

**Messenger video call not working**

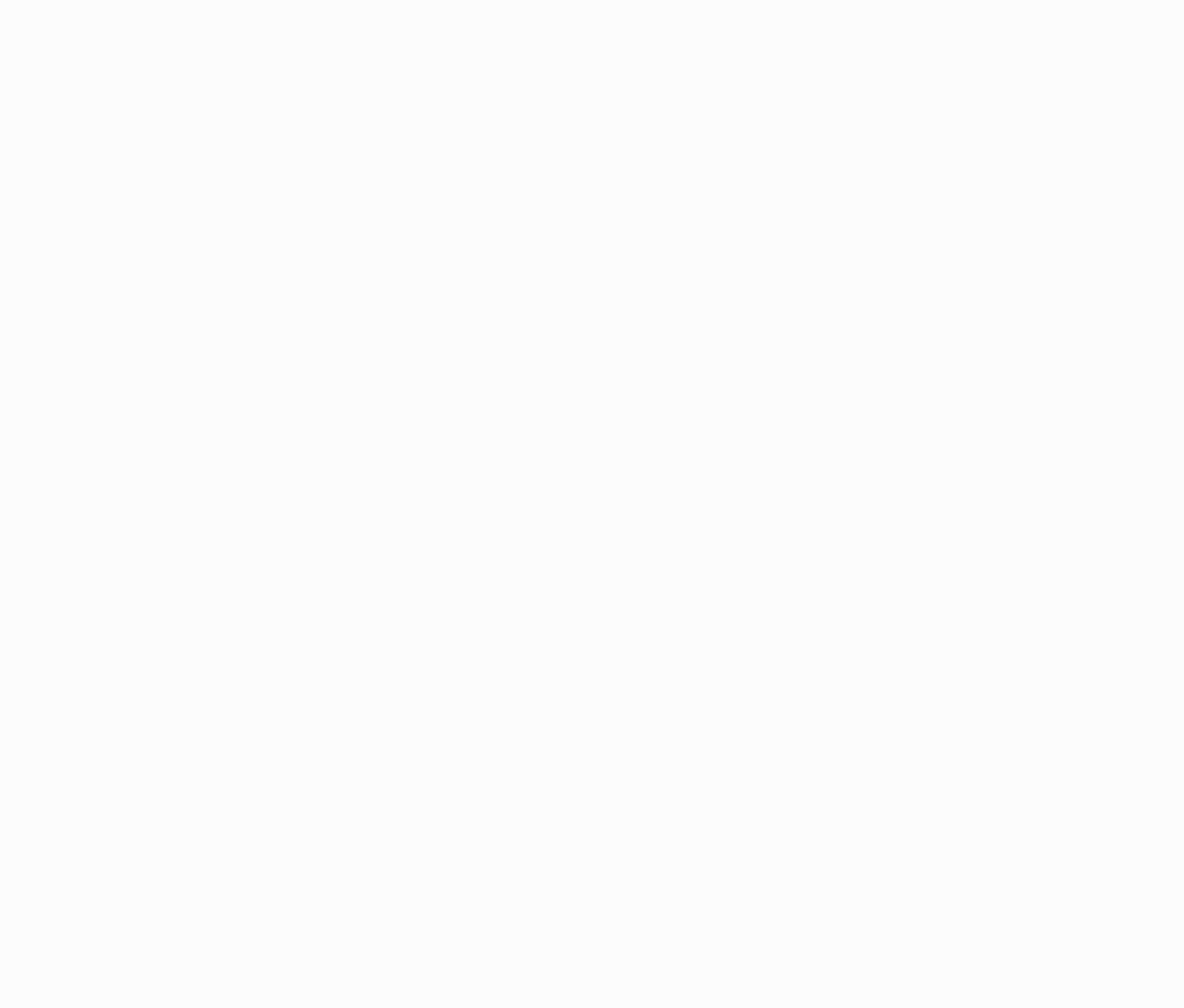
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(Pocket-lint) - As part of our expert tips for making better video calls for Skype Up Your Life week on Pocket-lint, today is the day of that most fundamental piece of equipment that is your webcam. More specifically, we need to uncover some basic skills when it comes to how to use it properly. What better way to learn about camera work than from a professional cinematographer? So we had a chat with veteran director of photography Nicolas Schroeder. Nic's online CV and website is littered with film work on all sorts of cameras and formats. Most recently he's been working on the feature film AB Negative starring 300, Troy and Snow White and the Huntsman actor Vincent Regan. This is Nic's basic advice for anyone looking to get more from a camera for video calls. Don't sit too close The first, and very easy to accomplish, tip from Schroeder is to sit a little further back from your webcam than you might ordinarily. With many of us conducting video calls from a laptop, the natural position to assume might well be less than a foot from the camera and that can affect the picture. "Everything needs to be in focus from the foreground to the background, so most webcams use a wide-angle lens but that brings in some other problems. With a wide-angle lens, it tends to distort lines when you start getting close to the camera. So, if you sit close, it tends to make your face bulge and your nose look like Pinocchio's. Not a good idea if you're trying to look your best then. A general rule might be to push your laptop to the back of your desk or to sit back comfortably in your chair. Obviously, that might give you a worse view of your screen, so make sure to maximise your chat window. Webcam at eye level Again, with most webcams buried into the top edge of a laptop, they're generally lower than we are. The result is that we tend to tilt the screen back to compensate and get our heads into the frame and that means the camera is pointed straight up the nose. "It's not the most flattering angle," jokes Schroeder. "In an ideal world, you'd want to position the camera at your eye level but that might not always be possible. If you've got a laptop, then try putting some books underneath it to lift it up before you make your call." Get your framing right Now that you've got your camera at eye level and you've made sure that your head isn't so close that it's blown up like a balloon, the next question is just how much and what part of the frame should you be looking to fill for a normal chat situation. "A mid-shot somewhere around head and shoulders is going to be about right," suggests Schroeder. "If you move further away, you're going to start to lose the personal contact. Obviously, you can go wider if you're trying to show the person at the other end something specific that requires a full shot." To be warned though, just as cutting off heads and feet in stills photography is a no-no, there's only so much space the subject is supposed to take up in video too. Fortunately, there's a rough rule of thumb for getting it right. "Rather than filling the entire frame top to bottom, you want to make sure there's about 5 per cent of it left above your head." One suggestion is to measure it by making sure there's room for a couple of fingers' space on top of your head before you hit the top of the frame. As for lateral