

Videomaker

	Video Tripods	Tabletop Tripods	Body-Worn Supports	Handheld Supports	Mountable Supports	Monopods	Dollies	Jibs/Cranes/Booms	Shoulder Mounts	Pedestals
Anton Bauer www.antonbauer.com				•					•	
Benbo www.patersonphotographic.com		•								
Cambo www.cambo.com	•							•		•
Camera Turret www.cameraturret.com								•		•
Cartoni www.cartoni.com	•							•		•
Celestron www.celestron.com	•									
Chrosziel www.16x9inc.com				•						
Cinekinetic www.cinekinetic.com					•			•		
Cobra Crane www.cobracrane.com				•				•		
Comely Productions www.camcrane.com								•		
Cullmann www.rtsphoto.com	•	•			•	•				
Davis & Sanford www.tiffen.com	•		•		•			•		•
DigiPower www.digipowersolutions.com	•	•								
DV Caddie www.dvcaddie.com			•					•	•	
DVTEC www.dvtec.tv			•		•					
Dykortech www.advantajib.com								•		
Easyrig www.16x9inc.com			•							
Egripment www.egripment.com								•	•	
Elemack www.elemack.com								•	•	

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Ergorest www.hpmarketingcorp.com					•					
EZ FX www.ezfx.com								•		
Giotto www.hpmarketingcorp.com	•					•				
Gitzo www.bogenimaging.us	•	•				•				
Glidecam www.glidecam.com			•	•				•		
Hakuba, Velbon www.hakubausa.com	•	•				•				
Hi-Pod www.hi-pod.com								•		
Huntercam www.huntercamcradle.com					•					
Indie-Dolly www.indiedolly.com							•			
Induro www.indurogear.com						•				
Industry Advanced Technologies www.industryadvanced.com								•		
Joby www.joby.com					•					
JonyJib www.jonyjib.com								•		
JTL www.jtlcorp.com	•					•				
Kessler Crane www.kesslercrane.com								•		
Lenmar www.lenmar.com	•									
Levelcam www.levelcam.com				•						
Long Valley Equipment www.longvalleyequip.com								•	•	
Losmandy www.porta-jib.com								•	•	
Manfrotto www.bogenimaging.us	•	•	•			•				
Matthews www.msegrip.com	•				•		•			•
Merkury Innovations www.merkuryinnovations.com		•								

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Microdolly www.microdolly.com					•			•		
Miller www.millertripods.com	•							•	•	•
Monostat www.monostat.us						•				
National Geographic www.supporttheexperience.com	•					•				
Novoflex www.hpmarketingcorp.com		•								
O'Connor www.ocon.com	•									
Pag USA www.pagusa.com			•							
Panpilot www.panpilot.com				•						
Panther www.panther.us								•	•	
Pedco www.pedcopods.com		•	•	•						
Peter Lisand www.peterlisand.com	•		•							
Plume (Handi-Pod) www.plumeltd.com				•						
Promaster www.promaster.com	•	•				•				
ProMax www.promax.com				•						
Quad Pods www.quad-pods.com			•	•						
Quik Pod www.quikpod.com				•						
Rabbit Audio Video www.rabbitav.com								•		
Ries www.riestripod.com	•					•				
Ronford-Baker www.ronfordbaker.co.uk	•							•		
Sachtler www.sachtler.com	•		•					•		•
Sima www.simacorp.com		•	•			•				
Skycrane www.skycrane.com								•		

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Slik www.thkphoto.com	•	•				•				
Slik-Daiwa Broadcast Products www.slikbroadcast.com	•									
Smith-Victor www.smithvictor.com	•	•						•	•	
Sony www.sonystyle.com	•	•								
Steadicam www.tiffen.com			•	•						
Steadytracker www.steadytracker.com				•						
Sticky Pod www.stickypod.com					•					
Studio 1 Productions www.studio1productions.com				•				•	•	
Sunpak www.tocad.com	•	•				•				
Switronix www.switronix.com									•	
THE pod www.bogenimaging.us		•								
Trek-Tech www.trek-tech.com							•			
Ugrip www.ugrip.dk						•				
Ultra Camera Mounts www.ultracameramounts.com					•			•	•	
Vanguard www.vanguardusa.com	•	•				•				
Varizoom www.varizoom.com	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Video Innovators www.videoinnovators.com				•					•	
Videosmith www.videosmith.com									•	
VidPro www.vidprousa.com	•	•								
Vinten www.vinten.com	•							•		•
Vortex www.vortexoptics.com	•	•								
Zhumell www.zhumell.com		•				•				

Camcorder Supports

Buyer's Guide

drag and can feel quite smooth in the beginning and under moderate temperatures. Over time, however, the once-smooth pans and tilts will become rougher. In extreme cold or heat, these heads can be considerably stiffer or looser than you'd like.

Our Three-Legged Friends

Legs are most commonly made of aluminum, but some lighter-weight designs are carbon fiber. And yes, some are still made of wood. In fact, there are some cinematographers who swear by these "sticks," claiming they dampen some types of vibration better than metal or composites. All legs need to resist twisting during pans, even in the cold, when the head is often stiffer, or when using higher drag settings. Legs have a few different design configurations. Those with a crutch or split-leg design do a very good job of resisting twisting, but their added material can make them heavier than one-piece models. Some legs lock into place with levers that flip horizontally or vertically; others twist; and some you extend, level and lock by depressing spring-loaded tabs.

If you often shoot low angles, make sure to look at the specs for the distance



Steadicam
Merlin



Kessler Crane
KC8

from the ground. With some designs, this measurement is made from the ground to where the head connects, so be sure to include the height of the head in your calculations. To get as low as possible and to increase overall stability, many tripods incorporate removable spreaders that secure all three legs together at the mid-point or bottom.

Finally, how the rubber hits the road (or rocks, or sand or wood) will be your last consideration. If you will be shooting on varied terrain, be sure to at least have feet that convert from rubber to spikes. Setting up on a rocky, windy cliff with flat rubber feet might get you great footage, but only after

you've collected the pieces.

Tripods have three basic leveling methods. The fastest uses the ball-and-socket design with a single hand-tightened locking mechanism for securing in place. The second system uses a plate design and requires you to adjust its position by loosening and tightening on two axes. The last design is the slowest and really has no separate adjustment for leveling. It requires you to lengthen or shorten each leg to get that "zero bubble."

Smooth Moves

You automatically give your production a big-budget feel by gracefully moving the camera up, down and/or sideways. You make these types of shots by using a dolly, jib, crane or motion-stabilization device similar to Steadicam. Not long ago, most of these systems were too expensive for most of us to consider buying, but there have been many recent innovations that have made many affordable.

Dollies can be anything from a glorified skateboard with a camcorder plate to complete ride-on carts that use various kinds of track for creating



Glidecam
X10 System 01

Microdolly
Camera Dolly System



Contributing editor Brian Peterson is a video production consultant, trainer and lecturer.



FEEDBACK

For comments on this article, email us at editor@videomaker.com, use **article #13472** in the subject line.