

TV TECHNOLOGY

THE DIGITAL TELEVISION AUTHORITY

Serving the Broadcast, Cable, Production, Postproduction, Business and New Media Markets

REPRINTED FROM AUGUST 18, 2004

WWW.TVTECHNOLOGY.COM

USER REPORT

Frezzi Lights Legal Videos

by Eric Lenz

President

Eric Lenz Productions

MONTCLAIR, N.J.

Eric Lenz Productions specializes in video for the legal profession. Our work includes depositions, forensic investigations, simulated drive-through and walk-through videos, and anything that a lawyer can use to benefit a client's case.

We have done a wide variety of assignments ranging from a day-in-the-life, which shows the effects that a critical injury has on a person's daily life, to following fire and forensic investigators as they sift through the remains of a fire or explosion site. In car accident cases, we often have to mount a camera atop a car to provide a POV shot.

In all our shoots, good lighting is an important part of our assignments, especially since many of the venues where we videotape have no electricity.

FIVE-DAY FIRE

One of our assignments involved videotaping a fire scene in Bridgeport, Pa., where an electric panel ignited a fire that spread to an entire industrial complex that burned for five days. We spent eight days with forensic and fire investigation teams covering 50 acres of the fire site. We had to record the details of every piece of evidence that the teams found and make sure that we provided the best images possible from the scene. That, of course meant a good camera and good lighting.

When I began my company, I bought Frezzi battery belts, chargers and lights for

my cameras. One of the first lights that I used was a Frezzi Mini-Fill camera light, which still works 15 years later.

Recently, I brought the light into Frezzi's New Jersey factory for servicing. One of the sales reps at Frezzi introduced me to the Frezzi Micro-Fill and offered to let me test it before buying. Once I used it, I was hooked.

Although the Mini-Fill has been great for my older, shoulder-mounted ENG cameras, the Micro-Fill was a much better fit for the Panasonic DVX-100A, miniDV camcorder that I currently use. The light is much smaller than the Mini-Fill and fits easily on the camera without a separate mounting stud.

MORE LIGHT, LESS FILLING

The Micro-Fill is very compact, weighs only six ounces and does not make the camera top-heavy, yet gives me excellent light coverage. Since it draws only 35 W, I am able to get 45 minutes to an hour on an NP-1 battery. If I need to conserve energy or soften the light, a dimmer knob adjusts the light's intensity. Barn doors help me to control the light's spill.

The Micro-Fill comes with an XLR adapter that allows me to connect it to my NP-1 batteries. Since I started using it, the Micro-Fill is the only light that I will put on the DVX-100A. Since some of my shoots take full days, I carry four NP-1 batteries and a Frezzi Fast Charger, which give me enough power to get through the entire shoot.



Eric Lenz finds that the small size and low power draw of the Micro-Fill works well with small cameras.

I can honestly say that I have had excellent experiences with Frezzi products. The company's customer service is great and since I am located in New Jersey, I can take my equipment to its facility and get service on the spot. As lighting goes, they are not inexpensive; however, they are well worth the money.

I still use my 15-year-old Mini-Fill on my larger cameras and find that Frezzi lights and batteries can last for years if I take care of them.

My clients depend on me to give them excellent video to enhance their chances to win legal cases and I continue to depend on Frezzi to make my assignments as easy to execute as possible. ■

Eric Lenz is the owner of Eric Lenz Video Productions and can be contacted at lenzvideo@aol.com.

For more information, contact Frezzi Energy Systems at 800-345-1030 or visit www.frezzi.com.