

FEBRUARY 28, 2020

Nikon | LEARN &
EXPLORE

BEGINNER

5 Quick Tips to Better 360° Videos

360 degree shooting opens up a whole new way of storytelling for everyone. Shooting video in 360° brings with it new techniques and ways of shooting that will increase the quality of your videos and make them more enjoyable to watch as well. A few quick tips can help you get started. Along the way you can experiment and see what works for you and the scene or subjects you're filming.

1. Everything is in view—all 360°

Because the camera sees in 360° it sees everything, everywhere. You need to keep this in mind if you plan on being visible (smile!) or if you want to make sure you aren't visible. If you don't want to be visible in your video, you can use an optional accessory such as the handy grip or extension arm and holding one of these devices with the camera attached directly over your head, you won't be visible to either lens.

You could also set the camera in a scene for remote shooting, and use the optional ML-L6 remote to start and stop video recording, and even snap still images.

2. There is a front lens and a rear lens

There is a front lens and a rear lens, so knowing which way your front lens is pointing, will have each video clip beginning facing the correct direction. You will probably want the video beginning on your subject, not yourself, if you've decided to leave yourself visible in the final video, so make sure the front lens is pointing away from you. Nikon is visible at the top of the front lens, and NIKKOR is at the top of the rear lens.

3. Allow for scenes to be long enough for viewers to orient themselves

Because there is a full 360° field of view, you will want to give your viewers a few moments to orient themselves while watching your video. Because of the camera's dual lenses, and its ability to record everything it sees, you don't need to pan or tilt the camera or turn it. You can let your viewer do this as they watch the footage you've shot. Letting viewers choose their own point of interest allows your viewers to become more engaged with your video. And, it offers them the opportunity to view a different area of the video each time. So give viewers at least 15 seconds to orient themselves within the scene before cutting to another clip or moving the camera.

4. Keep the camera stable

Keep the camera as stable as possible, using either an optional accessory such as a tripod, extension arm or handy grip. Because the camera sees everything in full 360 degrees, there's no need to move the camera up/down or around in a circle. Your viewers can do that as they watch the video you've captured. It will also help your viewers if you keep the base of the camera level to the horizon line in your scene. Doing so ensures your audience won't lose their sense of balance.

Or if you choose to edit your footage in a way that directs your viewer as to exactly what they are seeing, you can make those decisions while editing. Just remember there is no need to move the camera. If you really want to move the camera while filming, make sure your movements are smooth, at a constant speed.

Ideally, you want to place the camera in the scene and let the story unfold and tell itself.

5. Get close to your subject but not too close

The KeyMission 360's two lenses have a field of view of 360° combined. Individually, the field of view is roughly 180°. This is an ultra-wide-angle field of view. Because of this, you'll want to place your subjects relatively close to the

camera's lenses, but try to stay at least 5 feet from the sides of the camera so the stitching between the two lenses will be smoother/cleaner and details won't be clipped off.