

# Sony MC50E quick guide

COMM2624 Media 1

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## The Sony MC50E kit bag

- video camera
- 2 batteries
- pair of headphones
- 'shotgun mic' (i.e. directional mic) already attached to camera
- camera manual
- ac adaptor for recharging/direct pwr
- usb connection cable
- optional lavalier mic(clip-on)
- microphone ext cable

## **'Start-up' Checklist**

Every time you shoot you should run through the following checklist.

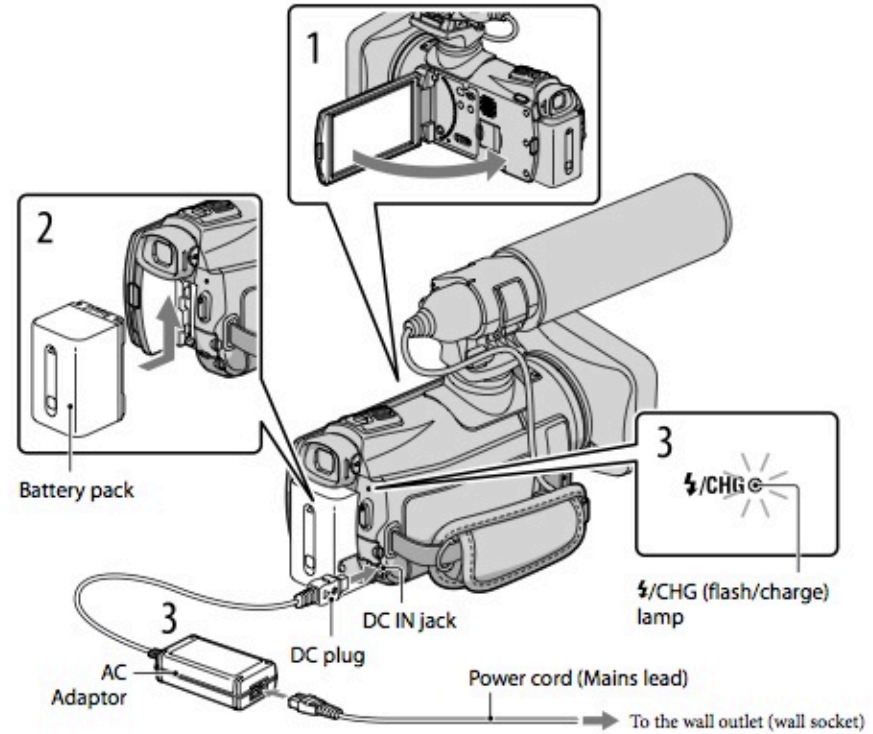
Sometimes you will be using the auto setting of some of these functions on the camera and not need to manually adjust things like focus, white balance etc ... but at other times YOU WILL for all sorts of technical and creative reasons so get to know how to manually adjust each parameter.

Note – don't worry about any of the limited mic level settings on this camera (just leave in the default auto setting).

- On/off & battery
- Tripod/grip belt setup
- Format disc
- Record mode
  
- Audio setup
- Frame
- Focus
- Exposure
- White balance
- THEN Press Record

# Battery

When you pick up the camera you will usually be given two charged batteries.



You can charge the “InfolITHIUM” battery pack (V series) after attaching it to your camcorder.

### ⌚ Notes

- You cannot attach any “InfolITHIUM” battery pack other than the V series to your camcorder.

The ⚡/CHG (flash/charge) lamp lights up and charging starts. The ⚡/CHG (flash/charge) lamp turns off when the battery pack is fully charged.

- 4 When the battery is charged, disconnect the AC Adaptor from the DC IN jack of your camcorder.

### 📌 Tips

- See page 114 on recording and playing time.
- When your camcorder is on, you can check the approximate amount of remaining battery power with the remaining battery indicator at the upper left on the LCD screen.

- 1 Turn off your camcorder by closing the LCD screen after replacing the viewfinder.

- 2 Attach the battery pack by sliding it in the direction of the arrow until it clicks.

- 3 Connect the AC Adaptor and the power cord (mains lead) to your camcorder and the wall outlet (wall socket).

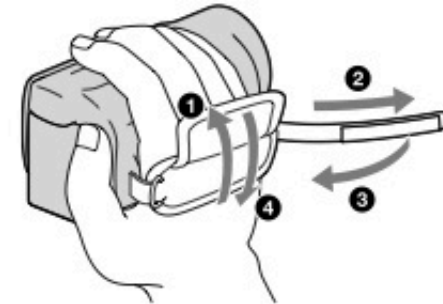
- Align the ▲ mark on the DC plug with that on the DC IN jack.

