

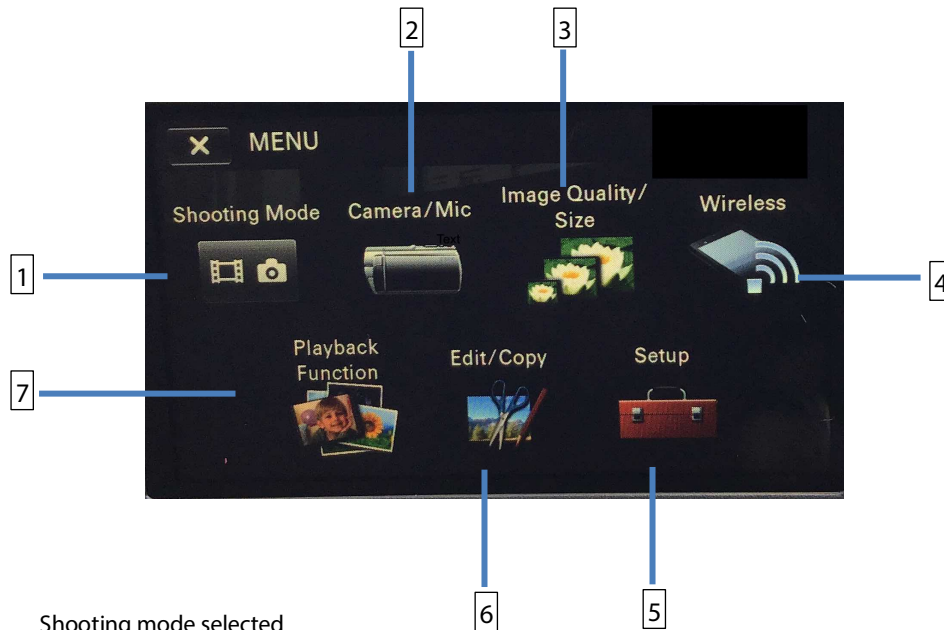
## The Digital Storytellers Project

### Quick Guide to the Camcorder: SONY HDR-CX625

Links to the full manual in English and Spanish at the end.

### The Camera's Touchscreen (=Main Screen)

List of all screen indicators: Manual p. 24



- 1 Shooting mode selected
- 2 Camera / Microphone
- 3 Image Quality / Size
- 4 Wireless
- 5 Installation
- 6 Edit/Copy
- 7 Playback functions

### Camera Settings

First please set time and date so the files are date-referenced.

It is important to consistently use the same basic settings for best results and editing consistency.

The camera saves your settings and should keep them even if you change batteries.

### Record mode and quality

1. **MENU** - [Image Quality/ Size] - [REC Mode] - desired setting.



Settings must be **HD (1920x1080), 50p, Highest Quality**.

First set the **frame rate : 50p**

Then the record quality: **XAVC-S, 50 Mbps (FX mode)**

The dual video recording is automatically turned off

Image Size is on 16:9 / L (does not really concern you)

## Manual Settings


You activate movie recording over the main menu: Menu > Shooting mode > Video

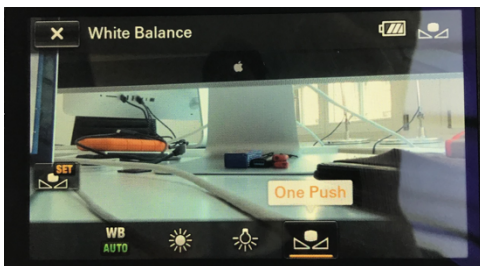
The camera basically works in a fully automatic mode.

**However, in several situations it is essential to use manual settings for best results.**

The following procedures help you get the best possible results.


### White Balance (Manual p. 109)

1. [MENU] - [Camera/Mic] - [  Manual Settings] - [White Balance] - desired setting.



In normal settings the automatic white balance is mostly satisfying. For interviews it is essential to use the **One Push White Balance**. Otherwise the skin tones of the person may be reproduced with a color cast.

Procedure:

1. Select the  button
2. Place a sheet of white paper in front of the subject facing the camera, so that it fills the screen completely
3. Select WB set

**After the interview you must return to Auto White Balance.**

Otherwise the interview white balance will be applied to the following scenes resulting in a wrong white balance.

### Manual focus: Spot focus (Manual p. 111)

1. [MENU] - [Camera/Mic] - [  Manual Settings] - [Spot Focus].


The camera uses face recognition (please verify that face recognition is on, Manual p 125) and will follow-focus a face even if it moves within the frame. However, if you are very close a face may not be recognized. Manual focus is needed. The same applies if you film an object in the foreground (a closeup of hand with a pen, for example) and include people in the background, the camera will most probably focus on the background. Again, manual focus is needed.

Also be careful with situations that include 2 persons with a space between them. In most cases the camera focuses on the space between the persons.

The procedure is simple:

1. Select Spot focus
2. In the frame just touch the point where you want the focus to be.
3. This automatically sets the focus to manual
4. **After the shoot return to automatic focus**


### Manual Focus (Manual p. 112)

1. [MENU] - [Camera/Mic] - [  Manual Settings] - [Focus] - desired setting.

You can also use a completely manual focus. In difficult conditions you get good results moving the power zoom lever towards T (telephoto) to adjust the focus, then towards W (wide angle) to adjust the zoom for recording.


**Don't forget to return to automatic focus.**

## Face detection (Manual p. 125)

1. **MENU** - [Camera/Mic] - [ Face] - [Face Detection] - desired setting.


Face detection is helpful in many cases – exceptionally if you have people in the frame and want the camera to focus on other things such as an object in the foreground. In these cases we advise you to stop face detection.

## Audio Mode (Manual p. 130)

1. **MENU** - [Camera/Mic] - [ Microphone] - [Audio Mode] - desired setting.


Make sure that 2ch Stereo is activated.

## Audio Rec Level (Manual p. 130)

1. **MENU** - [Camera/Mic] - [ Microphone] - [Audio Rec Level] - desired setting.

As a rule of thumb and especially during interviews it is indispensable to monitor your audio using headphones. In most cases, the automatic level will be ok. Please take into account that the (every) camera will adjust the level of everything it hears to the same level. If you conduct an interview and you have some noise like people or a machine in the background, this noise will be very prominent when the person does not speak. In those cases, please use Manual Level, keeping the Level to 12 on the scale.

## Audio Level Display (Manual p. 134)

1. **MENU** - [Camera/Mic] - [ Shooting Assist] - [Audio Level Display] - desired setting.

It is always best to see the audio level in the display. It tells you that the microphone is actually working and that the level is neither too high nor too low.

## My Buttons (Manual p. 132)

1. **MENU** - [Camera/Mic] - [ Shooting Assist] - [My Button].

You can assign functions that you frequently use when recording to one of the My Buttons. We suggest to use the Manual Focus or White Balance option, so you can access this menu directly.

## Annex: Links to the Full Manual

Full English manual, Sony Switzerland website

<https://www.sony.ch/de/electronics/support/memory-camcorders-hdr-cx-series/hdr-cx625?manuals-lang=en#downloads>

Manual completo en español:

<https://www.sony.es/electronics/support/memory-camcorders-hdr-cx-series/hdr-cx625#manuals>

## Downloading Footage

**Important:** Download your footage daily. Do not delete any from the Memory Card. Drag and Drop to your Computer after connecting the built-in USB-Cable

