

New 2008 Camcorders Feature Face Detection

Some exciting new developments are happening with camcorders this year. My recent trip to the consumer electronics show was a fascinating discovery for new camcorder technology, as selected Sony and Panasonic new models now feature face recognition and face detection technology.

What Does Face Recognition Technology Mean?

Face recognition and face detection technology offers a big plus for still photographers. In essence, it allows the photographer to have an auto correct feature for common facial image photography problems. Introduced a few years ago, face recognition technology is now quite common in digital cameras.

What this means to camcorder owners is that in these new models, facial images will automatically be adjusted for light exposure, thereby clarifying facial features and eliminating under exposure or over exposure. This is done through automatic correcting technology for focus, image balance, and color balance.

Sony, Panasonic Out In Front

Two companies are leading the way in camcorder face detection technology. Both Sony and Panasonic introduced new camcorder models at the consumer electronics show. Panasonic, who were one of the last companies to offer face detection technology in their still cameras, have rolled out the HDC-SD9 model. Meanwhile, Sony's high end model HDR-SR10 is a brand new entrant to the camcorder marketplace offering face recognition capabilities.

What This Means To You

If you're a camcorder owner and purchase one of these new models, you can expect a great deal more clarity in facial detail. Excess light exposure in particular will become a non issue, as will balancing of color. While the technology is not quite up to par with that of still photography, camcorder owners should notice a substantial difference from older models.

While Sony and Panasonic are leading the way, expect other companies to roll out similar models in both 2008 and 2009. It remains to be seen where price points for these models will eventually level off. For now though, the Panasonic HDC-SD9 retails for \$799, with Sony's model HDR-SR10 in the same neighborhood.

About the Author

For information on HD camcorders, DVD camcorders, and other models including [face detection camcorders](#), be sure to visit our camcorder resource site.

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