

Steadicam Curve

Compact Camera Stabilizer

by David Robillard

The introduction of the Steadicam in 1976 revolutionized the world of film and video.



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What is a Steadicam?

The introduction of Steadicam in 1976 revolutionized the world of film and video. Over the past 3 decades, Steadicam has been a visionary in the industry. Tiffen offers you a complete line of state-of-the-art models to meet your film and video needs; their lineup of Steadicams includes the curves' big brother, the Smoothie, Merlin2, all the way up to the M-1 Sled.

A Steadicam combines the stabilized steady footage of a conventional tripod mount with the fluid motion of a dolly shot and the flexibility of hand-held camera work while smoothly following the operator's movements to diminish jerks, bumps, and shakes and provide rock solid smooth footage.

The Steadicam curve is a fantastic addition to your GoPro camera because it allows for super steady shots on the go whether indoors or out, and it's small and light enough to carry around in your pocket.

Getting Started



enough that balancing is critical for this and any Steadicam to operate effectively.

Panning and Tilting

This camera move is accomplished by rotating the base with the index finger and thumb and camera tilts by pulling back or pushing forward.

Audio

One thing I've noticed is that occasionally you'll hear gimbal noises recorded in your footage in very quiet environments, so you might want to consider recording dual system audio and then syncing in post. If you are outdoors this minor sound will probably not be perceptible with the ambient noise.

Colors

The curve comes in a nice range of colors which includes black, blue, red and silver.

Conclusion

The Curve works well right out of the box and most importantly enables you to shoot smooth shake-free video. In my opinion, nothing brings down the production quality of video faster than shaky footage. The Curve retails for around \$100 and should be in every filmmaker's bag. It's a must buy.

"I can't say enough good things about the Curve because it just works and works well right out of the box and most importantly enables you to shoot smooth shake free video."

Place the GoPro on the Steadicam curve and balance your camera both front-to-back and left-to-right. For me, using the GoPro LCD Screen and LCD BacPac case worked best with all of the counter balance weights attached. Connecting the curve and any GoPro Hero camera is accomplished with the GoPro quick release buckle. The Tiffen quick start guide has some great operational tips for shooting with a Steadicam which enables you to be up and running within minutes. This is definitely not the case with the bigger stabilizer systems used for DSLR sized cameras, which generally

require hours of adjustments and constant tweaking.

Best Practices

The best way to hold the curve is with the little, ring and middle fingers and to balance it with the thumb and index fingers resting on both sides of the gimbal extended. The Curve also gives users the option to utilize it with the main grip handle in a locked or unlocked position. I envision the locked position being used more in sports or extreme situations where just holding on to the camera is a concern. I can't emphasize it strongly