

**Steadicam JR
Set-up and
Operations Manual**
volume two: *Operations Guide*

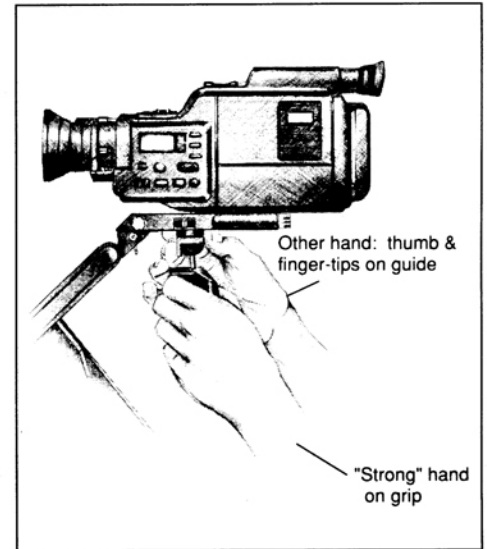
Sections 1-9 are contained in
Volume 1: *Set-up Guide*

10.1 Two-Handed Operating Position

This is the slickest, smoothest and easiest way to operate the Steadicam JR. The force to support it is isolated from the camera, and the force to aim it can be almost non-existent. The camera is poised and free to rotate on excellent bearings. What's more, it is highly inert! The combination will provide you with an entirely new sensation as you orient an object that acts as if it were floating in space. (Ignore the weight on your other hand, and you can almost believe it!) In any event, you must act like it's weightless, because any excess force from your "guide" hand will cause it to move. (see section 1. Introduction—How does the Steadicam work?)

One hand (your choice) holds the grip and supports all the weight, but is isolated from the camera. You can't pan or tilt with it, and it has no influence on the camera's angle unless you bump the stage or upper spar.

The fingertips of the other hand lightly touch the guide when you want to change where it's pointing—otherwise, more or less leave it alone.



Diag. 1 Two-handed position

CAUTIONS

- HANDLE ONLY WORKS ONE WAY - HOLD WITH FINGERS ON GRAY SIDE. Holding handle backwards can cause damage.
- Avoid pinching your finger between the moving gimbal yoke and the bottom of the Guide. Keep fingertips either on the Grip or on the outer surface of the Guide.
- Avoid violent camera moves. It is possible for a strong operator to move a JR and camcorder at many times the acceleration of gravity, but mounting attachments on many camcorders are not strong enough, and might pull loose. We recommend not exceeding roughly 1.5 g's of vertical or horizontal acceleration. (That's somewhat faster than the speed of an object falling from your hand.)
- The Steadicam JR monitor is not waterproof. Cover with clear plastic wrap when using JR with "sport" camcorders, and avoid direct exposure to rain or spray.
- Avoid shooting in windy conditions as the JR's stability requires isolation from all external influences and its performance will degrade proportionately. Attempt to shield the camera with bodies or find the "lee" of a nearby structure.

10.2 Isolated

Remember that the Steadicam is both inert and free to rotate. This means that you must think ahead if you want it to start panning, and begin it early, with the smallest force possible. Also remember to stop the pan—the Steadicam obeys several of Newton's laws, such as the one about "remaining in motion". Use your fingers like drum brakes to stop a pan.

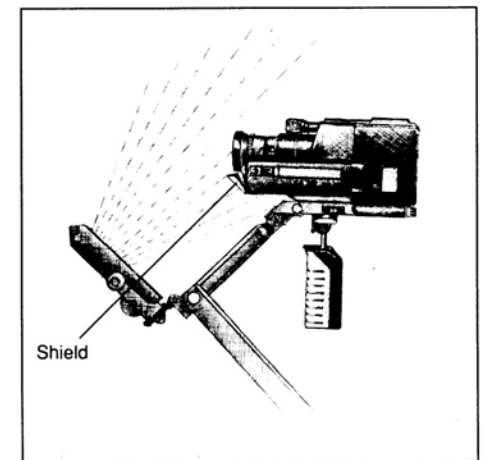
10.3 Video controls

Color balance/brightness

The JR monitor is a special LCD screen with a combined backlight and transreflective backing. The viewing surface has the same 17-layer anti-reflective coating used on the professional Steadicam. The result is the only LCD monitor which can be seen under all lighting conditions, including direct sunlight.

"Brightness", which is really the viewing angle for the LCD screen, is controlled by the green knob. We recommend adjusting the monitor so it looks best when your eye is perpendicular to the screen. Then just tilt the monitor for the best visibility at any boom height.

If broad sky reflections are annoying, tilt the monitor until it is vertical and readjust brightness. This shifts the incident light angle below your viewing angle.



Diag. 2 Shield color-balance sensor

NOTE: *Some cameras, such as the JVC, have a frosted color-balance sensor below the lens. In low light conditions, the light from the JR screen may make the camera think it is in fluorescent light and miscorrect the color balance of your videos. To prevent this, tape on a white cardboard or tinfoil shield, as shown, to keep the screen's light from falling on the sensor.*