



SPYTEC A118C 1080P HD DASH CAMERA WITH CAPACITOR USER GUIDE

Thank you for purchasing the SpyTec A118C 1080p HD Dash Camera with Capacitor, an easily-concealed, wedge-shaped camcorder that mounts right up against the windshield for capturing the driver's view. The pocket-size dash cam features a wide-angle lens, full high-def resolution and color view screen. Equipped with a G-sensor, the camera detects when your vehicle is bumped and automatically write-protects video made during an incident.

What's in The Box

- A118C camera
- In-car charging cable
- USB data cable
- Mounting plate
- Cable-cover mount extension
- Five cable mount hooks
- Extra mounting plate adhesive pad
- String and screw
- User manual



Requirements

- MicroSD card (up to 64GB)
- Vehicle with an available cigarette lighter to power the camera

Installation

Make sure the car engine is shut off before installing the A118C. With the camera off and its darkened display screen facing up, insert a microSD card, gold contacts pointed up, into the memory card slot. For a quick start, use a memory card with a capacity of 32GB or less. If you go with a 64GB card, it must be properly formatted. See "64GB microSD Card Support" on pg. 15 for formatting instructions.



Note: Insert and remove the memory card only while the camera is powered off. Since 1080p is the default video recording resolution, large files are created. Use a brand-name, high-speed memory card (Class 6 or higher) with a minimum capacity of 4GB.

Slide the rectangular window mount plate horizontally into the recessed part of the camera until it snaps into place, leaving the adhesive cover undisturbed for now. Installing the cable-cover mount extension (the hollow plastic triangle) is optional. Some people choose to use it to hide the cable leading away from the camera. It has its own adhesive mounting strip and its mouth is meant to be pressed up against the port side of the camera.

Remove the transparent shielding covering the lens and screen. Before mounting the camera, you may want to test it by connecting the power cable to the USB port and the vehicle's cigarette lighter. A welcome screen should appear. If there's a formatted card present, the camera should begin recording. Otherwise it will indicate that there's no memory card.

Take a front seat in the vehicle. Peel off the adhesive cover and press the camera to the windshield in the vicinity of the rear-view mirror. Properly placed, the camera will be centrally located to take in the road ahead while the mirror helps hide the camera. The camera's LCD will face you. If the lens is pointed down, turn the left or right dial on either side of the camera so that it rotates outward. You can further adjust lens direction once the camera is turned on and the live view is displayed on the LCD.

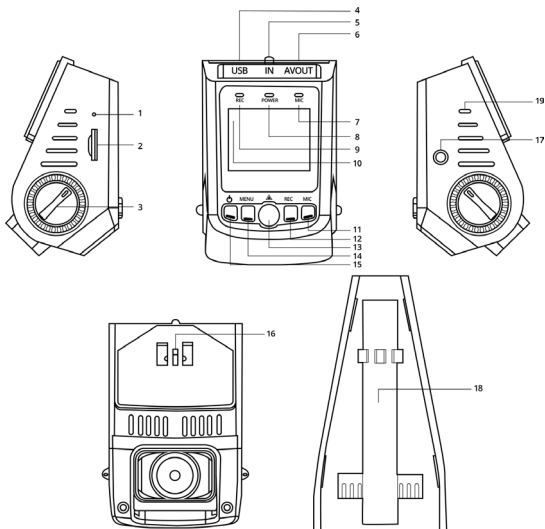
Tip: Keeping the lens close to the glass reduces reflections.

Attach the power cable using the cable slot and cable clip, placing the cable along edges and being careful not to obstruct the driver's view or camera's line-of-sight. Guide and tuck the cable along the top edge of the windshield, pressing it into indentations where possible, then fitting it along the side of the windshield. (Depending on the location of the cigarette lighter and other accoutrements, scope out whether it makes more sense to channel the cable along the passenger's or driver's side.) Where nooks are missing to tuck in the cable, use the adhesive hook mounts to channel the cable. When you're satisfied that the cable is sag-free, tightly mounted and won't snag on someone entering or exiting the vehicle, plug it into the cigarette lighter. (Use a twisty tie to loop any cable overrun.)

