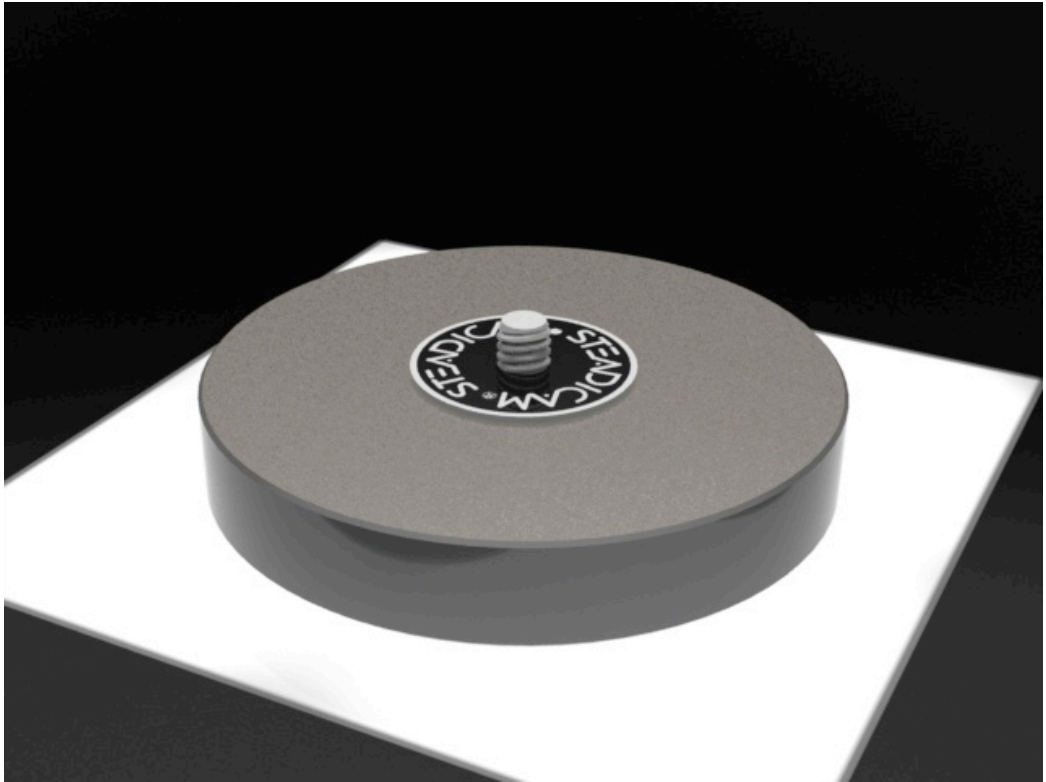
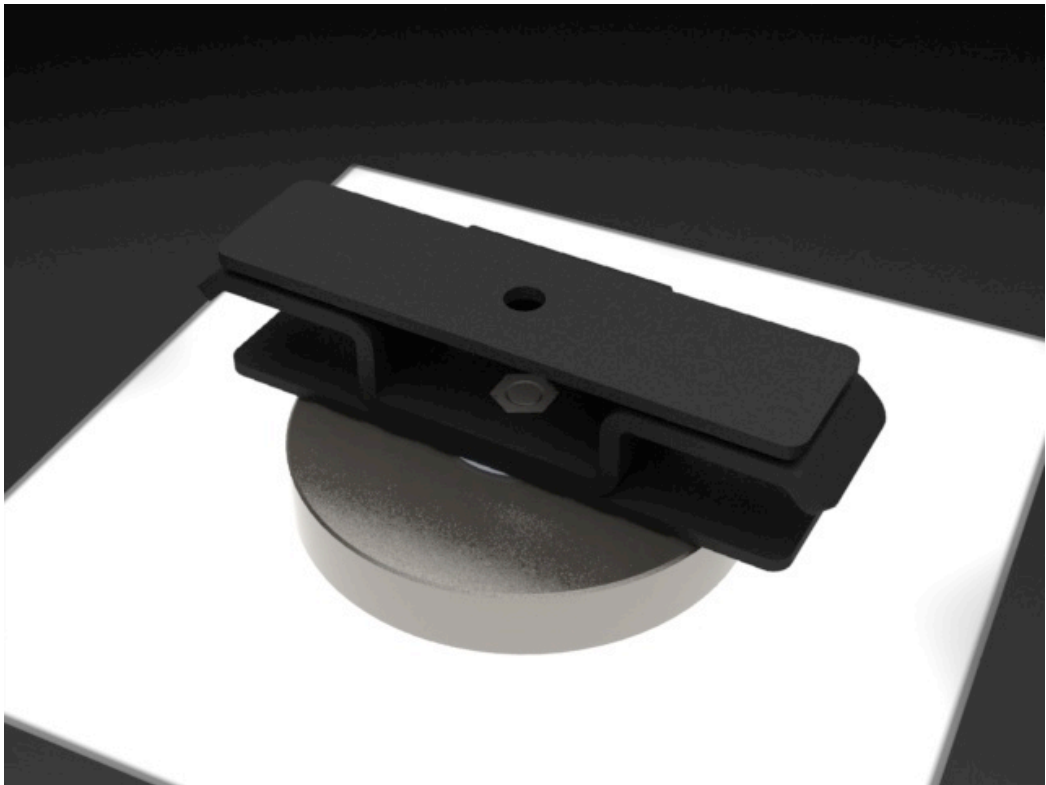


