

Let's talk about dash cams.

By Rich Velardo. November, 2021

The first question is always, "Why?"

- 1) A dash cam will keep a record of everything around you as you drive. The actions other drivers are recorded, along with a video of the driver, vehicle and the license number if viewed from the back. Your actions are also recorded.
- 2) The recorded video can be used to help determine fault in an accident, not just one that you might be involved in, but one that your dash cam witnessed. Last month when our VW was hit by a huge 4 WD pick-up truck, the video from our dash cam showed that the driver of the truck "miss-stated" his actions & the traffic around us.
- 3) It's great for recording club events & drives, I also use mine to record autox runs.
- 4) A recorded video can be used to track down really stupid drivers who do things like left turn from the right turn lane in heavy traffic, or pass in an active school zone from 2 cars behind the camera car & speed off into the distance. Yes, I have sent video to the local police of those two idiots. Also the semi-truck that left turned from the right turn lane was reported with a video. I'm not in the habit of reporting other drivers, but when the actions could be seriously property or life threatening, I feel I have a duty to do so.

Next question would be, "How hard is it too install?"

I'd answer, that it's not very difficult, but time consuming. Depending on if it's going to be hard wired, or just plugged into a power outlet is the big factor in difficulty & time spent. I hard wire mine, so I have to find the proper wires to tap into with an "Add-a Fuse" at the fuse box. Then the wires need to be tucked away behind the body panels.

What to buy?

I like the front & rear cameras. If the driver that rear ends you claims to not have been on the cell phone, the video from the rear camera will be the witness either way. There are many dash cams on the market, many connect to your cell phone and can be programmed or the video viewed from the cell phone. My opinion is to get the dash cam with the best resolution, night vision and other useful features that you can afford. Read the reviews, pick the features that are best for you and stay away from battery dash cams that can fail. I have Rexing dash cams in both the Miata & the new Kia, they tuck up out of my line of sight and are easy to operate. But there are plenty of other good dash cams on Amazon, even if you don't buy from Amazon, it's a good site to use for information gathering.

Just be sure that the video you've recorded doesn't show you being the careless driver!