Insert the in-vehicle charger into the cigarette lighter of the car or truck. Insert the other end into the USB port on the camera.

Start the engine. A welcome screen should appear, and the camera should begin recording. Check the camera's LCD to make sure the view being recorded is suitable.

Note: the included string is meant for removing a mount by flossing through the adhesive.



OVERVIEW

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Microphone | 11. Mic button |
| 2. MicroSD card slot | 12. Record button |
| 3. Lens rotation knob (both sides) | 13. OK button |
| 4. USB port | 14. Menu button |
| 5. GPS port (for optional receiver) | 15. Power button |
| 6. Audio/video output | 16. Pedestal |
| 7. Mic indicator | 17. Reset button |
| 8. Power indicator | 18. Cable slot |
| 9. Record indicator | 19. Vents (both sides) |
| 10. Display | |

Button Functions



The buttons have multiple uses. The result of deploying one depends on the state of the camera at the time pressed and whether you short-press or long-press the button.

Power or Backlight

When the camera is powered off, pressing the Power button turns it on and video recording automatically starts.

When the camera is already powered on, pressing the Power button for 5 seconds will save the video file currently being recorded and shut off the camera.

When the camera is on, pressing the Power button quickly disables the display. The camera will continue to record. Another short press of the Power button will make the picture on the screen visible.

Menu for Video and Setup Options

When the camera is in standby state (recording is paused by hitting the Rec button), pressing the Menu button will bring up a directory of video options (indicated by a movie scene clapperboard). Press Menu again, and a directory of setup features (indicated by a wrench and screwdriver) will appear. Press Menu again to return to the standby view.

When the Video or Set Up Menus are displayed, navigate vertically through options by pressing the Mic button to move the highlight bar down or the Rec button to go up. Press the OK button to select the highlighted option

Video Menu

If the camera is recording, press the Rec button, then the Menu button. The tools icon atop the directory will be highlighted. Use the Mic button to navigate down the list or the Rec button to go up the list. Press the OK button to make a selection. When you're ready to exit the Video Menu, press the Menu button twice.



Resolution

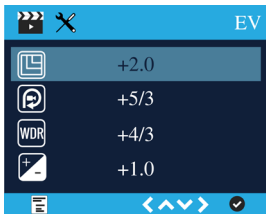
Before recording a video, you can set the resolution. The best quality and the default is 1080p (1920 x 1080 pixels), but you can adjust the resolution to 720p 60 (1280 x 720 at 60 frames per second); 720p (1280 x 720 at 30 fps); WVGA (848 x 480); or VGA (640 x 480). Press OK to make your selection and return to the options directory. All videos from that point on will be recorded at the selected resolution until you choose to change it.

Loop Recording

Video files are normally saved every 3 minutes, but you can change the time interval to 1- or 5 minutes or turn off loop recording entirely. If off, recording ceases once the memory card fills up.

WDR

Wide dynamic range capability helps reveal details when the scene contains extremely bright and dark areas. If WDR is turned off while driving toward a rising or setting sun, for instance, objects that come between you and the horizon may appear very dark. WDR is turned on by default.



EV

You can increase or decrease the exposure value in videos and photographs as they're being captured by the camera to compensate for poorly-lit or overly-bright scenes. The default is set at a neutral +0.0 but you can adjust the value to -1/3, -2/3, -1.0, -4/3, -5/3 or -2.0 as well as +1/3, +2/3, +1.0, +4/3, +5/3 and +2.0.



Motion Detection

Since a dash cam is mainly used when your car or vehicles in view are moving, the camera's motion detection capability is set to off by default. However, you can turn it on so that the camera starts recording only when it detects motion.

Record Audio

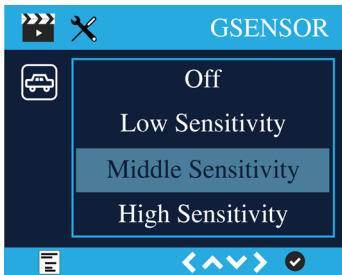
Video is normally recorded with audio, but you can turn off the microphone. When the mic is off, the LED labeled mic, which normally glows red, will not be lit and a slash will appear over a mic icon on the screen.

