

E-films Newsletter

February 2010

Hi to everyone from Efilms here in Sydney. This is our first newsletter, so any feedback on how to improve is much appreciated.

EX1-R

We have been asked many questions on compatibility with the newly released Sony EX1-R camera.

First up, what we have found in our testing is that the EX1-R is not only compatible with the MxR and e-LCR cards, they run the same memory cards significantly faster.

The Sandisk Ultra 32GB Class 4, could overcrank to *40-43fps* in 720/25p mode the EX1, and now will sustain the maximum of **60fps** in the EX1-R.

The Transcend 32GB Class 6 card was able to overcrank to about 40fps* in 720p mode, while in the EX1-R it sustained recording of **50fps**.

All cards tested worked faster in the EX1-R than in the EX1, which means they have more headroom for normal recording.

The temptation for some users will be to use lower grades of memory. We would strongly recommend that they stay with the top end of the consumer grades. When the considerable savings already achieved are taken into account, and the inconsistent quality of some of these cards, the risks are too great with valuable footage. Better to stick to well known brands such as Sandisk, Transcend, or ATP.

e-HDR

In the EX1/EX3 the camera would only recognize a maximum of 84GB, due to the firmware limitations of the camera. So it didn't matter which size HDD or SSD was used, the maximum that the camera would recognize would be 84GB.

Under the EX1-R, this limitation has been removed. The camera will now format to the size of the HDD or SSD unit.

For instance here are some real figures from our testing:

160GB – 580 mins - 9hrs 20mins

320GB – 1164mins - 19hrs 24mins

500GB – 1821mins - 30hrs 21mins

30hrs of Full HD!

Getting that amount of information off a HDD using USB would be slow. The e-HDR also has an e-Sata interface, which allows either very high speed download, or the ability for the user to edit directly from the unit itself, no download.

We will shortly be releasing the pricelist for the components of the e-HDR, for those users who want to treat the enclosure as a permanent storage device. Record, edit and then store the whole unit.

Another benefit for EX1-R users, is that the camera now allows copying of all clips from one slot to another. So any user who wants to back up in the field, can copy from their cards, whether MxR, e-LCR or even SxS, directly to the e-HDR. This will save having to carry a laptop to back up data as you go.

Memory

We have had a lot of feedback on the performance of different memory brands and sizes in the market.

Sandisk Ultra:

16GB – A small number of users have reported that their card had stopped recording, and the user was unable to retrieve the data off the card unless they used specialized software. One user here in Australia was able to retrieve the data by going through a specialist Photographic camera house which was able to restore the data.

For our purposes the failure rate for Sandisk Ultra II 16GB was too high, and we cannot recommend them.

The Ultra 32GB has had no known failures in the field, and we can continue to recommend it.

Trasncend:

The new 16GB Class 10 cards have proved to be very fast in our testing, and at their price point represent very good value. No long term testing has been done on them yet, so will we have to wait to hear back from users in the field. Testing in the EX1-R completed with 60fps overcrank.

ATP:

We have also been asked about the ATP range of memory. It is claimed that the card will write at up to 22MB/s, in our testing we were able to verify 12.5MB/s, which puts it into the middle of the field. Testing in the EX1-R completed with 60fps overcrank.

Other memory:

We are always on the lookout for new suppliers that can supply a superior memory card, at a reasonable price without sacrificing quality. We are currently finalizing testing on two new cards which offer very reasonable pricing for Class 6 and Class 10 cards.

** All fps comparisons refer to PAL recording at 720 / 25p. Overcranking refers to the camera performing slow motion, to do this it must record faster than real time, eg 25p is 25 fps, so doubling that is 50fps, which would correspond to a 50% slow motion effect on playback. So the more fps beyond real time, (25fps), the more headroom the card has in everyday use. No sound is recorded by the camera in this mode.*