



**BEST FOR:**  
*The Budding  
YouTube Star*

Flip  
Ultra



**BEST FOR:**  
*The Budding  
Documentarian*

► **SONY HDR-FX1**

If you've got both the directing chops and the self-righteous indignation of Michael Moore, you need a serious rig that's compact enough to let you shoot guerrilla-style. Try the HDR-FX1, packed with three big CCD sensors for razor-sharp 1080i high-def video. You also get a distortion-free Zeiss lens, a manual focus system, and a look that screams "Beat it, hobbyist!" [*\$3,700; sony.com*]

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▲ **PURE DIGITAL VIDEO FLIP ULTRA**

Why spend thousands on equipment when your chosen medium is a two-inch-wide box on a Web page? The Flip Ultra keeps it simple, stupid, with enough internal memory for one hour of video, integrated editing software, and a pop-out USB dongle for transferring clips to a computer. And at this price the video and audio are surprisingly respectable. [*\$180; theflip.com*]

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**BEST FOR:**  
*The Light Packer*

▲ **JVC EVERIO GZ-M365**

Scorsese has an army of assistants, but amateurs are stuck juggling their own tapes, discs, and memory cards. Fortunately, a new range of camcorders have ditched replaceable media. The Everio combines a bottomless 60GB hard drive (good for at least 14 hours of honeymoon hijinks) with a 35x zoom lens and a slick mini-track pad on the LCD bezel. [*\$550; camcorder.jvc.com*]

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## SHOOTING GALLERY

*We tested a selection of new camcorders to help you find the one that best suits your needs.* by DAVID BECKER

► **CANON VIXIA HV30**

Your den is a shrine to high definition, and you'll be damned if you're going to replay your kid's soccer matches at some lesser resolution. The new DV tape-based Vixia HV30 delivers 1080i high-def video in a smart package. Besides sharp images, you get a speedy and accurate autofocus, capable still photo performance, and a design that puts everything at your fingertips. [*\$999; usa.canon.com*]

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**BEST FOR:**  
*The High-Def Historian*



**BEST FOR:**  
*The All-Terrain  
Adventurer*

◀ **PANASONIC SDR-SW20**

For those who like to get dirty, the Panasonic's water- and shockproof build is the difference between having evidence of summiting Rainier and having a broken camera. You can take it only five feet underwater, and the control layout is awkward, but we did like the SDR-SW20's smooth 10x zoom and fairly effective antishake technology. [*\$400; panasonic.com*]

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