

STEDDIEPOD

Instruction Booklet



The STEDDIEPOD is easy to setup and use, this booklet is your guide to help you get started so you can get those fantastic shots right now!

Ph. 818-982-7775 **BARBER TECH**
VIDEO PRODUCTS
The Future of Video Products BarberTVP.com

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Thank you for purchasing the STEDDIEPOD, the world's most versatile camera stabilizer / support!

This manual covers the basic use and functions of the STEDDIEPOD, but does not cover or explain every possible use, as our customers are always thinking of new and unique ways with which to use their STEDDIEPODs on their shoots!

The STEDDIEPOD can help improve and assist you in making your shoots go easier and can help you get the shots that you would otherwise have to buy more equipment to achieve.

BarberTech is constantly making improvements to the STEDDIEPOD, so your STEDDIEPOD may look different from the ones pictured in this manual, in our catalogs, or on

**Contact us with your testimonials or questions anytime at:
818-982-7775
or visit our website at:
BarberTVP.com**

==> The brief history of how the STEDDIEPOD came to be...

Eddie Barber created the great-granddaddy of the STEDDIEPOD (called the EddieCam) back in the 1980s while shooting snow skiers for NBC Sports.

Eddie had only a few days to figure out a way to ski down the hill with the skiers and shoot them simultaneously.

The solution he came up with (and cameras were much heavier back then) was to hang the camera on the end of a pole so it would hang like a pendulum.

His on the spot invention worked, they loved the shots, and Eddie learned to ski in a few days, backwards, while videotaping skiers with the first STEDDIEPOD.

Years later, as cameras got lighter and lighter (so people could actually use a STEDDIEPOD because they were light enough for longer term use), Eddie designed better & more versatile versions of the STEDDIEPOD.

What you see today are the latest versions of tried and tested gear designed by necessity and many years of experience.

The STEDDIEPOD's 8 most popular operating modes:

1. Handheld Camera Stabilizer
2. Body Brace Mount
3. Hi & Low Camera Stand
4. Camera Boom
5. Monopod
6. Body Cam Mount/Ego Cam
7. Low Mode/Doggy/Kitty/Monkey Cam
8. Point and Shot

WARNINGS:

- By using this product, you agree and understand that BarberTech is NOT responsible or liable for any damages which may occur during use.

- It is NOT recommended for you to run at full speed with the STEDDIEPOD. You could trip, fall and hurt yourself, someone else, or damage your gear.

- Do not use the STEDDIEPOD in Handheld Camera Stabilizer mode unless it is perfectly balanced. Also, don't use it with the main shaft extended – unless you need to, to balance it with a heavier camera or with the counter balance weights/ stabilizer bars folded up against the main shaft.

- Take extra care in Low Flow mode so you do not strike your camera, gear or the STEDDIEPOD against the ground or any objects.

- Do not use the STEDDIEPOD in Camera Boom mode with the main shaft fully extended if your camera and gear's combined weight mounted on the STEDDIEPOD exceeds 7lbs. Using it boomed out horizontally with a heavy load could possibly break it, so use extra care when in Camera Boom mode!

- Do not use the STEDDIEPOD to lean on or to assist you with walking.

- Do not let the main shaft segments drop when extending. Slide them out by hand. Don't let gravity win :)

- Make sure you do not put yourself or anyone else in danger trying to get great shots. We do not take any responsibilities for your actions with the STEDDIEPOD.

- Make sure all knobs, screws, bolts, etc; are securely in place before using your STEDDIEPOD.

Since the STEDDIEPOD can be used in so many different ways, and people do use it differently, there are some things we want you to watch out for!

- Do not over tighten any screws, counter weights or knobs on the STEDDIEPOD or its head.

- If your STEDDIEPOD includes any adjustment tools, use them carefully and do not over tighten any screws tightened with them.

- Take extra care in making sure your equipment is attached properly to the STEDDIEPOD at all times and especially when it is in Camera Boom mode when combined with the head's Dutch Tilt feature, with the STEDDIEPOD being held horizontally out a window, over a balcony, etc. You can get great shots this way, but exercise extreme caution while shooting.

- When making adjustments to your camera, the STEDDIEPOD, the STEDDIEPOD head, and/or are attaching or removing your camera from the STEDDIEPOD, take extra care to make sure your camera is supported properly so as not to fall or get damaged.

- When going from one mode to another with the STEDDIEPOD, take care in observing your surroundings so as not to damage your equipment, not to hit yourself or other people, and to not hit any objects with your equipment or your STEDDIEPOD.