Date Stamp

The data stamp is normally superimposed on a corner of the picture, but you can disable it on recordings going forward.

GPS

The camera using an optional accessory can access the Global Positioning System for embedding location information in videos and photographs. The tiny receiver plugs into a dedicated port on the camera. GPS access is turned off by default.



G-Sensor

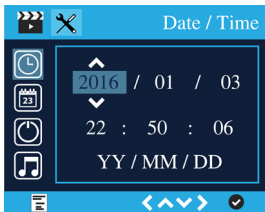
The camera has a built-in shock detector called the G-sensor. In the case of a severe collision, the camera locks the video recorded at the time and displays a lock icon on the screen. The file is saved to the RO ("Read Only") directory so that it won't later be overwritten by loop recording.

G-sensor sensitivity can be adjusted. The default is middle sensitivity, but you can set it to high- or low-sensitivity or turn it off entirely.

Tip: Bumped or not, if you see a noteworthy incident while the camera is recording that's a keeper, meaning the video is worth protecting from being erased later during loop recording, hold down the center button until a yellow triangle appears on screen indicating that the video currently being recorded will be protected. Upon playing back the video, a key icon will appear in the upper left corner indicating that the file is protected and will not be erased automatically like unprotected files.

Set Up Menu

If the camera is recording, press the Rec button, then the Menu button twice. The tools icon atop the directory will be highlighted. Use the Mic button to navigate down the list or the Rec button to go up the list. Press the OK button to make a selection. When you're ready to exit the Set Up Menu, press the Menu button.



Date/Time

To highlight Date/Time on the first row, press the Mic button. To select this option, press the OK button.

Use the Rec button to increase each digit or the Mic button to decrease it. Press the Menu button to go to the next field. Press the OK button to accept the Date/Time settings and return to the previous menu.

Time Zone

Click on Time Zone. Use the Mic or Rec button to cycle through the zones until you find yours. Press the OK button.



Auto Power Off

The camera can be set to stay on indefinitely or automatically turn off after not being used for 1-, 3- or 5 minutes. (See image on previous page.) If the camera has shut down, press the power button to restart it.

Beep Sound

By default, the camera emits a beep whenever you press a button. If you prefer, you can turn it off.



Language

You can set the language used in menus to: English, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Italian, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Russian or Japanese.

TV Mode

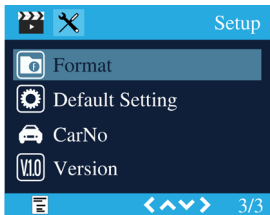
Set the TV Mode to NTSC (North America) or PAL.

Frequency

Though the default is 50 HZ, change it to 60 Hz if you live in North America. While the setting doesn't impact natural lighting, man-made lighting may appear to flicker if incorrectly set.

Screen Saver

The default setting is off, meaning the screen will remain illuminated indefinitely until the camera is powered off. You can change the setting so that the backlight automatically turns off 1- or 3-minutes from the last time a button was pressed.



Format

Choosing this option will reformat the memory card. If the card contains data, it will be deleted.

Default Setting

The option returns all adjustable options to the factory settings.

Car No.

Enter your license plate number or vehicle fleet number if desired. The default is blank.

Version

The firmware version number is provided by the manufacturer.

Operation

When the A118C powers up, it will automatically enter record mode and start recording. The charge indicator will be lit on the pistol-like piece that plugs into the cigarette lighter, and a blueish LED labeled Power will light up above the camera's display. Two recording indicators will be flashing—the LED labeled Rec above the screen and a red dot on the LCD. A red LED labeled Mic above the screen will be steadily lit indicating that audio is being recorded along with the video.

