

Focus Recorder Speeds Time to Web



Focus FS-5 Portable DTE Recorder
with Metadata Support



Focus FS-4Pro HD Portable
DTE Recorder

FOCUS
enhancements

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Challenge

When BMX videographer Richard Montalvo first discovered the Focus Enhancements FS Portable Direct To Edit® (DTE) Recorders, he was facing impossible production deadlines. Richard covered BMX racing events across the country, shooting approximately 100 individual races at each event, and often recorded while crouching on the side of a jump or perched way on top of a mogul. Using a camera and recording footage to tape, typical workflow consisted of shooting, editing, coding, and uploading. He recalled his challenge, “We simply were not able to meet the deadline. Capturing the tapes and labeling everything took forever. We’d finish on Thursday, two days after where we wanted to be.”

Solution

The portable, palm-size FS recorders let videographers record HDV or DV streams directly to disk via FireWire. With the FS-4, Richard can transfer his footage directly to his Final Cut Pro or Premier Pro editing tools, eliminating hours of capture time. “We finally hit the deadline,” said Richard. “It didn’t cost us that much more. It’s just incredible—the time we saved capturing, labeling, and looking through tapes.” And with the latest FS-5 model, users can wirelessly assign custom metadata to clips during the recording, which is then used in the NLE system during postproduction.

Results

Richard is able to get footage posted to his website faster than ever before. “I can’t live without this product,” said Richard. “Capturing tape is the biggest waste of time for an editor. The FS-4 allows me to focus on the creative editing process instead of logging and capturing footage.” The FS-4 also withstands the rigors of extreme sports BMX videography. Extreme sports is not your typical “set up a tripod and shoot” video job, and Richard has been hit more than once. Through it all, his FS-4 hasn’t failed him. Richard recalled the first time he realized the FS-4 recorder’s durability. “I was on the back of a turn about 30 feet off the ground when I was hit by a rider. I went down, along with my equipment. When I saw my FS-4 bounce across the ground, I was pretty sure I’d be shooting the rest of the day with tape and was not looking forward to a long night in the editing room like the old days. But I picked the unit up, turned it back on, plugged it in, and it started working. That was a big shock to me.”