- Do not use the STEDDIEPOD as a prying bar, or use it to support any kind of weight beyond camera & gear of 7lbs without using extreme care.

The Basics of STEDDIEPOD Functionality

- The fluid head with level ball, dutch tilt & quick release plate

The STEDDIEPOD head has a spring-loaded fluid head with a built in dutch tilt and includes a quick release plate with a 1/4-20 screw mount.

The head has full pan and tilt. Adjustments can be made easily by twisting the knobs on the head for the desired functionality.

When the quick release plate is attached with a camera on it, make sure that the lever is all the way over and the quick release plate is secured correctly before moving the STEDDIEPOD around to start shooting.

- The handle disc

This small disc partially acts as the handle top of the STEDDIEPOD and when in Handheld Camera Stabilizer mode, you will adjust this disc up and down the main shaft to find your balance point between your camera and the 3 counter weights/stabilizer bars at the bottom of the STEDDIEPOD's main shaft.

Depending on which model you have the handle disc section may look different from the one pictured here. **The Swivel handle accessory** is shown for this handle.

- The lower 3 counter balance weights/stabilizer bars

The 3 weights on the end of the 3 stabilizer bars of the STEDDIEPOD help balance the unit when in Handheld Camera Stabilizer mode.

In the other modes when extended outward (at a right angle to the main shaft), they act to help support the STEDDIEPOD as a camera stand or pressed against the user/camera person.

- The main shaft

This is the part of the STEDDIEPOD that will extend or shorten telescopically, depending on which mode you are using the unit in, and how far you can extend the main shaft depends on the weight of your attached camera and gear to the STEDDIEPOD head (Do not extend the main shaft all the way out if the total weight attached to the head exceeds 7lbs.).



How to Get Into Each Mode

Balancing for Handheld Camera Stabilizer Mode

1) Twist (counter-clockwise) and unfold the stabilizer bars at the base of the STEDDIEPOD until they are at a right angle to the main shaft.

Twist (clockwise) and tighten the stabilizer bars until firm (DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN).

Do not force the stabilizer bars.
Loosen them until they easily move into position, then tighten them back down.

1a



1b



1c



2a



2) Set the STEDDIEPOD upright on those 3 stabilizer bars on a table or similar stable surface.

How to Get Into Each Mode

Handheld Camera Stabilizer Mode

continued...

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* You can also use the optional offset balance plate to change the balance point of your camera. Simply attach it to your 1/4-20: hole changing the balance point to where you need it.

3a



3) Remove the quick release plate from the head and attach it to your camera.

Attach the quick release plate to your camera. (Or attach your optional offset balance plate to your camera, then to the quick release plate)

Make sure the latch is properly pressed all the way over so that the quick release plate is secured correctly to the head.

Double check that all knobs on the head are secured firmly.

3b



3c



4) Now pick up the STEDDIEPOD with your camera attached, and hold the STEDDIEPOD horizontally with one hand with your palm facing upwards.

4a



How to Get Into Each Mode

Handheld Camera Stabilizer Mode *continued...*

5) Depending on the model of STEDDIEPOD that you own, you will see either a set screw (with adjustment tool attached) or an adjustment knob on the handle disc area of your STEDDIEPOD.

6) Use your free hand to loosen the knob or set screw on the handle disc so you will be able to slide the handle disc up or down on the main shaft.

7) Now move the STEDDIEPOD left or right in your hand with handle disc until you find the balance point between your camera/head and the counter balance weights/stabilizer bars. This is done best low over a soft device (e.g. pillow, etc).

8) Once you have found the balance point and have the handle disc in the location of the balance point, tighten the set screw or knob on the handle disc (but do not over tighten).

With lighter cameras, make sure the main shaft is NOT extended and that all sections are telescoped in. The STEDDIEPOD isn't designed to be used as a handheld camera stabilizer with the main shaft sections extended.

For heavier cameras weighing 5-8 lbs, you may need to telescope the main shaft down somewhat to help find your balance point easier.

Hold Steddiepod horizontally by swivel handle and make sure camera is horizontal as well. If camera doesn't stay flush horizontally, you can adjust view finder, fluid head hand (tilt), or offset balance plate to make camera lay flush horizontally.

You are now ready to start shooting some moving talent!