When you turn off the engine, the camera will automatically save the last file and shut off. Recordings are saved on the memory card. When the recording goes more than a few minutes, files are split up. Consecutive files are automatically created at a timed interval. The default is 3 minutes, but you can choose 1- or 5-minute intervals instead. As the memory card becomes full, the oldest file will be automatically overwritten. While each video records, its running time appears just above the live picture in the upper-right corner of the screen. The video resolution is also shown. The year/month/day and running time since the engine was turned on appears below the live picture.

Manual Recording

The camera can be triggered manually. To start a camera that has been powered off, press the Power button for 1 second. A Welcome screen will briefly appear and the camera will start recording.

Turn off the camera by holding down the Power button for 1 second. A goodbye screen will briefly appear before the screen and all indicators on the camera go dark.

Note: If holding the camera by hand, make sure the display is pointed down toward the ground. If it's pointed up, resulting videos will play upside down on your computer or TV.

Taking Photographs

If you haven't already stopped recording video, press the Rec button. With the blinking red dot on the screen gone and the red LED above the screen steady, press the Mic button twice. Press the center button to save the image in live view on the screen. You'll hear the sound of a camera shutter. The date and time will be briefly superimposed at the bottom of the screen.

On-Screen Feedback (Photos)

As you take photos, a variety of icons and readouts are superimposed on the live view. Here's what you're seeing on the screen:



Photo mode



Anti-shaking, also called image stabilization, is on; if off, an X will overlay hand icon



Image counter



Image size



3 stars, fine; 2 stars, normal; 1 star, economy



Memory card present or not



Camera has power



ISO (image sensor setting)



Automatic white balance



Exposure setting

On-Screen Feedback (Video)

As you record video, you'll notice a variety of icons and readouts superimposed on the live view. Here's what you're seeing on the screen:



Video mode



"High dynamic range" for better performance in some situations



Timer counts length of the file



Resolution setting



If GPS is turned on, a dish icon appears; if not, it will say No GPS



Protected File



Time and date stamp



Microphone On/OFF



If motion detection is active, icon appears

Playing Videos and Photos on the Camera



If you haven't already stopped recording, press the Rec button. With the blinking red dot on the screen gone and the red LED above the screen steady, press the Mic button twice. Four control icons will appear at the bottom of the screen: OK/right arrow, right arrow/stop, a pair of double arrows pointing left and a pair of double arrows pointing right. (See image on previous page.)

To play the most recent video, press the center button below the screen. The elapsed time will appear near the upper right of the screen. Press the center button to pause the video; press it again to play the video. To fast forward through the video, hold down the Mic button. To fast reverse through the video, hold down the Rec button.

To go to the previous video or photo, short press the Rec button. To go to the next video or photo, short press the Mic button. The first frame and date of each recorded video will appear as you cycle through them with the four control icons near the bottom of the screen. As you cycle through content, the control icons disappear when photographs appear.

To exit playback and return to standby mode, press the Mic button twice. You can start recording by pressing the Rec button.

Note: You can simultaneously play videos and photos on an external screen by connecting an optional cable to the camera's AV output.



Slide Show

To view photos on the camera's LCD from standby mode, press the Mic button twice to bring up the Playback menu. Use the Rec button to navigate to the Images icon. You can manually proceed through the images by pressing the Rec button or launch an auto-changing slide show. The slide show interval default is 2 seconds, but you can change it to 5- or 8 seconds.

Attaching the Camera to a PC

When you connect the camera to your computer using the included USB cable, the camera's display will offer you the choice of PC Camera or Mass Storage. Navigate the highlight bar using the Rec or Mic button and press OK. If PC Camera, you'll need to use a program like Skype. If Mass Storage, you'll be able to view a directory of all video and photo files on the camera's memory card. You can play files directly from the camera, transfer them to your computer or delete them.

When you explore the files on the camera's memory card, you'll find content in the CARDV folder with two subdirectories, movie and photo. Movie will list videos, but you'll also see a folder called RO ("read only") that contains protected videos you can't readily delete.

