

# STEADICAM<sup>®</sup>

# MERLIN

Arm and Vest

A NEW  
BREAKTHROUGH  
IN CAMCORDER  
STABILIZATION



# The Steadicam **Merlin, Arm and Vest**

## **THE STEADICAM MERLIN and the NEW SIX-BEARING METAL GIMBAL**

The Merlin is by far the world's lightest and most advanced hand-held stabilizer. Ultra-rigid aluminum construction enables stable moving shots at unprecedented focal lengths, and Garrett's unique Folding-Caliper hinge extends and retracts to balance cameras as light as one-half pound, yet automatically seeks the compact storage position.

By itself Merlin weighs just 13 ounces (.36kg) without its stainless steel add-on weights. With the standard gimbal, Merlin was rated to carry camcorders weighing only as much as six pounds (2.7 kg)

Now, with the new, precision-machined Six-Bearing Metal Gimbal and a few additional weights, Merlin can balance camcorders weighing as much as seven pounds (3.2kg). Of course the additional weight will require a great deal more effort. The Merlin manual and video teach techniques that help share the load with both hands, and this works for grabbing those quick, spectacular moving shots, but shooting entire weddings, or sporting events or theatrical performances can become quite strenuous, even with lighter cameras.

Enter the new Merlin Arm and Vest!

## **THE MERLIN BECOMES WEIGHTLESS!**

THE New MERLIN ARM and VEST makes extended shooting nearly effortless.

Now Tiffen introduces the world's most advanced ultra-light Arm and Vest. Even with heavy cameras – up to seven pounds (3.2kg) with the optional Metal Gimbal – your Merlin can now fly

for hours without undue fatigue, and preserve all the flexibility and reach of your own arms.

The Merlin Vest is the lightest and thinnest ever made – it can even be worn under a tuxedo jacket – and it's designed to fit the entire gamut of human sizes and shapes. For 23kg eight-year-olds or 150kg linebackers, the Merlin Vest provides complete comfort and functionality for extended productions and long continuous shots. All adjustments are 'no-tools', including the right-arm/left-arm.

The Merlin Arm is ultra-light and extremely capable. It's a 7/8 scale version of its big brothers, the Flyer, G-50 and G-70 arms, and provides the same legendary performance and flexibility including instant, knob-adjustable control of lifting power for camera payloads between 2.5 and 7 lbs. (1.1 to 3.2 kg) The Merlin Arm also provides enormous vertical lifting range (28" or 71cm) and full 'iso-elasticity' so you'll need only ounces of force to maintain the highest or lowest lens heights (way above the head to below the waist) Like its big brothers, the Merlin Arm includes two-axis adjustment of the arm-to-body angle so that people of differing shapes can adjust the lifting angle to their most comfortable posture.

Together The Merlin Arm and Vest actually increase your shooting options. You can ease the Merlin back against your body and shoot 'handheld', with both hands on the camera, and fly seamlessly back off the shoulder and continue moving. With practice you can even fly the Merlin one-handed right off of the mounting post during a shot (docking the arm to the vest with the other hand) and execute those unique Merlin shot opportunities – ultra-low- or ultra-high-angles – and then ease it back onto the arm to continue the shot.

The Six-Bearing Metal Gimbal, and the Merlin Arm and Vest are the first releases of a suite of planned Merlin Accessories that will further enhance the professional capabilities of the world's lightest and most advanced camcorder stabilizer: The Steadicam Merlin.



## Specifications:

### MERLIN:

- Folded size, without weights: 3.5 x 2 x 11" (8.5 x 5 x 27cm)
- Open size: 3.5 x 3.5 x 7" (8.5 x 8.5 x 18cm) (min. arc) to 13.5" (35cm) (max. arc)
- Weight by itself: 13 oz (360 grams).
- Rigid all-aluminum construction "supports telephoto shooting"
- Micrometer stage for precise horizontal balance
- Precision caliper-adjusted vertical balance
- Patent pending 'Folding-Caliper' spar geometry automatically seeks true folding position
- Ultra-light: (weighs one third of nearest competitor!) (by itself weighs less than a can of soda)
- Tough, modular, user-serviceable construction



### ARM:

- Total Payload: Knob-adjustable from 4 to 15 lbs (1.8 to 6.8 kg).
- Arm Weight: 5.1 lbs (2.3 kg)
- Lifting Range: 28 vertical inches (71 cm)
- Mounting: Two axis adjustment of arm-to-body angle, with quick-release right-hand/left-hand changeover



### VEST:

- Weight: 2.6 lbs (1.179 kg)
- Size Range: Fits the widest variety of human shapes and sizes of any Steadicam vest (from 23 kg 8-year-olds to 150 kg linebackers!)
- Fasteners: Thin, all-hook and loop fasteners permit unobtrusive use and ultra-compact disassembly and transport.

The STEADICAM® MERLIN™ is ultra-light, ultra-rigid, ultra precise, folds spectacularly and is beautiful – in short, the ideal instrument for today's videographers with camcorders weighing less than 5 pounds. For documentaries, weddings, news segments, commercials, even low-budget features, the Merlin shines. In practiced hands, it performs as impres-



sively as the big \$60,000 Steadicam, yet remains ultimately unobtrusive. The Merlin is not only stable, it is also an inherently graceful way to hold a camera –not only for big moves and running around, but also for those subtle, imperceptible and elegant displacements of the lens that cannot be achieved any other way.



And now, with the new Merlin Arm and Vest, you'll be able to shoot longer and 'fly' more easily and precisely than with anything else on the market.

Jon Fauer, ASC

NAB Edition March 2007  ISSUE 10

## FILM AND DIGITAL TIMES

The Newsletter of Art, Technique and Technology for Film, Video and Digital Production

### Steadicam Merlin



#### Merlin, Arm and Vest

Named after the most famous wizard of all time, the Merlin from Tiffen looks like a Quidditch broomstick turned Calder mobile. Garrett Brown and Tiffen introduced the Steadicam Merlin at NAB two years ago. Its sculptural shape is worthy of permanent display in the MoMA design collection. Clever features transform almost anyone into a wizard of smooth camera moves. For cameras under 5 or 6 pounds, your arm becomes the shock absorber that smoothes out the bumps.

Setting it up is no secret. The magically low price of the Merlin includes an instruction manual and DVD by Garrett. The workbook is like getting a graduate degree in the physics of camera stabilization along with Steadicam theory and practice.

For NAB 2007, Tiffen is conjuring up a Merlin Arm and Vest. It removes the weight of Merlin and camera from your arm, so if you haven't been bulking your biceps, you'll still be able to conjure up mystifyingly smooth and elegant shots worthy of the most celebrated and legendary Steadicam wizards.

- Jon Fauer, ASC

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