

Glossary of Steadicam Terms

Attention Cycle—sequential check of framing, level, navigating, etc., that helps Steadicam operators get tough shots.

Basher—fill light, aka "Obie", "Steady Light"—which is included with JR.

Boom—to smoothly raise or lower the entire JR and camera unit.

Boom Height—height at which you choose to carry the JR.

Bottom Heaviness—strength of camera's tendency to hang upright.

Center-of-Gravity—balance point of masses—used on video to mean "center of balance."

c.g.—center-of-gravity.

Color Balance—circuitry to make scenes look normal despite color of ambient light.

Don Juan—to-the-rear shooting position—lens aimed in opposite direction of forearm.

Flying-Mode—fully unfolded balanced mode which permits isolated, stable moving shots.

Fore-and-Aft—front-to-rear.

Gimbal—mechanism to provide angular isolation.

Grip—portion of handle below gimbal, for supporting and positioning camera.

Guide—portion of handle above gimbal, for aiming the camera.

Hand-Focus—manual control of focus for telephoto shoulder-mode shooting.

Headroom—space in frame above top of subject's head—allow less or none in close-ups.

High-Angle Shot—camera high, looking downward.

Iris—the aperture which controls the amount of light and/or brightness of shot.

Locating Pin—see "mounting pin".

Low-Angle Shot—camera low, looking upward.

Make/Break Pause—type of pause circuit in cameras that work with JR's built-in switch, mostly JVC or Panasonic.

Missionary—basic shooting position—lens aimed in similar direction as your forearm.

Mounting Pin—supplied pin to prevent camera rotation on stage.

ND Filter—neutral density, from camera store, used to dim JR screen for use in dark.

Obie—fill light—aka "basher"—named for actress Merle Oberon.

Oil-Canning—flexibility of bottom of camcorder resulting in less adherence to stage, potentially causing vertical vibration.

Pan—pivoting the camera horizontally, "looking around."

Pause Switch—to "pause" camera use light touch, third finger of "guide" hand.

Period of Fall—pendular "period" of camera - how slowly does it swing?

Power-Saver—circuit that automatically turns on monitor when it senses a video signal.

Roll—pivoting the camera around the lens axis—"seasick" horizon, i.e.: aileron trim for pilots.

Shoulder-Mode—semi-folded position for comfortable static shooting, as from audience.

Stage—platform for mounting the camera, includes micrometer trim adjustments.

Steady Stand—temporary support for initial balance of Steadicam JR. (tape it to table!).

Stepper-Adapter—accessory supplied to facilitate battery changes for JVC, Panasonic.

Stop Blocks—replaceable; sets lower spar angle for extra-light or extra-heavy cameras.

Store Switch—switch on lower spar stops current drain when JR is on shelf.

Telephoto—magnified end of zoom lens.

Tilt—pivoting the camera vertically—"looking up or down"

Tongue—additional surface on front of guide, helps tilting.

Trim—fine adjustment of JR balance fore-and-aft and side-to-side.

Vehicle Shot—use of Steadicam while being transported instead of walking.

Wedge—supplied rubber shock mount to brace front of camera body for JR.

Whale's Tail—fold-out brace for shoulder mode.

"Z"-adjustment—adjustment of gimbal position on "Z"-axis alters bottom heaviness.

"Z"-axis—vertical axis through center of gimbal.



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