

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.



The Tiffen Company, LLC

90 Oser Avenue, Hauppauge, NY 11788

Sales: 205-980-8629 • Toll Free 800-645-2522

Phone: 631-273-2500 • Fax: 631-273-2557

www.steadicam.com • email: steadicam@tiffen.com • www.tiffen.com