STEADICAM ACCESSORY BALANCE WEIGHTS



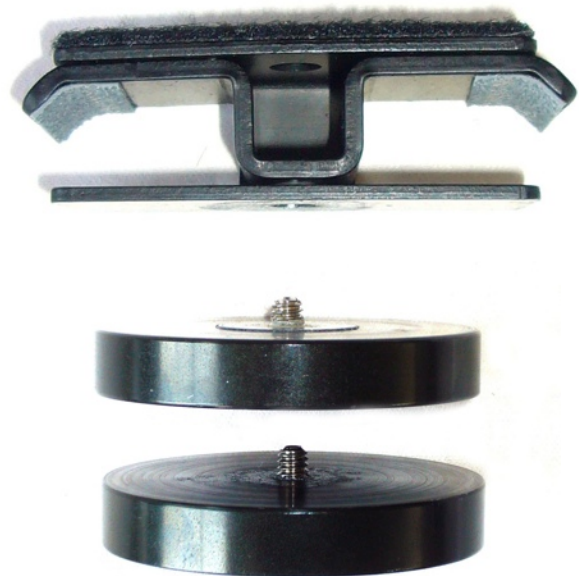
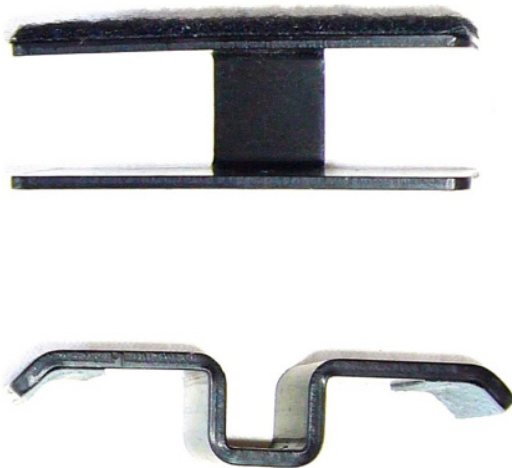
p/n 800-7965-01 is a 1lb weight/clamp set for 3.5" rod spacing	\$100.00
p/n 800-7965-02 is a 1lb weight/clamp set for 2.465" rod spacing	\$100.00
p/n 800-7970 is a 1lb weight only with 1/4-20 mounting hole/stud	\$ 50.00

Accessory Balance Weights

I just tested the new Accessory Balance Weights developed by Tiffen, and I want to share my impressions with you. They provide a simple way to add small amounts of weight to the rig, in a variety of positions, to adjust top/bottom balance, and/or augment inertia.

The system consists of clamps that fit on the monitor and battery rods, and 1 lb (454 gm) weights that screw into them. The clamps are available in two sizes, 3.5" and 2.465" to fit the Ultra, U2, Clipper, Clipper 312/324, and Archer 2 (shown) rigs.

Below left, is one of clamps dismantled. Below right, is the clamp assembled as it would sit on the rods.



The weights are threaded (standard quarter-twenty) male and female, as seen above to the right, so they may be stacked one on the other.



The clamps are tightened into position simply by screwing one of the weights into the female thread at the bottom of the clamp. Further weights are added as needed.

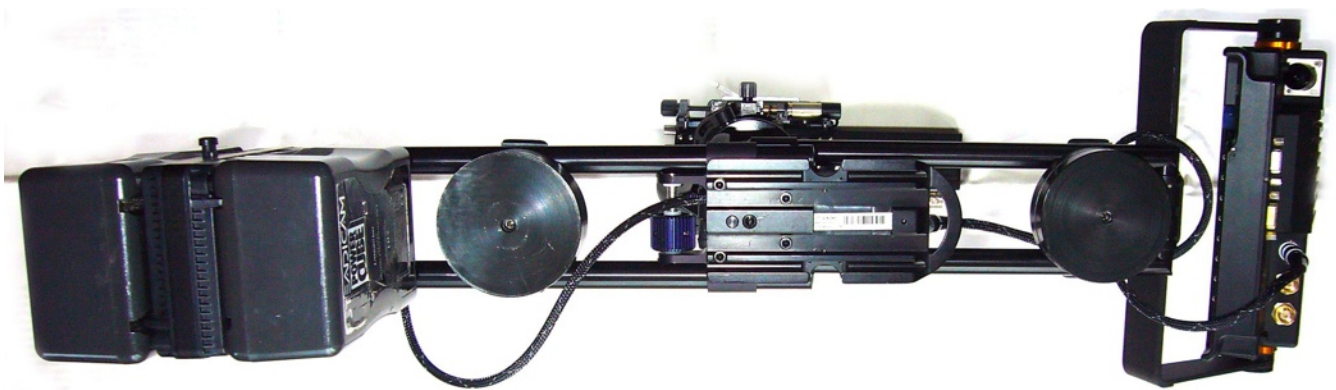
The clamps are fitted to the monitor and battery rods as shown. Adding weight here both shortens the post length when using heavier cameras, and allows you to keep the rig compact transversely, while maintaining pan inertia.