space, however, it's pretty much as you'd expect unless you happen to have something really spectacular on the wall behind. "Right in front is where to be; dead centre. You can try sitting off-centre if there's a decent background. That might be nice but don't do it if the rest of the frame is empty. It will look odd and as if someone's about to sit down next to you at any minute." External webcam is probably better If you've got the choice, or you want to buy one, then an external webcam is probably going to be better. The lens and chips should be superior to something that needs to be squeezed into a laptop screen but, more to the point, it gives you the flexibility to move it around so that you can achieve the positions suggested in the tips above. Other advantages of top-end models are features such as autofocus, noise cancelling microphones and higher frame rates to stop motion becoming blurred. High resolution is also another big sell but they do come with a warning, according to Schroeder. "The pixel count is nice but there's an increased bit-depth that you've then got to process and send down your internet connection while receiving video coming back the other way. That's fine, so long as you've got a decent internet package, otherwise it could ruin the call." Lighting The final tip from our director of photography is to take things one step beyond the camera itself and think about lighting. "Very often people have a light source in the shot which sends the camera crazy and blows out the whole image. The upshot is that the face is going to be very underexposed. Instead, make sure that the light source is off-frame and, if you put it nice and high, it should hide any slight double chin that your subject may have." Dashlane can keep your employees' passwords safe By Pocket-lint Promotion · 23 August 2022 If you're concerned about your organisation's security, this is a no-brainer. If you want to know more about lighting for video calls or for film in general then take a look at our five tips for video calling piece with lighting expert, filmmaker James Cronin. Writing by Dan Sung. she On this episode of Work/Life, Ciara Pressler, author of Pregame and Game Plan, talks with Greg Nibler about the importance of looking good on your videoconference calls, which have become a necessity for many during the coronavirus. Pressler follows up on her earlier tips on how to look better during your video calls with the important reasons why you should be thinking more about how you present yourself to co-workers and possible future employers. So why is it important to put so much effort into video calls? "Even right now, people are half-listening to what I'm saying and half-looking at my background trying to make a few assumptions about me," she said. She also notes that part of being human is the subconscious ways we evaluate and judge each other and the world around us. "It's not always fair, but it's just how we are as humans," she says. "We're making evaluations and assumptions all the time." In addition to meetings, many people are finding themselves interviewing for new projects or new jobs over videoconference calls, so first impressions are important. So how do you make those impressions work for you? Pressler gives a few pieces of advice. "I've noticed with my company that people show up for interviews over video much differently than when they come to my office in person, and that should not be the case," she says. It's easier than ever to look good over video, she notes, because you only have to worry about what you look like from the waist up. In addition, finding the right eye level for your camera and using plenty of lighting will help make you look your best professionally. "You're always communicating, even when you're not communicating verbally," she notes, "and now your environment is part of your outfit." Pressler also gives specific tips. "You always need to be at minimum business casual when you're meeting with someone for

