Panasonic
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P2HD

AG-HPX502

Frequently Asked Questions

AG-HPX502 Memory Card Camera-Recorder

AG-HPX502 is a HD video camcorder featuring "P2", a next-generation, solid-state type memory card as its recording medium. Aimed at the professional video production market, this P2 HD camera utilizes a 2/3" 3-CCD, supporting 2/3" Bayonet-type lenses being used among professionals at large. It can comply with various worldwide broadcasting standards, with support of 1080i/720p/480i/576i HD/SD multi-formats, and with its capacity of switching between 50/60 Hz, it can shoot HD contents all over the world, and can be operated in various foreign broadcasting studios. Moreover, it features variable frame rate recording function found in VARICAM and AG-HVX202.

Clearly, this P2 camera is geared toward professionals creating next-generation video productions.

AG-HPX502 Memory Card Camera-Recorder
Frequently Asked Questions

■ **for AG-HPX502**

_ 0 1

Q What are the differences between AG-HPX502 and AG-HVX202?

A The P2 system feature is about the same as that of AG-HVX202. As a video camera however, it has following differences:

AG-HPX502:
(1) Comes with four P2 slots
(2) Features 2/3" x 3CCD
(3) 2/3" Bayonet-type lens replacement feature enables use of many professional lenses
(4) Compatible with 16 bit/48 kHz/4 ch digital audio
(5) Uses 12v professional battery
(6) Equipped with HD-SDI output terminal (embedded audio)
(7) TC in/out (BNC) ready
(8) GENLOCK in (BNC) ready
(9) Video out (SD/BNC) ready
(10) Has IEEE1394 port (6-pin), as well as USB2.0 (type B) port

_ 0 2

Q Is the Menu screen of AG-HPX502 different from that of AG-HVX202?

A AG-HPX502 has a menu similar to the one in AG-HVX202, with additional lens set-up, battery replacement set-up, and other menu to support this professional camcorder.

Q Which lenses can be used with AG-HPX502?
What are the differences between those lenses and others?

A Almost any 2/3" bayonet-type lens can be used with AG-HPX502.
In addition, AG-HPX502 comes equipped with Chromatic Aberration Compensation (CAC)
to adjust chromatic aberration pertinent to any lens, in combination with use of
recommended lenses.
CAC function helps the camcorder to automatically adjusts the registration error introduced
by chromatic aberration of the lens, to minimize color bleeding on the outline of each
image.
The following lenses are compatible with the camcorder's CAC function.

Canon (three versions):
• KJ10ex4.5B IRSD PS12
• KJ16ex7.7B IRSD PS12
• KJ16ex7.7B KRSD PS12
• KJ21ex7.6B IRSD PS12

Fujinon (two versions):
• XA17x7.6BERM-M58B
• XA17x7.6BRM-M58B

* as of May, 2007

Q Can I use other 2/3" lenses that are not mentioned in the list of recommended HD lenses?
What problems should I expect upon using SD (standard definition) 2/3" lenses?

A Yes, you can.
However, you may not be able to obtain true HD quality images using a SD lens, due to the
lens' characteristics.

_ 0 5

Q Which professional battery can be used with AG-HPX502?

A Anton Bauer Gold Mount comes installed with shipment; you may use the same type of battery. You can also replace the mount plate to V-mount to utilize professional batteries manufactured by other companies, as is the case with AJ-HDX900 and other professional cameras. You can also enter Battery setup menu in the Main menu, then select the battery in use, to correctly display necessary information in the viewfinder.

_ 0 6

Q What accessories are included with shipment of AG-HPX502?

**A** The following three items are included:

- 1.5" Viewfinder (4:3 CRT, NTSC/PAL switchable)
- Shoulder strap,
- P2 card driver software (CD-ROM)

_ 0 7

Q Can I use an optional HD compatible viewfinder (such as AJ-HVF21G), to confirm the HD picture quality?

A It doesn't work. To verify the HD quality picture, we recommend you to use an external HD monitor (such as BT-LH900A, BT-LH80W, and BT-LH1700W) to display HD signals via HD-SDI or analog component output terminal.
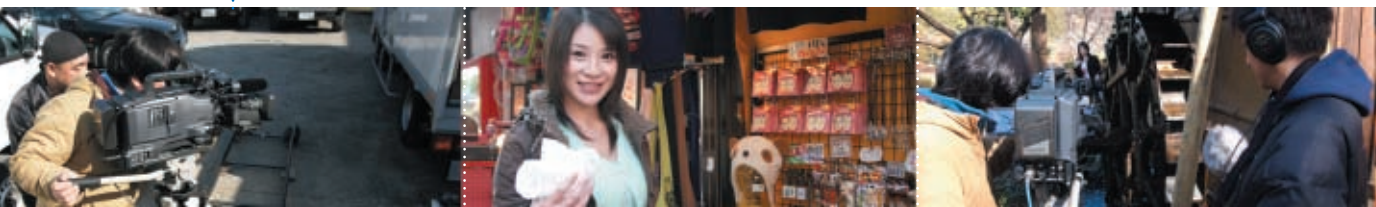
Q What can be set up under
LENS SETUP in CAMERA MENU?