## Turning on/off

It happens automatically when you open and close the LCD screen.

(But be aware that the on/off status can change if you start using the viewfinder, which can be pulled out – then the camera will stay on even if you close the screen)

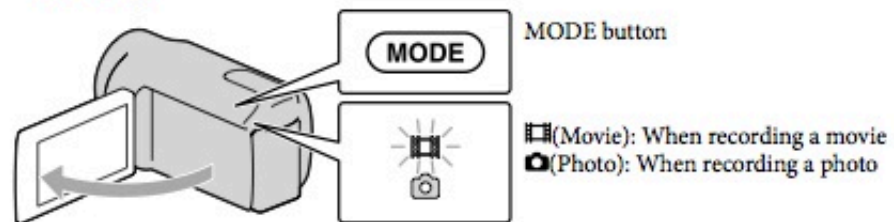
1 Fasten the grip belt.



2 Open the LCD screen of your camcorder.

Your camcorder is turned on and the lens cover is opened.









- To turn on your camcorder when the LCD screen is already open, press POWER (p. 18).
- You can switch recording modes by pressing MODE. Press MODE to light up the desired recording mode lamp.



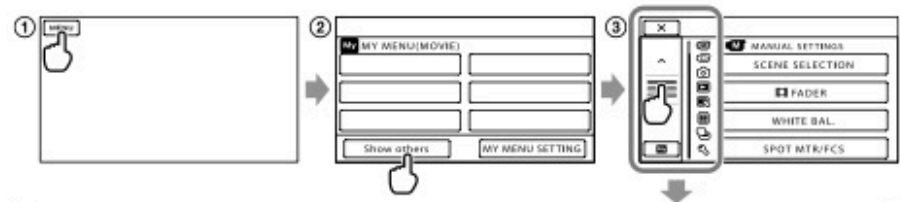
# Using menus


## Using menus






Using the menus, you can perform useful functions and change various settings. If you make good use of menu operations, you can enjoy using your camcorder.  
The camcorder has various menu items under each of eight menu categories.

-  **MANUAL SETTINGS** (Items to adjust for scene condition) → p. 84
-  **SHOOTING SET** (Items for customized shooting) → p. 89
-  **PHOTO SETTINGS** (Items for recording photos) → p. 93
-  **PLAYBACK** (Items for playback) → p. 95
-  **EDIT** (Items for editing) → p. 97
-  **OTHERS** (Items for other settings) → p. 97
-  **MANAGE MEDIA** (Items for recording media) → p. 98
-  **GENERAL SET** (Other setup items) → p. 99

### Operating menus





-  /  : The menu list moves from category to category.
-  /  : The menu list moves through 4 items at once.
- You can touch buttons and drag the screen to scroll the list of the menu.
- The selected category icon is displayed in orange.
- When you touch , the screen returns to the MY MENU screen.

- ① Touch **MENU** (MENU).
- ② Touch [Show others] on the MY MENU screen.
  - See the next page for details on MY MENU.
- ③ Touch the central part of the left side of screen to change the display.
- ④ Touch the menu item to be changed.
- ⑤ After changing the setting, touch **OK**.  
To finish setting the menu, touch **X**.  
To return to the previous menu screen, touch **←**.
  - **OK** may not be displayed depending on the menu item.

## Formatting

The MC50 has a sizeable internal memory as well as a separate removable memory card.

By default your recording will be stored on the internal memory.

**Each time you get a camera out you should delete any materials on it by ‘formatting’ the disc first thing.**

[If you don't do this you will have to download all footage on the camera as well as your own – this can potentially be up 50GB+ so it will take a long time and you device may not have enough space]

See the final page of this guide for instructions on how to transfer footage.

MENU->SHOW OTHERS->MANAGE MEDIA->MEDIA FORMAT

### MEDIA FORMAT

Formatting deletes all the movies and photos to recover recordable free space. Select the recording media to be formatted, touch [YES] → [YES] → **OK**.

#### Notes

- Connect your camcorder to the wall outlet (wall socket) using AC Adaptor supplied for this operation (p. 16).
- To avoid the loss of important images, you should save them before formatting the recording media.
- Protected movies and photos will also be deleted.
- While [Executing...] is displayed, do not close the LCD screen, operate the buttons on the camcorder, disconnect the AC Adaptor, or eject

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### MANAGE MEDIA

(Items for recording media)

See “Using menus” (p. 79) on the operation.