the first time,” she says. “How you look depends what you’re worth,” and you don’t want interviewers to subconsciously think that you’re worth less because of the casualness of your appearance and surroundings. While you don’t need to jettison your personal style, “wear the costume of the person you’re trying to get,” suggests Pressler. You can incorporate your style into it when it benefits you and helps you reach the goals you’re trying to achieve. “You want to look like you deserve what you’re asking for,” she said. Editors’ Recommendations DenPhotos/Shutterstock Facebook allows families and friends to stay in touch no matter where they are in the world. Use the video-chat feature on Facebook Messenger to quickly connect with up to 50 people on most modern devices. How to Use Video Chat on Facebook Messenger on Mobile If you’re on an Android device, you can download the Messenger app directly from the Google Play Store. Apple provides the Messenger app for the iPhone, iPad, and Apple Watch through the Apple App Store. Once the app is installed on your smartphone or tablet, open it and tap the search bar to find the contact with whom you want to video chat. If you’ve previously sent messages to or called friends in Messenger, they’ll appear below the search bar. Select the person, and then tap the Video Chat icon at the top right. When you receive a call, Messenger immediately notifies you, and you can accept or decline. When you’re in the call, you’ll see your friend or family member in the center of the screen and yourself at the top right. The buttons at the top, from left to right, allow you to open a chat, broadcast your video chat to an available device, switch between the rear- and front-facing cameras, or disable your camera. From the bottom row, you can change the color of your background, add friends to your video call, mute your microphone, or end the call. How to Use Video Chat on Facebook Messenger on Desktop If you’re using a laptop with a built-in webcam or a desktop with an external webcam, you can video chat with any Facebook friend through Messenger. Start by logging in to Facebook in your browser of choice. Click “Messenger” on the left of the Facebook home page. The link to Messenger is in generally the same place in the new layout (above) as it was in old layout (below). Click the name or avatar of the person you want to call. Then, select the Video Chat icon at the top right to start your call. When your friend answers, you’ll see her in the center of the screen and yourself at the bottom right. Click the Video Camera and Microphone icons to toggle your video and audio off or on. Click the Monitor icon to share your screen. Press the red Phone Receiver icon to end the call. RELATED: How to Use a Digital Camera as a Webcam Facebook Messenger’s video chat is a free, easily accessible option you might want to consider to keep in touch with friends and family.



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