



Beginner Camera Color Guide

Pick the right DaVinci Resolve input color space without learning color science first.

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THE SHORT VERSION

Standard = Rec.709. Log = use the matching camera setting in this guide. HDR = HLG or PQ.

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LEARN ENOUGH TO FINISH YOUR EDIT

START HERE

Answer one question

What recording mode did you choose in the camera or phone? If you did not deliberately turn on Log or HDR, the first answer is almost always correct.

1**It looked normal while you recorded**

Choose Rec.709 Gamma 2.4. This covers Standard, Natural, S-Cinetone, Canon 709, Film Simulations, Normal, GoPro Color, and most ordinary phone video.

2**You deliberately turned on Log**

Find your exact camera in this guide and use its named Resolve input. Some action cameras use a manufacturer LUT instead. Do not choose a setting just because its name sounds similar.

3**You deliberately turned on HDR**

Use Rec.2100 HLG (Scene) for HLG. Use Rec.2100 ST2084 (Scene) for PQ, HDR10, or HDR10+. For a beginner SDR workflow, it is easier to leave HDR off when recording.

THE ONE RULE THAT PREVENTS MOST MISTAKES

Use only one conversion. Do not assign a Resolve input color space and also add a technical LUT to the same clip. Double conversion makes video look harsh, over-saturated, or clipped.

NOT SURE WHAT YOU RECORDED?

If the original clip already looks normal, start with Rec.709 Gamma 2.4. If it looks very flat and gray, check the camera menu or clip notes before guessing. A wrong Log setting is usually worse than leaving the clip alone.

RESOLVE SETUP

The simple color-managed setup

This setup is for normal SDR YouTube videos. It keeps the project simple and gives camera Log clips a proper starting point.

STEP	WHERE TO CLICK	WHAT TO CHOOSE
1	Project Settings > Color Management	Color science: DaVinci YRGB Color Managed
2	Output color space	Rec.709 Gamma 2.4
3	Media Pool: right-click a clip	Choose Input Color Space, then use the camera pages in this guide
4	Watch the image	If it becomes too contrasty or saturated, check that a LUT is not also being applied

WHEN THE GUIDE SAYS 'OFFICIAL LUT'

Install the manufacturer's LUT in Resolve. In the Media Pool, right-click the clip, choose **LUT**, and select the correct manufacturer Log-to-Rec.709 LUT. Do not also assign an Input Color Space or apply another technical LUT to the same clip.

Four words beginners often mix up

WORD	PLAIN-LANGUAGE MEANING
Rec.709	Normal SDR video color for a typical YouTube delivery.
Log	A flat recording mode that saves more highlight and color information for editing.
LUT	A preset conversion file. Use the camera maker's technical LUT only when this guide says to.
RAW	Camera data that Resolve decodes before normal color work. It is not the same thing as Log.

BEGINNER RECOMMENDATION

Start with a normal-looking profile. Move to Log only when you are comfortable correcting exposure and white balance, and when the camera records good 10-bit video.

POPULAR CAMERAS | 1 OF 2

Match the profile you recorded

Always match the profile you actually selected while recording.

Sony ZV-E10 / ZV-E10 II

Normal-looking mode: Standard, Creative Look, or S-Cinetone → Rec.709 Gamma 2.4.

If you chose Log / RAW / HDR: S-Log3 + S-Gamut3.Cine → choose S-Gamut3.Cine/S-Log3.

Best beginner choice: Use Standard on the original ZV-E10. On the II, use S-Cinetone until you want to learn Log.

Sony a6700 / FX30

Normal-looking mode: S-Cinetone or a normal Creative Look → Rec.709 Gamma 2.4.

If you chose Log / RAW / HDR: S-Log3 + S-Gamut3.Cine → choose S-Gamut3.Cine/S-Log3.

Best beginner choice: S-Cinetone is the easiest. S-Log3 is the common choice when you are ready to color grade.

Canon EOS R50 / R50 V

Normal-looking mode: Picture Style, Standard, or Canon 709 → Rec.709 Gamma 2.4.

If you chose Log / RAW / HDR: Canon Log 3 + Cinema Gamut on the R50 V → choose Canon Cinema Gamut/Canon Log 3. The regular R50 does not record Canon Log.

Best beginner choice: Use Standard on the R50 or Canon 709 on the R50 V.

Canon EOS R7 / R6 Mark II

Normal-looking mode: Picture Style or Standard → Rec.709 Gamma 2.4.

If you chose Log / RAW / HDR: Canon Log 3 + Cinema Gamut → choose Canon Cinema Gamut/Canon Log 3.

Best beginner choice: Use a normal Picture Style first. When learning Log, make sure Cinema Gamut is also selected.

