

EXPENDABLES

When preparing equipment you will need for your video shoot, it's natural to focus on the camera, lighting and audio equipment. But something that often gets overlooked are "expendables." These are supplies and products that get "used up" on a film or video set, and they are simple, inexpensive items that can enhance a production. Some examples are gaffers and paper tape, black wrap, lighting gels, diffusion and C-47s (wooden clothes pins). Most camera stores will have a selection of these products.

Gaffers tape is a cloth tape with great adhesive properties, and can be used to quickly put a poster on a wall, or tape down power cords and audio cables. Lighting gels can help you change the color of light, while diffusion and frost will soften and diffuse a light source. Black wrap is a special black aluminum foil that helps block light leaks or acts as an extended barn door. China balls with light bulbs can give you a quick, additional diffused light source. Some expendables are camera specific, like lens tissue, lens fluid and canned air, which help keep your lenses and camera sensors clean. Other expendables that might fill out your kit would be extra batteries, rope and work gloves.

In addition to expendables, having a simple toolbox with just the basics (screwdrivers, a wrench, pliers, flashlight, scissors, a knife, indelible markers, etc.) can help you deal with any unforeseen problems on set.

Good luck on your shoots. And remember having expendables on your set can help your shoot go more smoothly.