A The following lens functions can be set up:

• Shading parameter of the lens
• CAC data
• Verifying/adjusting the IRIS parameter

Q Is the ON/OFF maneuvering of three special shooting modes
(interval shot, one shot, loop) under REC FUNCTION
the same as that of AG-HVX202?

A Both AG-HPX502 and AG-HVX202 share the same basic operation procedures. Set up
each recording mode in the recording configuration first, then you can start recording. To
start interval recording, use the trigger REC switch. To stop recording, use ■ in the side of
camera. Both Loop REC and oneshot modes utilize the trigger REC switch to start/stop
recording.

Q While loop recording with AG-HPX502,
how many P2 cards can be specified within the "recording range"?

A You can set up Loop REC with more than two P2 cards.
With AG-HPX502, the number of P2 cards can be specified from 2 to 4.

_11

Q To avoid flickering while operating in 50Hz areas, for example, we can select the shutter speed to 1/100 while capturing in 1080i. Is there a way to avoid flickering in 720P capturing mode?

A While shooting in 60 frame in 720p mode, you can set the shutter speed to 1/100. If you cannot select 1/100 while capturing in 24 frame mode, use synchro scan mode to specify approximate shutter speed. If you simply wish to avoid flickering, you can select 1/50.

Q Can AG-HPX502 put SD or HD signals
out via IEEE1394 interface ?

A As in the case of AG-HVX202, you can set it up to output DV, DVCPRO, DVCPRO 50, and
DVCPRO HD. In the camera menu, select the desired format under REC FORMAT.

Note: While native format (24pN, 25pN, 30pN) is selected, you cannot set up to output signals via
IEEE1394 while recording at the same time. Also, you cannot output up-convert / down-convert
signals via IEEE1394.

for P2 System

_13

Q In a situation where two AG-HPX502s are in use, or when more than two kinds of P2 cameras, such as AG-HPX502 and AG-HVX202, are featured in the studio, can I use one P2 card in more than two cameras?
If such maneuvering is possible, is there a way to identify which data is captured with which camera?

A It is possible. Use P2Viewer to identify the camera used for each data. Each video clip is organized with information regarding type of camera used, serial number, as well as card number.
Note that P2Viewer is software designed to run on Windows OS; it won't run on Mac OS. Instead, you can use P2 LOG, as well as Final Cut Pro, to verify data.

* If you own a MacPro and other Windows-compatible Mac, use BootCamp to install Windows on the Mac CPU, and run P2Viewer on it.
You can download P2Viewer software at: <https://eww.pavc.panasonic.co.jp/pro-av/>.

_14

Q If I have several P2 cards with data shot by AG-HPX502,
Could it be possible to upload the data by using the card slots of AG-HVX202?

A Since P2 cards are treated as external drives, you can capture data with AG-HVX202 in a similar manner. A data in a card is recognized as one file; if you have a large file spanned over three or more cards (spanned file), you can first NLE capture all required segments, then arrange them correctly so that the data can be treated as a set of sequenced video data.

Q If I use more than five P2 cards to capture video with AG-HPX502, is it possible to seamlessly preview data spanned over five or more cards (exceeding the number of slots)? What will happen if data captured via AG-HPX502 is previewed on AG-HVX202?

A You cannot seamlessly preview data spanned over 5 cards, requiring more than five slots at the same time. The model does not support hot swap playback. You can play back data contained in the first four cards, then stop to replace cards.

Likewise, play back the first two cards on AG-HVX202, stop to replace cards, then continue.

_16

Q I was using AG-HPX502 in a session with its slots fully loaded with four P2 cards. I started to shoot in 720/60p mode.
The card in slot 1 was apparently full, and the card in slot 2 was filled up halfway. When I switched to 24pN mode, it went back to slot 1 card to record a little, then moved on to record on the third card. Why did such thing happen? Is there a way to prevent such anomaly, to set up the unit to record from card 1, 2, 3, then 4, in an orderly manner? How can I set it up?

A If the first card is filled up, then switched onto the next card, such anomaly like the above case should not occur. Even if the card in slot 1 is not completely filled, the camera may determine that the space in the first card is not sufficient to continue writing onto the medium. In such case, the data will be automatically recorded onto the next card. However, if the camera determines that enough space is found on slot 1 card, due to the switching of REC mode, it may occasionally try to write on the remainder of the space left on the first card.