### MEDIA SETTINGS

See page 20.

### MEDIA INFO

You can check the remaining recordable time for each recording mode of the recording media for movies and the approximate free and used media space of the recording media.

To turn off the display

Touch **×**.

#### Notes

- Since there is a management file area, the used space is not displayed as 0 % even if you perform [MEDIA FORMAT] (p. 98).

#### Tips

- Only the information of the medium selected on [MOVIE MEDIA SET] (p. 20) is displayed. Change the medium setting if necessary.



## Recording mode [quality]

Just stay with the default selection of HD (HQ)

### Selecting the recording mode

You can select a recording mode to record the high definition image quality (HD) movies from 4 levels. The recording time of the media is changed depending on recording mode. In the default setting, the recording mode is set to [HQ].



1 Touch **MENU** (MENU) → [Show others] → [  REC MODE] (under  [SHOOTING SET] category).

2 Touch a desired setting.

If you want to record high quality images with the high definition image quality (HD), select the FX or FH mode. If you want to record longer movies, select the LP mode.

3 Touch **OK** → **X**.



## Framing

- Use guideframe
- Check 'headroom'
- Check 'looking room'

### GUIDEFAME



You can display the frame and check that the subject is horizontal or vertical.

The frame is not recorded.

▶ OFF

Does not display the guide frame.

ON

Displays the guide frame.





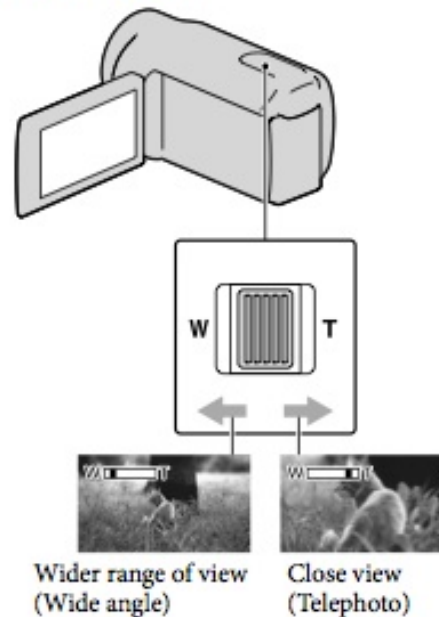
#### Tips

- Positioning the subject at the cross point of the guide frame makes a balanced composition.
- The outer frame of [GUIDEFAME] shows the display area of a TV which is not compatible with full pixel display.
- When recording with the viewfinder, the outer frame of [GUIDEFAME] is not displayed.

# Zooming



## Zooming

You can magnify images up to 14 times the original size with the power zoom lever. You can magnify images also with the / button on the LCD screen.



Move the power zoom lever slightly for a slower zoom. Move it further for a faster zoom.

### ⓘ Notes

- Be sure to keep your finger on the power zoom lever. If you move your finger off the power zoom lever, the operation sound of the power zoom lever may also be recorded.
- You cannot change the zoom speed with the / button on the LCD screen.
- The minimum possible distance between camcorder and subject while maintaining sharp focus is about 1 cm (about 13/32 in.) for wide angle and about 80 cm (about 31 1/2 in.) for telephoto.

## Audio

There are three microphone setup options available on this camera and their pickup patterns (as per the sound section of the course):

- Shotgun/directional microphone (hypercardioid) – sits on top of the camera
- Omnidirectional on-board microphone (switches on when shotgun mic unplugged)
- Lavalier/clip-on microphone (also omnidirectional)

### AUDIO REC SET



#### ■ BLT-IN ZOOM MIC (Built-in zoom microphone)

You can record a movie with vivid sound appropriate to the zoom position.

##### ▶ OFF

The microphone does not record sound following zooming in or out.

##### ON (📶)

The microphone records sound following zooming in or out.

#### ■ MICREF LEVEL (Microphone reference level)

You can select the microphone level for recording sound.

##### ▶ NORMAL

Records various ambient sounds, converting them into the appropriate level.

##### LOW (📶↓)

Records ambient sound faithfully. Select [LOW] when you want to record an exciting and powerful sound in a concert hall, etc. (This setting is not suitable for recording conversations.)