POPULAR CAMERAS | 2 OF 2

More creator camera profiles

Panasonic Lumix S5II / S5IIX

Normal-looking mode: Standard, Natural, or Like709 → Rec.709 Gamma 2.4.

If you chose Log / RAW / HDR: V-Log + V-Gamut → choose Panasonic V-Gamut/V-Log.

Best beginner choice: Use Like709 for an easy image. Use V-Log when you want maximum grading flexibility.

Fujifilm X-S20 / X-M5

Normal-looking mode: Any Film Simulation, including ETERNA → Rec.709 Gamma 2.4.

If you chose Log / RAW / HDR: F-Log2 → use Fujifilm's official camera-specific F-Log2 to Rec.709 LUT.

Best beginner choice: Choose a Film Simulation. ETERNA is a gentle starting point and does not need a Log conversion.

Nikon Z6III

Normal-looking mode: Standard, Neutral, or Flat Picture Control → Rec.709 Gamma 2.4.

If you chose Log / RAW / HDR: N-Log → choose Nikon N-Log.

Best beginner choice: Use Standard or Neutral first. Flat is still treated as Rec.709, with a light manual grade.

Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera 4K / 6K family

Normal-looking mode: Video or Extended Video → Rec.709 Gamma 2.4.

If you chose Log / RAW / HDR: Blackmagic RAW (BRAW) → use the Camera RAW panel and leave Decode Using set to Camera Metadata as a safe start.

Best beginner choice: BRAW is the normal choice. Let Resolve decode it before adding creative looks.

POPULAR PHONES

Keep phone footage simple

Phone HDR is often turned on by default. For the easiest editing and upload, turn HDR off unless you specifically want an HDR video.

iPhone 15 Pro / 16 Pro

Normal-looking mode: HDR off, normal camera video → Rec.709 Gamma 2.4.

If you chose Log / RAW / HDR: Apple Log → choose Apple Log. Dolby Vision HDR → use Rec.2100 HLG (Scene).

Best beginner choice: Use HDR off for everyday videos. Use Apple Log only when you plan to grade.

iPhone 17 Pro

Normal-looking mode: HDR off, normal camera video → Rec.709 Gamma 2.4.

If you chose Log / RAW / HDR: Apple Log 2 → choose Apple Log 2. Dolby Vision HDR → use Rec.2100 HLG (Scene).

Best beginner choice: Use HDR off for the simplest workflow. Apple Log 2 is different from original Apple Log.

Samsung Galaxy S24 / S25 / S26 families

Normal-looking mode: Standard SDR video → Rec.709 Gamma 2.4.

If you chose Log / RAW / HDR: Samsung Log → choose Samsung Log in Resolve 21. HDR10+ → use Rec.2100 ST2084 (Scene).

Best beginner choice: Use Standard SDR. Log and HDR support can depend on the exact phone and software version.

Google Pixel 8 / 9 / 10 families

Normal-looking mode: Standard video → Rec.709 Gamma 2.4.

If you chose Log / RAW / HDR: 10-bit HDR video → choose Rec.2100 HLG (Scene).

Best beginner choice: Turn 10-bit HDR off for the simplest SDR YouTube workflow.

ACTION AND POCKET CAMERAS

Similar names cause the most mistakes

D-Log M is not the same as DJI D-Log, and GP-Log is not a generic Log format.

DJI Osmo Pocket 3

Normal-looking mode: Normal → Rec.709 Gamma 2.4.

If you chose Log / RAW / HDR: D-Log M → use DJI's official Osmo Pocket 3 D-Log M to Rec.709 LUT. Do not choose DJI D-Gamut/D-Log.

Best beginner choice: Use Normal for fast editing. Use D-Log M only when you want to grade.

DJI Osmo Action 4 / 5 / 6

Normal-looking mode: Normal → Rec.709 Gamma 2.4.

If you chose Log / RAW / HDR: D-Log M → use DJI's official model-specific D-Log M to Rec.709 LUT. HLG → use Rec.2100 HLG (Scene).

Best beginner choice: Use Normal. If you choose D-Log M, download the LUT for your exact Action model.

GoPro HERO12 / HERO13 Black

Normal-looking mode: Natural or GoPro Color → Rec.709 Gamma 2.4. Flat also starts as Rec.709 and is graded manually.

If you chose Log / RAW / HDR: GP-Log → use GoPro's official GP-Log LUT. HLG HDR → use Rec.2100 HLG (Scene).

Best beginner choice: Use Natural. It is easier to edit and usually looks less intense than GoPro Color.

Insta360 Ace Pro 2

Normal-looking mode: Standard or Flat → Rec.709 Gamma 2.4. Flat gets a light manual grade.