Since the camera follows certain algorithm to determine which card to record on, it is basically recorded "in an orderly manner".

Insert each card slowly from slot 1 to slot 4, and recording should start from slot 1 on, as preferred.

Since recording condition can change from time to time, AG-HPX502 is controlled by the P2 system so that even if the power is shut down, when the power is back on it will try appending data onto the card lastly used.

Additionally, if all slots are not occupied, or if data cannot be written on the card any more, then the system will try recording onto another card.

(When the first card is NOT inserted to slot 1, the system will recognize it as the "first card" and start writing data on it, not the second card inserted into slot 1 later.)

You can however select the slot to initiate recording.

The same system is featured in AG-HVX202, but you can force the camera to start recording on slot 1 or slot 2 by assigning SLOT SEL function to USER button.

Q How is the captured video data stored in the P2 card?
How should I back up data on the card?

A P2 card contains a folder "CONTENTS" and a file named "LASTCLIP.txt". Within the structure, video data is stored as MXF file.

To back up data onto a Hard Disk Drive(HDD) using OS, first create a folder, and then copy everything on the card into the newly created folder, including "CONTENTS" and "LASTCLIP.txt". Do not change the folder name "CONTENTS". If you wish to back up more than two P2 cards, you must create named folders for each, then copy data.

If you utilize tools such as P2Viewer, you can bundle many cards into one single folder, or copy selected video clips.

Note 1: When naming each folder, use number scheme such as 001, 002, ... to help clarify the order of recording.

Note 2: When using Apple Final Cut Pro, you cannot select an MXF file in CONTENTS directly to import video data.

iDisk	CONTENTS ►	AUDIO ►
Network	LASTCLIP.TXT	CLIP ►
Macintosh_HD	REC_INFO.CSV	ICON ►
LaCie Disk ⏏		PROXY ►
NO NAME ⏏		VIDEO ►
NO NAME ⏏		VOICE ►

How to import the file on Apple Final Cut Pro(FCP):
• From pulldown menu, select:
• File -> Import -> Panasonic P2...   then,
• From Import screen, add folder to
• select card or folder.

■ for Non-linier Editing

_18

Q If more than five P2 cards (i.e., more than the number of slots available) are used while recording extensively with AG-HPX502, can I insert those cards at random, and expect the system to recognize the session as one single file at the moment of NLE capturing?

A It will not be recognized as one single file. To order them correctly, you will need to sort them by timecode information. A better way of managing this procedure will be to gather all P2 data onto an external Hard Disk Drive(HDD) first. Upon accessing the HDD via NLE, all segments of the spanned file should be visible; you can then capture it as one single file.

_19

Q When I tried to capture P2 data using Apple Final Cut Pro, a couple of files where the 'span' appears were indicated as "Incomplete". What does it mean? Playing back of the file gives no problem otherwise.

A Upon capturing contents of P2 card via FCP, the software marks the spanned clip (i.e., a video data with segments spanned across numbers of cards) as "Incomplete" if all file segments are not visible at the moment of capturing.
If the entire spanned clip is visible, it will be marked as "Span", a single file.
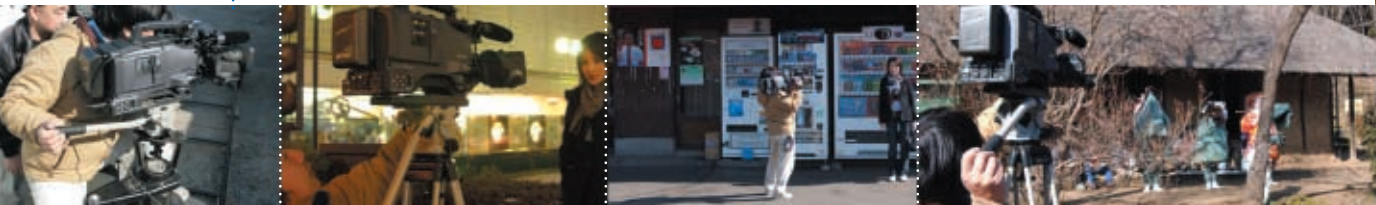
Q When variable frame rate except in 24pN, 25pN, or 30pN mode is used,
is there a way to see overcrank / undercrank visuals without using
frame rate converter? Also on NLE, I wonder if there is a way to
verify them as overcrank or undercrank, without using frame rate converter.

A In order to preview such data with varied playback speed (i.e., slow motion or quick
motion), you will need a frame rate conversion hardware (AJ-FRC27), or software.
If you just want to confirm the frame rate, you can use P2Viewer, or utilize the camcorder's
function.

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