5a



5b



6a

7a



8a



8b



8c



How to Get Into Each Mode

Body Brace Mount Mode

- 1)** Follow the steps to setup and balance your STEDDIEPOD for Handheld Camera Stabilizer Mode.
- 2)** Adjust the head so the handle is facing back toward you.
- 3)** Hold the STEDDIEPOD with one hand and bring it back toward your body.
- 4)** Align the handle of the head to be against your right shoulder.
- 5)** Align two of the counter balance weights/stabilizer bars against your hips or upper thighs.
- 6)** Use your other hand to hold the camera and to make your adjustments.

This mode is great for getting super stable shots, even when zoomed in for when you have to stay still for a long period of time. Like when a tripod isn't available or can't be used in the environment that you are shooting in.



High & Low Camera Stand Mode

- 1)** Follow the steps to setup and balance your STEDDIEPOD for Handheld Camera Stabilizer Mode.
- 2)** For a low camera stand, simply set the STEDDIEPOD down.
- 3)** For a higher camera stand, just telescope the main shaft out to the length/height desired.

Do not leave the STEDDIEPOD unattended, as it could easily be knocked over.



How to Get Into Each Mode

Camera Boom Mode

- 1)** Follow the steps to setup and balance your STEDDIEPOD for Handheld Camera Stabilizer Mode.
- 2)** Extend the main shaft outward by telescoping the sections out to the desired length.
- 3)** Adjust the camera and head where desired for the shot you need.
- 4)** Brace two of the counter weights/stabilizer bars against your hips if doing a simple boom over head height or lower subjects.
- 5)** If needing to shoot up and over a crowd, out a window, over a cliff, balcony, etc; make sure you keep two hands on the STEDDIEPOD as you raise, lower or move the STEDDIEPOD around for your shots.

Note: For horizontal shooting, we recommend that you don't fully extend the Steddiepod if your camera is 5 lbs and over.



Monopod Mode

- 1)** Follow the steps to setup and balance your STEDDIEPOD for Handheld Camera Stabilizer Mode.
- 2)** Extend the main shaft segments out at full extension (telescoped all the way out).
- 3)** Now twist (counter-clockwise) and loosen the counterweights/stabilizer bars and put them upright against the main shaft, then twist (clockwise) & tighten to secure them.
- 4)** Make sure you hold on to the STEDDIEPOD in Monopod mode, as there is nothing supporting the STEDDIEPOD to keep it upright except the camera person.



How to Get Into Each Mode

Body Camera Mount/Ego Cam Mode

1) Follow the steps to setup and balance your STEDDIEPOD for Handheld Camera Stabilizer Mode.

2) Now use the main shafts section clamps/clips/knobs to extend the main shaft to the length desired.

3) Adjust the head so the camera is facing you or your talent or subject.

4) Brace two of the stabilizer bars on your hip and use one arm to hold the STEDDIEPOD by its handle or anywhere along the main shaft. Now you can shoot yourself, or have the talent hold it and shoot themselves for some really dynamic and personal shots.

2a



2b



3a



4a

How to Get Into Each Mode

Low Mode/Doggy/Kitty/Monkey Cam Mode

- 1) Follow the steps to setup and balance your STEDDIEPOD for Handheld Camera Stabilizer Mode.
- 2) Telescope the main shaft outward to the length desired.
- 3) Flip the STEDDIEPOD upside down and hold it with the counter balance weights/stabilizer bars closer to your upper body and the camera and head is closer to the ground.
- 4) If your camera has a top mounted shoe mount and you desire to mount your camera to the STEDDIEPOD head in this mode so your camera is facing the right way up, you can use our shoe mount (if applicable).

Most current users of the STEDDIEPOD who use this mode just flip the footage they shot in post production/editing, and/or some cameras will flip the live feed for you while shooting.



Point & Shoot Mode

- 1) Follow the steps to setup and balance your STEDDIEPOD for Handheld Camera Stabilizer Mode.
- 2) Follow the steps to setup the STEDDIEPOD for Body Camera Mount / Ego Cam mode.
- 3) Now adjust the camera with the head so it is facing away from you and toward your talent or subject.



STEDDIEPOD Swivel Handle Accessory

This handle eliminates left to right chatter that some people experience when using the Steddiepod in the Handheld Camera Stabilizer mode.

When using the Swivel handled STEDDIEPOD, if you hold the handle firm, the rest of the STEDDIEPOD can rotate 360 degrees (pan) freely while the handle stays still in your hand.

To keep the main shaft from rotating at any time, just use your pinky and/or ring finger(s) to act as a "brake".