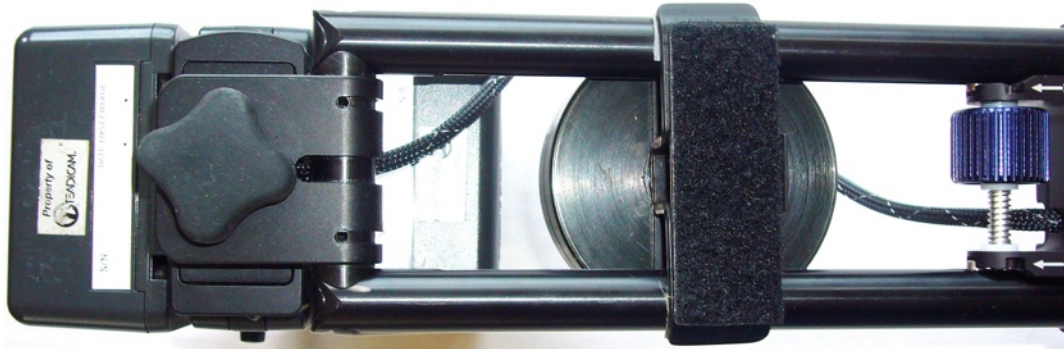
Here are some close-ups.



Now the rig seen from below:



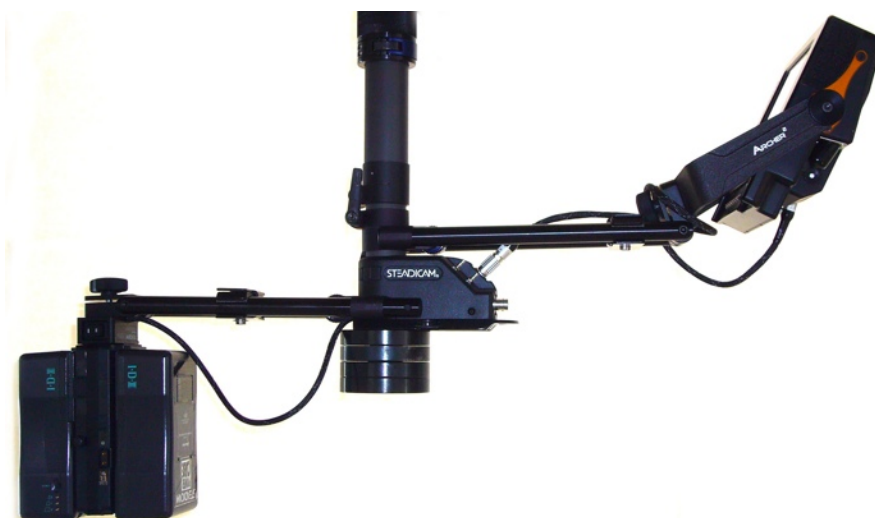
The top surfaces of the clamps are flat, so add velcro...



...and you have two useful accessory plates that can remain on the rig secured by quarter-twenty screws when the weights themselves are not required. If velcro is not enough, you can screw up through a quarter inch hole in the top surface of the clamp into any device you want to fix securely.



To add extra weight below for a counterbalance—when you don't need the extra pan inertia (or to quickly shorten the post without having to re-dynamic balance)—just screw the weights into the thread directly under the post like this:



If the camera you are using is too light for your rig, you can add weight above by screwing the weights directly into the camera handle, as shown. (Never add more weight to the handle than the weight of the camera itself.)



If your camera doesn't have a thread on the handle, use the camera handle Low-Mode Bracket, like this. The farther the weight from the gimbal, the more effective the counterbalance.

Lastly, you can screw the weights directly into the dovetail plate, then mount the camera above. This is really only useful if you are shooting with a palmcorder or a DSLR that has no handle.



I'm delighted to recommend them to you. They should be available August '09 for \$150 a set. See cover for details.

Fly safe,

Chris Fawcett