

Home Studio Build List

VIDEOGRAPHY · BUDGET SETUP

A two-metre corner, three purchases and an afternoon of work will lift your talking-head videos more than a new camera.

BUY IN THIS ORDER

- ☐ 1. Microphone — a lavalier or small shotgun that sits close to your mouth.
- ☐ 2. One key light with a diffuser, or a softbox, on a stand.
- ☐ 3. A phone clamp, boom arm or small tripod to hold the mic steady.
- ☐ 4. Fill: a white wall, foam board or a second dimmer panel.
- ☐ 5. Background depth: a lamp, a plant and a shelf pulled away from the wall.

SET THE CORNER

- ☐ Sit at least a metre from the background so it can blur.
- ☐ Key light 45 degrees to one side, slightly above eye level, diffused.
- ☐ Fill on the shadow side, roughly one stop dimmer than the key.
- ☐ Practical lamp in the background for warmth and separation.
- ☐ No window directly behind you unless you expose for it.

CAMERA SETTINGS

- ☐ Manual exposure, manual white balance, manual focus on your eye line.
- ☐ Frame rate and shutter locked: 24 or 25fps at 1/50s.
- ☐ ISO as low as the lights allow without noise.
- ☐ Shoot a test clip and check skin tone on a phone before recording.

FINISHING TOUCHES

- ☐ Rug, curtain or bookshelf behind you to kill echo.
- ☐ Cable taped down and out of frame.
- ☐ A lens cloth pass before every recording.
- ☐ Record thirty seconds of your room tone for editing.

FIELD NOTE

Turn every light in the room off and use only your key light. Mixed household bulbs and ceiling lights are the reason most home studios look flat.