

Production - Camera Accessories

3. Production - Shooting Your Videos

You can spend an endless amount of money on camera accessories if your not careful.

In this video we give a quick overview of the most popular camera accessories and what they do.

The accessories we cover are:

- Tripods
- Mounts / Cages / Cases
- Microphones
- Lights - Ring vs light panel
- Selfie sticks
- External Lenses
- Gimbals / Stabilizers

Lets get into it:

Tripods:

Keeping your phone steady is important. A tripod saves you the hassle of finding makeshift supports, providing a reliable base for to put the camera on. These can be really useful if you find you shake your hand a lot when talking and holding the camera or want to shoot wider full body shots.

- **Tripod Types:**
 - Standard Tripod: With three sturdy legs, it's perfect for static shots where you don't need to move the camera.
 - Bendy Tripod: Flexible legs allow you to secure your phone on various surfaces or even use it as a handheld stick for selfies or vlogging. A bit pricier, but its versatility is worth the investment.

Links:

Tripod: <https://amzn.to/4a2KkDr>

Bendy Tripod: <https://amzn.to/3IsogXl>

Mounts / Cages

These are for attaching your smartphone to a tripod as well as attaching other accessories like lights or microphones to your camera.

- **Phone Mounts:** These clamps adjust to fit your phone and connect it to the tripod. Simple yet effective, they work with most phone sizes and cases.
- **Cages:** More robust, these metal frames offer additional mounting points for accessories like microphones or lights. They are more expensive so it's an investment if your serious about video quality.

Links:

Camera Mount: <https://amzn.to/3ve0Sto>

Camera Cage: <https://amzn.to/3T83CAv>

Microphones:

Audio is very important. It's vital that people can hear what you are saying to keep them engaged.

- **Microphone Types:**
 - **Plug in:** These plug straight into your phone and have a wire with a microphone on the end. These are cheaper and a great place to start when looking to try out a microphone.
 - **Wireless:** Microphones such as the Rode Wireless Go are great options if you want to invest a bit more money into your audio. They allow you to be completely wireless and record great audio that will auto sync to the video.

Links:

Wired Mic: <https://amzn.to/3Iuzlaf>

Wireless Mic: <https://amzn.to/49GZtLd>

Lighting:

Proper lighting can dramatically improve your video's quality. It's important the audience can see what is going on in the video.

There are 2 main types of lights I would recommend for beginners: Light Panels and Ring Lights.

- **Light Panels:** Small rectangle lights that shoot light in one direction. Often RGB and can be made to have any color you want.

- **Ring Lights:** These lights are rings that you can put the camera in the center of and shoot through. This will give you even lighting on all parts of your face.

Links:

Ring Light: <https://amzn.to/490SEaj>

Light Panel: <https://amzn.to/4c7QK63>

Selfie Sticks:

- Great for getting a wide angle but not recommended as they only hold the phone horizontal. This is not ideal for TikTok or Instagram.

Links:

Selfie Stick: <https://amzn.to/3Vg8pCV>

External Lenses:

- These are great if you want to get more creative with your shooting but are absolutely not necessary. They can get rather expensive as well. It is recommended you only start looking into external camera lenses if you are more experienced and want to try to learn something new.

Links:

External Smartphone Camera Lenses: <https://amzn.to/3Pd2Uks>

Gimbals and Stabilizers:

Gimbals are the robot arm things you put your phone on and give you super steady footage. These are great if your walking in your shots but not necessary. They are also quite expensive so I only recommend them if you are serious about your video quality.

Links:

Gimbal: <https://amzn.to/48PjLRj>