

# 8 COMPACT SPORT ACTION CAMERAS

Big performance from small packages

BY TEAM ROTORDRONE PHOTOS BY JOHN REID & PETER HALL

If you're just getting started in aerial photography, a sport action camera is your best bet: you won't break the bank while you learn the ins and outs of filming with a drone. This guide includes our favorites, shown in order of price. The small powerhouses we highlight here can all capture amazing video footage and impressive bird's-eye-view photos, and they start at just \$70!

## Mobius ActionCam

We think this small, lightweight, fully configurable HD video camera is a real bargain, and it's regarded by many as the go-to camera for new RC quadcopter pilots. It has three user-selectable video modes and three video quality settings (super, standard, and low). It includes the graphical user interface program for Windows O.S. for easy setup as well as to update firmware. It uses a micro SD card up to 32GB for video storage. The Mobius has a time-lapse function that will take shots at intervals of between a quarter of a second to a minute and it has an auto-record when power is applied to the camera.

hobbyking.com

### HIGHLIGHTS

- › Low cost
- › User-selectable video quality settings
- › Time-lapse function

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Dimensions:** 1.38 x 2.5 x .75 in.  
**Weight:** 1.4 oz.  
**Video settings:** 1080p HD @ 30fps, 720p HD at 60 or 30fps  
**Price:** \$68.99



## Hitec RCD MD10 Action Camera

High-definition footage and ultra-resolution pics in an inexpensive, easy-to-use package? Sign us up! Ideal for all types of drones, the MD10's compact size and accessories make attaching it to your flying platform quick and easy. And because it has 8 megapixel resolution, the quality of your images will be professional grade. It also has WiFi, 4X digital zoom, voice activated mode and a 180-degree flip feature to allow unlimited shooting angles.

hitecrd.com

### HIGHLIGHTS

- › Ultra wide-angle lens
- › Time lapse modes
- › Built-in 1.5 in. screen

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Dimensions:** 1.9 x 1.6 x 1.3 in.  
**Weight:** 2.4 oz.  
**Video settings:** 1080p @ 30FPS, 720 @ 60FPS, 1080p/720p @ 60fps  
**Price:** \$119



## Boscam HD08A FPV Video Camera

A compact design that's ideal for small aircraft and an ultra-wide-angle lens that provides a 127-degree field of view make this full HD mini sports camera one of our favorites. It is designed to use dual micro SD cards (up to 32G) and has optional photo modes for 8M/5M/3M images. The HD08A also features motion detection and time lapse modes and its built-in 1.5-inch screen provides a high-resolution image display.

hobbypeople.net

### HIGHLIGHTS

- › Ultra wide-angle lens
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### SPECIFICATIONS

**Dimensions:** 1.9 x 1.6 x 1.3 in.  
**Weight:** 2.4 oz.  
**Video settings:** 1080p @ 30FPS, 720 @ 60FPS, 1080p/720p @ 60fps  
**Price:** \$169.99

## Re-Play XD

If you're hard on your equipment (like us!), you'll love this camera's weather-resistant, hard-anodized aluminum housing, which is ideal for extreme conditions. The Replay XD provides up to 130 minutes of recording time and uses a micro SD card to store up to 32G of images. It also has on/off, record, stop, and clip file buttons with vibration feedback and a live view USB hookup to your computer. It comes with swivel and fixed low-profile mounts. The Re-Play has a removable front lens bezel that can also use aftermarket lenses and filters using the optional ProLens adapter.

replayxd.com

### HIGHLIGHTS

- › Hard-anodized aluminum housing
- › One touch power and record buttons with vibration feedback
- › Spherical and low profile mounts included

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Dimensions:** 3.2 x 0.9 x 0.9 in.  
**Weight:** 2 oz.  
**Video settings:** 720p/1280p @ 60 fps and 30 fps  
**Price:** \$139.99



## Sony AZ1V HD Mini Action Cam

With its compact design and included waterproof case, the Sony AZ1V HD Mini Action Cam is a great choice for on-the-go action, even in wet environments. We like its electronic SteadyShot image stabilization feature that helps us get smooth, crisp images at 1080 video resolution. Included are rechargeable battery, micro USB cable, tripod adapter, waterproof case and adhesive mount ideal for use with multirotors.

[bestbuy.com](http://bestbuy.com)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- > Rugged waterproof case
- > SteadyShot image stabilization
- > WiFi smartphone connectivity

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Dimensions:** 1.4 x 1 x 3 in.

**Weight:** 1.7 oz.

**Video settings:** 1080p

**Price:** \$249



## Sony Action Camcorder HDR-AS20

We like this camera's SteadyShot image stabilization, which lets us shoot without the shake. We also like its built-in WiFi connectivity that lets us turn a smartphone into a remote control viewing device! A waterproof case keeps it safe from the elements, and six video shooting modes provide flexible shooting scenarios. Three standard HD modes are provided, and there's also an SD mode that provides extended recording time. It takes 11.9 megapixel photos and comes with an 8GB micro SD card.

[bestbuy.com](http://bestbuy.com)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- > 150 minute shooting time
- > Ultra-wide 170° pro quality ZEISS Tessar lens
- > WiFi smartphone connectivity

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Dimensions:** 3.2 x 1.9 x 1.0 in.

**Weight:** 2 oz.

**Video Settings:** 1920p/1080 @ 60p and 30p; 1280p/720p/30p std., slow & s-slow

**Price:** \$199



## Drift Ghost-S

With 3.5 hours of recording time, this camera can capture a full afternoon of FPV race footage without needing a recharge! We like its 2-inch LDC screen and 300-degree rotatable lens, which makes setting up the view angle a piece of cake. The Ghost-S can take 12-megapixel photos. The camera also has Drift DataLink WiFi and Drift App operation, which lets you to set up recording, photo capture and playback on your mobile device (iPhone & Android). The Drift 2-Way Remote uses two buttons to start or stop recording, or control multiple cameras at the same time.  
[store.driftnnovation.com](http://store.driftnnovation.com)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- > Drift DataLink WiFi
- > Drift 2-way remote
- > Built-in 2-in. LCD screen

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Dimensions:** 4.13 x 2.04 x 1.29 in.  
**Weight:** 6.1 oz.  
**Video settings:** 1080p @ 60fps  
**Price:** \$399



## Go-Pro Hero 4 Silver

We think this camera's touch display makes controlling the camera, framing shots and playing back content extremely easy and convenient. Just view, tap and swipe the screen. Other features we like include "HiLight Tag," which allows you to mark key moments for easy playback, editing and sharing and "QuikCapture," which lets you power on the camera and start recording by pressing a single button. As with all GoPro cameras, its case is waterproof up to 131 feet and strong enough to take abuse while attached to an aerial platform.  
[gopro.com](http://gopro.com)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- > Touch screen
- > 12MP photos at 30 frames per second
- > QuikCapture one-button operation

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Dimensions:** 1.6 x 2.25 x 1.1 in.  
**Weight:** 2.9 oz.  
**Video Settings:** 1080p @ 60fps; 720p @ 120fps  
**Price:** \$399.99 Silver