64GB microSD Card Support

If a 64GB card is not recognized by the A118C, you'll need to properly format it. If the card has not been used before, formatting it won't wipe out any data. But if the card has been in use, keep in mind that any data stored on the card will be lost during formatting.

Fully insert the 64GB microSD card into the camera's memory slot until a click is heard and connect the camera to your PC using the included USB cable.

Windows Users

Download the formatting utility from <http://support.spytecinc.com/help/article/link/gui-format-program> to format the card as FAT32. Quit all other programs including the anti-virus, firewall, browser and file manager. Otherwise, it will fail to start formatting. Disable the computer sleep mode. There are two removable drives added. Choose the drive for the microSD card with capacity 59-/63-/128GB listed. The allocation unit is 32768. Choose "quick format" and press start. Once finished, if the memory card still cannot record, please do it again but uncheck the "quick format" It will take around between 2- and 9-hours to finish. Do not touch anything during this time and make sure the power supply and cable connection are stable.

Macintosh Users

Format the card as “MS-DOS FAT” by using spotlight to search for “disk utility”. There are two removable drives added. Choose the drive for the microSD card with capacity 59-/63-/128GB listed. Choose Erase. Choose “MS-DOS FAT” under the Format. Press “Erase” at the lower right corner. Then press “Erase” in the new pop-up windows. Wait for a while, making sure and that the power supply and cable connection are stable. Formatting should be complete.

For more help formatting memory cards greater than 32GB, see:

<http://support.spytecinc.com/help/article/link/64gb-sd-card-formatting-guide>

<http://support.spytecinc.com/help/article/link/how-to-video-formatting-a-64gb-sd-card>



GPS Module (Optional)

The GPS Module for the A118C Dash Cam enables GPS logging for video recordings and photographs. Besides latitude and longitude coordinates, the module enables a speed stamp on video footage.

Specifications

Imaging sensor	3 MP
Angle of view	170°
Lens rotation (Vertical)	85°
LCD size	1.5"
Video resolution	1080p, 720p, 480p
Frame rate	30 fps (1080p), 30- or 60 fps (720p), 30 fps (480p)
Video format	H.264, MOV
Photo format	JPG
Ports	Mini USB, AV out, GPS
Internal memory	None usable
Memory card slot	MicroSD
Maximum capacity	64GB
External power supply	Mini USB 5-pin interface and USB5V
Battery	None; capacitor IC
Operating current	400 mA
Quiescent current	20 mA
Storage temperature	-4 to 158°F (-20 to 70°C)
Operating temperature	14 to 140°F (-10 to 60°C)
Operating humidity	15% to 65% (RH)
Operating system support	Windows
In-car charging cable length	13" (4 m)
USB cable length	30" (76 cm)
Size	2.8" x 2" x 1.7" (7.2 x 5.2 x 4.3 cm) excluding bracket
Weight	2.3 oz. (66 g)

Help

Thanks again for purchasing a SpyTec Inc. product! We appreciate your business and strive to make your experience the best possible. If you have any issues with your product, please contact us at support@spyttecinc.com so that we can help you get things started.

Warranty

This Limited Warranty applies to physical goods sold by STI and lasts for a period of one year from the date of sale of the device. This Limited Warranty covers any manufacturing defects to the device or accessories encountered by normal use. This warranty does NOT cover damages resulting from improper use of the device (including the use of incompatible accessories such as chargers, storage devices, etc.), unauthorized modifications to the device, negligence, or from any environmental or natural disasters, or from loss or theft. This warranty requires proof of sale of the device from STI or from approved resellers only.

Devices that are covered will be repaired or replaced at STI's discretion. Devices requiring replacement will be fulfilled with a new or refurbished unit, or a similar unit if the original unit is no longer available.

To take advantage of our warranty, go to <http://www.spytecinc.com/return-policy/> and review our returns policy. If your device meets the above guidelines as well as the guidelines on our website, please click the button to proceed to the Return Authorization Form. In the event our online guidelines change, this warranty will supersede any newer changes. Once you have filled out the Return Merchant Authorization form, please wait for instructions. The date the form is filled out must not exceed one year from the date of sale.