

In-car camera setup



Camera and mic:

Sony 580-line EX-VIEW, with 3.6mm lens, from extremehelmetcams.com

The camera takes 12v in, this is hard-wired into the car loom via a fused connection. This is much easier than trying to use the battery pack, and the signal seems clean enough that it does not affect the video.

The microphone also came from the same source.

Camera mount:



The picture above uses a mount from helmetcamera.com, with added side-plates to mount to the roll hoop.

The most important thing with the camera mount is to be sure to strain-relieve the cable where it comes out of the camera. Make a small loop (say 1/2" to 3/4" diameter), and zip-tie the loop to the roll-hoop mount. At least two cameras that I am aware of have broken the small wires inside the cable right at the entry to the camera. Secondly, make sure that there is enough slack in the cable after the roll-hoop mount so that the camera can be turned around for a full-lift or tow on the roll hoop. Again, one camera died due to the mount being forcibly rotated when the car was lifted by the roll hoop. The cable was too short, so got pulled out of the camera.

Ideally the camera should be set up to see the track ahead, the front wheels and the driver's hands.

If using a MiniDV recorder, a LANC remote start/stop button is a must – this allows the driver to start and stop the video by pushing a button on the dash, and status is indicated by a two-color LED. Mine came from helmetcamera.com.

