

Steadicam Video Low Mode Kit Instructions

Kit Part number 078-7393-01/02

The Steadicam Video Low Mode Kit allows the operator to lower the camera lens height for point-of-view perspectives. On most Steadicams the Low Mode Kit provides for a camera lens position at approximately knee level. Lower lens heights are possible by pushing the Steadicam's operating post down while operating the Steadicam.

The Low Mode Kit includes:

1. A camera handle/grip assembly
2. A connecting "F" bracket that inverts and offsets the position of the gimbal socket 180 degrees and attaches to the stud or "post" on the end of the arm. (Used with 078-7393-01 kits only.)
3. A locking aircraft style pin. (Used with 078-7393-01 kits only.)

Please refer to the following instructions for the successful and safe operation of the Low Mode Kit:

Examine the camcorder handle; is it capable of supporting the stress of the camera and any accessories that may be attached to it?

- Warning -

Some camcorder handles have been found to be deficient for low mode operation. The Tiffen Company assumes no responsibility for the weight bearing capacity of any camcorder handle, or the resultant damage from handle breakage.

Installation:

1. Invert the Steadicam
 - a. SK – Remove the center post from the sled. Unscrew the cap at the bottom of the Sled. Reconnect the center post to the bottom of the sled. Replace the cap over the top connector on the sled.
 - b. All Other Steadicams – Invert the monitor so that if the Steadicam is upside-down, the monitor is facing up.
2. Strip the camera of all unnecessary accessories not used in Steadicam operation. This includes the tripod mounting plate, viewfinder and rubber camera handle cover.
3. Locate the exact center-of-gravity of the camera by supporting the unit exclusively by the handle on one or two fingers. Move your hanging point forward or aft until the camera hangs in a level position. Mark this position, on the side of the camera, with a small piece of tape.
4. Mount the Steadicam Low Mode Handle/Grip assembly to the camera's handle over the center of gravity. Be sure that the grip assembly is straight and alternately tighten each screw so that there is equal pressure on both sides of the two attachment bars.
Caution: Excessive tightening may damage the camera handle or Steadicam Low Mode Handle/Grip assembly.
5. Screw the dovetail plate to the Low Mode Handle/Grip assembly. Remember that the camera will now hang from the dovetail plate, so be certain to reverse its position with respect to the high or normal mounting position. Position the dovetail's rack so that the center of gravity is located near the rear 25% of the rack. Use the mounting screws to secure the dovetail plate to the Handle/Grip assembly.
Caution: Two dovetail-mounting screws are necessary requirement for the safe operation of the Steadicam while in low mode.
6. Set the camera on the floor with the dovetail plate now safely mounted to the top of the camera. Position the Steadicam, now in the inverted position, so that the dovetail plate slips into the stage. Align the camera so that the tape mark on the camera is in line with the Steadicam's center post. Attach the camera power and video cables and secure them for safe operation.
7. Hang the Steadicam, via the gimbal on the docking bracket balancing stud.
8. Balance the Steadicam using the standard balancing method with the exception that the camera should be located below the gimbal and monitor located above the gimbal.
9. Dock the Steadicam between the stage and the gimbal, in the docking bracket.
10. Attach the "F" bracket to the gimbal socket, securing it with the included aircraft-style-locking pin.
11. Operate the Steadicam as usual with the exception of the arm now mounts to the "F" bracket rather than the gimbal.