recover tapes. You can reach them at (334)-793-7655 x3540 or you can go to their web site at www.sonymediaservices.com

What precautions should I take bringing HDCAM tape through airport scanners?

Generally, no special precautions are needed. As with any magnetic media, at any time, efforts should be taken to avoid strong magnetic fields. X-rays scanners will not harm the magnetic tape or the recording.

What are the ideal storage / archival conditions for HDCAM tape?

Short term Storage (10 years or less): 59 –73F (15 – 23C), humidity should be 30 – 40%
Long term storage (More that 10 years): 54 –59F (12 – 15C), humidity should be 30% +/- 5%.

As a rule, all videocassettes and open reel tapes should be stored in an upright position, in a protective album box, case or sleeve and rewind.

Can I use the same HDCAM cassettes in both 24P and 60i recorders?

Yes. Be aware that running time for HDCAM cassettes is dependent on which recording mode is used. See chart below:

HDCAM CASSETTE RECORDING TIME (in minutes)			
MODEL	RECORDING MODE		
	60i	50i	24PsF
BCT-22HD	22	26	27
BCT-32HD	32	38	40
BCT-40HD	40	48	50
BCT-64HDL	64	77	80
BCT-94HDL	94	113	117
BCT-124HDL	124	149	155

What is the archival life of HDCAM tape?

Based on Sony's 50+ years of experience manufacturing magnetic media, a minimum of 30 years of archival life should be expected of current metal tape formulations providing proper care, maintenance, handling and storage guidelines mentioned above have been followed.