## Focus

The shot you are planning (e.g. static and locked off versus mobile) will determine whether or not it is practical to manually focus. For when you do manually focus:

- Zoom in fully on eyes of subject, adjust focus, then pull out to correct/desired frame
- [See also the later slide on SPOT FOCUS]

### FOCUS



You can adjust the focus manually. You can select this function also when you want to focus on a certain subject intentionally.



Touch (nearby subject)/ (distant subject) to adjust the focus.

To adjust the focus automatically, touch [AUTO].

#### Notes

- When you set [FOCUS] to [MANUAL], appears.
- The minimum possible distance between camcorder and subject while maintaining sharp focus is about 1 cm (about 13/32 in.) for wide angle and about 80 cm (about 31 1/2 in.) for telephoto.

#### Tips

- appears when the focus cannot be adjusted any closer, and appears when the focus cannot be adjusted farther away.
- It is easier to focus on the subject by moving the power zoom lever towards T (telephoto) to adjust the focus, then towards W (wide angle) to adjust the zoom for recording. When you want to record a subject at close range, move the power zoom lever to W (wide angle), then adjust the focus.
- The focal distance information (distance at which the subject is focused on; used as a guide if it is dark and focus adjustment is difficult) appears for a few seconds in the following cases. (This information will not display correctly if a conversion lens (sold separately) is being used.)
  - When the focus mode is switched from automatic to manual
  - When you set focus manually
- You can also adjust manually by using the MANUAL dial (p. 33).

## [Manual] Exposure

Base this judgment on your subject (particularly their skin tones)

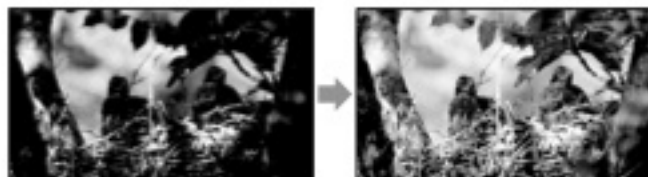
See the spot meter function on this camera (a couple of pages further on) for an easy way to do this in combination with focus

[NOTE: 'AE SHIFT' allows basic manual +/-adjustment of the Auto Exposure when on [but is a different function to the one detailed here]

## EXPOSURE



You can fix the brightness of a picture manually. Adjust the brightness when the subject is too bright or too dark.



Touch **-** / **+** to adjust the brightness. To adjust the exposure automatically, touch [AUTO].

### Tips

- You can also adjust manually by using the MANUAL dial (p. 33).

## [Manual] White Balance

Remember that 'white balance' is actually about adjusting the *colour* of your shot (to account for the natural colour tints of lighting like sources the sun, fluorescent lighting etc.)

'ONE PUSH' is the manual white balance function.

To manually set, zoom in on a 'white object' (e.g. piece of white paper) held as close as possible to the point of focus – e.g. the face of your main subject – so that it fills the frame THEN set the WB, then reframe.

NOTE: 'WB SHIFT' allows basic manual +/-adjustment of the Auto White Balance when on [but is a different function to the one detailed here]

### WHITE BAL. (White balance)

You can adjust the color balance to the brightness of the recording environment.



▶ **AUTO**  
The white balance is adjusted automatically.

**OUTDOOR** (☀)  
The white balance is appropriately adjusted for the following recording conditions:

- Outdoors
- Night views, neon signs and fireworks
- Sunrise or sunset
- Under daylight fluorescent lamps

**INDOOR** (💡)  
The white balance is appropriately adjusted for the following recording conditions:

- Indoors
- At party scenes or studios where the lighting conditions change quickly
- Under video lamps in a studio, or under sodium lamps or incandescent-like color lamps

**ONE PUSH** (👉)  
The white balance will be adjusted according to the ambient light.

- ① Touch [ONE PUSH].
- ② Frame a white object such as a piece of paper, to fill the screen under the same lighting conditions as you will shoot the subject.
- ③ Touch [👉].  
👉 flashes quickly. When the white balance has been adjusted and stored in the memory, the indicator stops flashing.

### Notes

- Set [WHITE BAL.] to [AUTO] or adjust the color in [ONE PUSH] under white or cool white fluorescent lamps.
- When you select [ONE PUSH], keep framing white objects while 👉 is flashing quickly.
- 👉 flashes slowly if [ONE PUSH] could not be set.
- When [ONE PUSH] was selected, if 👉 keeps flashing after touching **OK**, set [WHITE BAL.] to [AUTO].
- If you set [WHITE BAL.], [SCENE SELECTION] is set to [AUTO].

