

ROCKY

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Behind the concept

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OVERVIEW

The stabilization devices known today as electronic gimbals are making a huge contribution to the world of filmmakers and camera operators, but at the same time the ideal concept of a human camera interface as a handheld gimbal, shows several critical points, here below the most relevant:

- **First critical point**: all handheld gimbals currently on the market have **improper mass balance**. This is the opposite of the main principle that any useful camera system should pursue.

- **Second critical point**: they are **uncomfortable** in the way they are operated. Although there are thousands of accessories available designed to make them less uncomfortable, it is almost impossible to find a good solution that is not merely a weak compromise.
- **Third critical point**: all handheld gimbals currently on the market have **limited power autonomy and/or distribution**, this forces users to have tons of small batteries, which have to be replaced regularly. This task is not easy and quick to do, especially if the camera is mounted on and well balanced.
- **Fourth critical point**: all the gimbals currently on the market **need ancillary equipment in order to park** them when not operating.
- **Fifth but not last**: the **form factor**! All handheld gimbals currently on the market have poor aesthetics, are often ugly, even just to see, and do not rise to the quality of what filmmakers would want to have in their hands!

How many of you have arrived on set and heard: “**Are you going to work with a Holy stick today?**” All of us, especially professionals, are aware of how important this factor is. We are expected to have the appropriate equipment to allow us to increase our professional presence in a shooting environment. I gave detailed consideration to all of these points while working on the ROCKY project.

But first of all, what is it ROCKY? ROCKY is the first and only official **ELECTRONIC STABILIZER CAMERA MOUNT** for compact handheld gimbals also known as single-handed gimbals.

The main purpose of ROCKY is to improve the form factor and the usability of the handheld motorised gimbals as used by filmmakers and camera operators worldwide.



2019 prototype during a live broadcast

ABOUT ROCKY

Have you ever dreamed about a shooting tool that allows you to work in the most comfortable manner, with the perfect form factor on your hands, and able to produce the best footage in any possible situation?

ROCKY does all this!

No more hassles or worries to operate your DJI RS2 or RS3/3 Pro gimbal stabilizer. It takes less than a minute to insert and lock your handheld gimbal in its horizontal accommodation and you're ready to go.

ROCKY has been conceived for prosumer, professional, or even aspiring filmmakers. It is compatible with today's most known gimbals able to support DSLR, Mirrorless and camcorders, as also with some compact hi-level cameras from ARRI, RED, CANON, SONY, BMD, etc. It boosts the potential of your handheld gimbal and camera kit, optimizing every operational aspect.

INSIDE ROCKY PROJECT

The first aspects I focused on, was balance and ability to hold the whole system in my hands. The ROCKY in the STEADY GUN mode **is much more stable**, as first thanks to the masses amount as also to their precise repositioning.



**ROCKY in its STEADY GUN handheld configuration
> 2017 concept (not the final product)**

To accomplish this I had to consider a counterweight mass to oppose the camera head assembly, I employed an extra battery in the opposite direction in order to establish a proper center of gravity (CG) as close as possible to the main handle position.

This solution also solved all of the problems related to the multiple power requirements.

Now, **a single battery could power everything including all the mounted accessories.** The V-mount system provided freedom to choose among a lot of V-lock batteries available on the market while giving consideration to the weight needed to counterbalance the camera head assembly.

Bigger batteries are fine (140WAh) for short assignments or to counterbalance heavy camera setup, while small ones are perfect when operating for long live events or extended shooting. This way limits the physical stress and maintain battery autonomy for the whole day and even more.

The battery position on the bottom has also an extra benefit in STEADY GUN mode. **There's no need for extra accessories to park ROCKY.** You can just lay it down anywhere on the battery side.

No extra parts or docking stand is required with ROCKY, even while rigging the camera or balancing the gimbal!

But the STEADY GUN mode was just the beginning for the ROCKY project...

ROCKY is unique in its flexibility because it's a real transformer!

Within few seconds it can be transformed from the STEADY GUN to the STEADY RIG, the standard shoulder camera mode and vice versa.

By quickly adding the handgrips/shoulder pad and the top handle kit , the compact STEADY GUN takes the perfect form factor of a professional shoulder/handheld camera with the top handle located in the proper point of balance.



**ROCKY in its STEADY RIG shoulder configuration
> 2019 prototype (not the final product)**

The conventional camera SHOULDER mode is a must for any situation which requires slow moving or walking, like dynamic movie dialogues, dancing, sports, music on stages, interviews, common ENG shooting, long live shooting situations and so on.

ROCKY comes with the basic handgrips kit, Arri rosette attachments (for any third part rosette handgrips with or without camera controls), extra viewfinder or monitor mounts, DTAP power hub, numerous 1/4" and 3/8" accessories mounting points and Blue Shape V-mount plate.

Active front handgrips by third party, can be added as accessories to control full camera/lens features.



ROCKY works perfectly with the most famous active handgrips and handles on the market

TECH FACTS

The power distribution DTAP hub supplies power at 5V or original battery voltage 12~16,8V as commonly required for external devices mounted on camera rigs, while all connection cables between front and back side of ROCKY can be hidden inside its main post/handle.

ROCKY is designed to be properly used with the original camera monitor as viewfinder, as also with the most popular third part viewfinders or monitors up to 5”.

ROCKY allows to obtain **unbelievable stabilised footage in all operational modes**. The “Springy-walk” technique will help to avoid the dumping effect on camera while walking speedy or running. Video tutorials and workshops will help users to learn techniques to get the best results with ROCKY.

It’s flexibility is so unique that ROCKY can be mounted quickly on conventional camera platforms like tripod, jib crane, remote head or **even on a Steadicam in order to get a perfect horizon** with a correct mounting position and the mass required to balance properly the Steadicam sled.



ROCKY has no limits! Whatever you have to do, ROCKY is always ready, even on tripod! (2019 prototype shown)

When mounted on classic Steadicam sled will help you to obtain amazing hi-speed running footage, always perfectly levelled. Whenever is preferable the compact size, the same quality of footage is also obtainable operating ROCKY in the STEADY GUN or HANDHELD mode, even more than using the gimbal stand alone, because the masses really makes the difference on this planet!

Accurate gimbal FOLLOW/SMOOTH TRACK mode settings and presets will help any user to get the best from their gimbal without removing it from ROCKY, even when requiring a rough/shaky handheld style or high responsive tripod shooting. The user will only have to set the proper gimbal parameters in order to recall the right preset needed for each situation, even while using tight lenses for close up shots or when mounted on other special camera platforms.

ROCKY hits all the basic points to become a real game changer for filmmakers and camera/gimbal owners involved in the film and video industry. We're already planning future upgrades and taking steps to evolve and position the ROCKY line up to be at the forefront of the next generation of camera support! **We are also committed to reviewing all of your suggestions**, and where possible, we will try our hardest to implement any of your ideas to **help improve ROCKY**.



ROCKY > Next generation camera support

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