If you chose Log / RAW / HDR: I-Log → use Insta360's official I-Log LUT in the app, Studio, or Resolve.

Best beginner choice: Use Standard. Switch to I-Log when you are comfortable using the official LUT.

ONE-PAGE CHEAT SHEET

Find the matching Resolve route

The left column is what you recorded. The right column is the one Resolve input or LUT route to use.

CAMERA / PHONE	NORMAL MODE	LOG OR HDR MODE
Sony ZV-E10 / II	Rec.709 Gamma 2.4	S-Log3 + S-Gamut3.Cine → S-Gamut3.Cine/S-Log3
Sony a6700 / FX30	Rec.709 Gamma 2.4	S-Log3 + S-Gamut3.Cine → S-Gamut3.Cine/S-Log3
Canon R50 / R50 V	Rec.709 Gamma 2.4	R50 V C-Log3 + Cinema Gamut → Canon Cinema Gamut/Canon Log 3
Canon R7 / R6 II	Rec.709 Gamma 2.4	C-Log3 + Cinema Gamut → Canon Cinema Gamut/Canon Log 3
Lumix S5II / S5IIX	Rec.709 Gamma 2.4	V-Log + V-Gamut → Panasonic V-Gamut/V-Log
Fujifilm X-S20 / X-M5	Rec.709 Gamma 2.4	F-Log2 → official Fujifilm F-Log2 to Rec.709 LUT
Nikon Z6III	Rec.709 Gamma 2.4	N-Log → Nikon N-Log
Blackmagic Pocket 4K / 6K	Rec.709 Gamma 2.4	BRAW → Camera RAW, Decode Using Camera Metadata
iPhone 15 / 16 Pro	Rec.709 Gamma 2.4	Apple Log → Apple Log; Dolby Vision → Rec.2100 HLG (Scene)
iPhone 17 Pro	Rec.709 Gamma 2.4	Apple Log 2 → Apple Log 2; Dolby Vision → Rec.2100 HLG (Scene)
Galaxy S24 / S25 / S26	Rec.709 Gamma 2.4	Samsung Log → Samsung Log; HDR10+ → Rec.2100 ST2084 (Scene)
Pixel 8 / 9 / 10	Rec.709 Gamma 2.4	10-bit HDR → Rec.2100 HLG (Scene)
DJI Osmo Pocket 3	Rec.709 Gamma 2.4	D-Log M → official model-specific DJI LUT
DJI Osmo Action 4 / 5 / 6	Rec.709 Gamma 2.4	D-Log M → official model-specific DJI LUT
GoPro HERO12 / 13	Rec.709 Gamma 2.4	GP-Log → official GoPro LUT; HLG → Rec.2100 HLG (Scene)
Insta360 Ace Pro 2	Rec.709 Gamma 2.4	I-Log → official Insta360 I-Log LUT

QUICK MEMORY TRICK

Normal = Rec.709. Named camera Log = match the exact camera name. Action-camera Log = usually the maker's official LUT. Phone HDR = usually HLG, except HDR10+ uses PQ / ST2084.

BEGINNER RECOMMENDATION

What I would record first

IF YOU WANT...	RECORD THIS
The fastest edit	A normal-looking profile: Standard, Natural, S-Cinetone, Canon 709, Film Simulation, or Normal.
More room to grade	The camera's 10-bit Log mode, after you confirm the exact gamut/profile pair in this guide.
Simple phone footage	Turn HDR off and record normal SDR video.
Simple action-camera footage	Use Normal or Natural. Avoid Log until you have downloaded the correct manufacturer LUT.

THE SAFE DEFAULT

If you did not intentionally choose Log, RAW, or HDR, start with Rec.709 Gamma 2.4. That one decision covers most beginner YouTube footage.

Sources and scope

The camera list is a practical beginner shortlist based on models that recur in current creator and vlogging recommendations, not a claim of audited global YouTube market share. Color-profile matches were checked against manufacturer documentation and DaVinci Resolve 21 documentation and menu labels.

- DaVinci Resolve 21 Reference Manual
- Canon EOS R50 V Color Mode guide
- Panasonic Lumix Photo Style guide
- Nikon Z6III N-Log guide
- DJI official LUT download center
- Insta360 Ace Pro 2 I-Log guide
- Samsung Log Video documentation
- Sony Picture Profile guide
- Canon EOS R6 Mark II Canon Log guide
- Fujifilm LUT and technical-data downloads
- Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera specifications
- GoPro HERO13 Black profile information
- Apple Log developer documentation
- Google Pixel camera video settings

CHECK THE ORIGINAL FILE

Profiles and menu availability can change with firmware, codec, frame rate, and region. Check the original camera file and recording notes when a result does not look right.