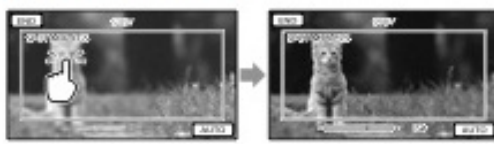
### Tips

- If you have changed the battery pack while [AUTO] was selected, or taken your camcorder outdoors after inside use (or vice versa), aim your camcorder at a nearby white object for about 10 seconds for better color balance adjustment.
- When the white balance has been set with [ONE PUSH], if the lighting conditions changed by bringing your camcorder outdoors from inside the house, or vice versa, you need to redo the [ONE PUSH] procedure to readjust the white balance.

# Spot Meter/Focus

## SPOT MTR/FCS (Spot meter/focus) M

You can adjust the brightness and focus for the selected subject simultaneously. This function enables you to use [SPOT METER] (p. 86) and [SPOT FOCUS] (p. 86) at the same time.



Touch the subject in the frame of which you want to adjust the brightness and focus. To adjust the brightness and focus automatically, touch [AUTO].

- Notes
- [EXPOSURE] and [FOCUS] are automatically set to [MANUAL].

## SPOT METER (Flexible spot meter) M

You can adjust and fix the exposure to the subject, so that it is recorded in suitable brightness even when there is strong contrast between the subject and the background, such as subjects in the spotlight on stage.



Touch the subject in the frame of which you want to adjust the exposure. To return the setting to automatic exposure,

touch [AUTO].

- Notes
- [EXPOSURE] is automatically set to [MANUAL].

## SPOT FOCUS M

You can select and adjust the focal point to aim it at a subject not located at the center of the screen.



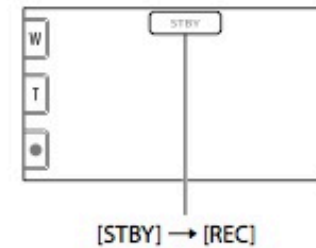
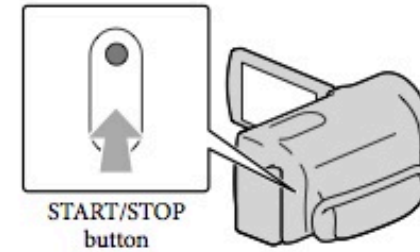
Touch the subject in the frame of which you want to adjust the focus. To adjust the focus automatically, touch [AUTO].

- Notes
- [FOCUS] is automatically set to [MANUAL].

# Recording

Press START/STOP to start recording.

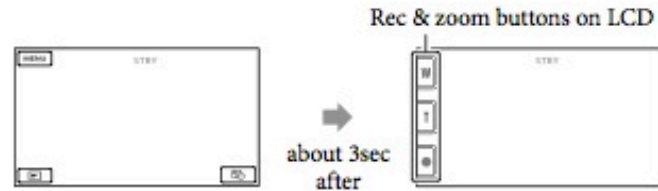
- You can start recording also by touching ● in the bottom left of LCD screen.



To stop recording, press START/STOP again.

- You can stop recording also by touching ● in the bottom left of LCD screen.

- 
- The icons and indicators on the LCD panel will be displayed for about 3 seconds, then disappear after turning on your camcorder or switching the recording (movie/photo)/playback modes. To display the icons and indicators again, touch anywhere on the screen except the rec & zoom buttons on the LCD.



## Notes

- If you close the LCD screen while recording movies, the camcorder stops recording.
- The maximum continuous recordable time of movies is about 13 hours.
- When a movie file exceeds 2 GB, the next movie file is created automatically.
- It will take several seconds until you can start recording after you turn on the camcorder. You cannot operate your camcorder during this time.



## **Getting your footage from the camera to your editing software**

- It is really important to do this as per the following instructions to ensure you get not just your footage off the camera but all the related metadata.
- Connect the camera to your computer via usb. Wait for the USB select button to appear on the MC50 screen. Select 'Internal Memory'.
- The MC50 card will appear as an external drive on your desktop
- Click on the card icon - copy the \*entire\* folder within the card to wherever you usually store your media assets. (Do not drag directly in to Premiere Pro).
- Then (after backing up your usual Media Assets location) you can drag that folder in to your Premiere Pro project folder.