

DV...??

Have you noticed how many tape formats start with DV? Here are a few words from one confused individual to another on this subject.

.....hopefully this will sound more sensible than earlier today (was dodging traffic in the middle of a road....don't ask....its complicated!) The problem is not isolated as have received calls covering the same material.

firstly tape formats.

a week or so ago became aware that videotape formats were becoming an issue for you; regrettably this is an extensive problem and is far from rare. to assist have been emailing a small pdf (*ed: see note below*) which contains some very basic info. it's far from exhaustive or definitive but seems to be of assistance. for example: if you trace the "Names" from the top a "hint about compatibility": DV - DVCAM - DVC PRO - DVC PRO 50. as always, there are nasty exceptions so the safest approach is to check the manual and test the tape, although that may not be easy or convenient.

secondly, aspect ratio

without going into the gruesome details you have probably seen this referred to as 16:9, 4:3, 12:9 and so on, as you can see its very similar to the above: jargon and obscure. once again i have been emailing the details of a pdf to people: "A Users Guide to Aspect Ratio Conversion" which is available from www.snellwilcox.com. Have not included it but you may find it useful to download as a reference or pass on to people that are interested.

with luck the above makes sense and the pdf will explain things a little.

Editors Note:

By this time the pdf is badly out of date so has not been included. There are many web sites (including the vtr manufacturers) that provide compatibility data.