

Camcorder Recycling for Ag Mechanics Instruction

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Ag Mechanics demonstrations are often difficult to present to larger classes. Welding demonstrations present a particularly difficult challenge since shaded eye protection is required. An effective video presentation system can be made with an old VHS camcorder and a TV. These old cameras usually have good optics and can be obtained for free. Often the battery is dead so just use the provided power supply. The setup works well for other project demonstrations too.

Recommend Practices

- Before the demonstration determine what the best angle to use to effectively show the process. Avoid blocking the view with your hands.
- Explain to students before the presentation what they should be looking for. Write this on a white board and/or have them write down.
- Start the camera and demonstrate while they watch the video screen. In some cases you may be able to talk (e.g. an electrical demonstration) or the camcorder may be able to pickup your speaking. Experiment!
- Stop the recording.
- Rewind the tape and play back (using the camcorder). Discuss the technique while you stop and start the tape. Review.
- Save the tape for a while so students that were absent can view it.

Equipment Needed

- VHS Camcorder with tape
- Video Cable (typical cable is three wire with red, white, and yellow ends)
- Large TV or Flat screen
- Welding lenses
- Duct tape

Bells and Whistles

- Use a tripod or make a bracket that can clamp on a bench. Tripods use common $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 20 bolt threads (after all you are a shop teacher).
- Make a cart or bracket for the TV. Most Flat screens have a standard wall mount bracket. Mounting the TV overhead will make it easier to see.

The Setup



TV

Old VHS Camcorder

Shade 10 Lens & Duct Tape