



E22 Crime Scene Videography Revisited: Combining Digital Single-Lens Reflex (DSLR) Camera's Videography Capabilities With Photography

*Kevin J. Parmelee, PhD**, Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, Forensic Lab, 40 N Bridge Street, Somerville, NJ 08876

After attending this presentation, attendees will better understand how current DSLR technology can be used to document crime scenes more effectively with a single device that combines the use of videography and photography.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing a new methodology for documenting crime scenes using current DSLR technology. This information may impact the development of future guidelines and standards for using sequential capture of video and photography in documenting crime scenes.

This presentation will provide the technical use of DSLR cameras to capture both still and video images consecutively at a crime scene using one device. Photography provides a means of recording visual information and details regarding how a crime scene and evidence appeared. The visual documentation of crime scenes and evidence is commonly accomplished using photographic technology. Although capturing video may not be mandatory at all crime scenes, it provides additional context of the scene that is not available with still images. As the technology of DSLR cameras advanced, the option of capturing video with the DSLR became available and the quality of the images and footage advanced as well. The advancing technology now allows for the capture of still images and video, and the opportunity now exists to capture them sequentially at a crime scene using a single device.

Using one DSLR camera, the crime scene investigator can capture still images and video in sequence, which reduces the time associated with operating two devices, allows for a more convenient methodology for capturing both still and video images, reduces issues of contention that images may have been altered, and promotes the opportunity to capture video at a greater variety of crime scenes.

A study was conducted using an older DSLR camera, Nikon® D90, and a newer DSLR, Nikon® D610, to determine whether common camera/video technology will meet the requirements of current guidelines, enhance the efficiency for capturing images and video at crime scenes, and meet court admissibility requirements.

The scope of this presentation evaluates a test of two Nikon® brand DSLR cameras, which offer both still and video methods of capturing images, against current guidelines. Other camera brands that offer similar technology and options for crime scene investigators may be useful as an alternative. Additionally, a new methodology for capturing both still and video images will be presented that conforms with current and proposed guidelines set forth by the Scientific Working Group Imaging Technology (SWGIT) and the Scientific Working Group on Digital Evidence (SWGDE).

Videography, Photography, Documentation