

## **DIGITAL AUDIO RECORDERS**

On field shoots, recording audio can sometimes be a challenge because of distance between the subject matter and the recording device. For example, you are recording a live play and filming from the balcony would give you the best camera angles, but your microphone would be too far away to capture the audio. Or you are recording a live music performance, but the audio board where you are getting your sound feed is a long distance from your ideal camera position. In both of these cases, it would be difficult, if not impossible to run an audio cable from your audio source to the camera, so most producers end up compromising. Either they move the camera from its ideal location to a place closer to the audio source, or they sacrifice audio quality for better camera angles.

A solution to this problem might be to purchase a portable digital audio recorder. These devices are affordable and have good audio quality. Many of them have built-in microphones, as well as external microphone inputs, so you can attach your handheld, lavalier or boom mic to the recorder instead of running it to the camera. Your digital audio recorder can be placed close to the microphone, so you can save time on long cable runs and having to tape down audio cables for safety.

Digital audio recorders are small, so they can fit in the palm of your hand or in your pocket. This means a boom operator has the ability to move around. It also allows your videographer to get handheld or dolly shots without having to worry about being attached to a microphone or boom pole. Video and audio are independent of one another.

Of course, you will need to sync the good audio from the audio recorder to the video from the camera, and this is done in post-production. An important thing to remember is that even though you are recording good audio to your recorder, you must also record audio to your camera using the camera microphone so you have reference audio. You then sync the good audio from the recorder to the inadequate audio on the camera in editing. Or you can sync the old fashioned Hollywood way, bring a slate to your shoot. You can sync the sound of the clap of the slate to the visual of the sticks of the slate coming together.