



# The Steadicam® Operator's Handbook

*By Jerry Holway, Laurie Hayball*

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## **The Steadicam® Operator's Handbook** By Jerry Holway, Laurie Hayball

Camera operators and video enthusiasts around the world search for the training and information they need to successfully use the Steadicam®, the most versatile tool for moving a motion picture or video camera. Every year, about 500 people in the world are lucky enough to take an intensive training workshop (some of the top workshops are taught by the authors of this book), but these workshops are expensive and sell out as a matter of course: the instructors simply can't keep up with the high demand. As a result, the vast majority of people have no practical way to learn what has become an essential camera operating skill. For the first time, THE STEADICAM® OPERATOR'S HANDBOOK illuminates all aspects of Steadicam operating in one comprehensive package. With over 1300 full-color photos, it's the comprehensive how-to and why-to book for the amateur, semi-pro, and professional.

Written by the premier Steadicam instructors in the world, this book covers everything a cameraman needs to get started using a Steadicam rig and to get better. Both informational and inspirational, THE STEADICAM® OPERATOR'S HANDBOOK moves from the physics and balancing of a Steadicam, through a series of step-by-step line dances and practice shots, to the most personal aspects of filmmaking - how individual operators make creative and practical decisions using this unique camera setup.

The book discusses the wide array of equipment and accessories currently available, and it also illustrates the latest operating techniques and tricks, a variety of strategies for working with others, and the business side of a Steadicam career. Also included are observations and anecdotes - inspirational, funny, instructive, and cautionary - written by a number of other experienced Steadicam operators around the world, including the legendary inventor of the Steadicam himself, Garrett Brown. THE STEADICAM® OPERATOR'S HANDBOOK is both a master class and a master reference for all camera operators and directors who want to move the camera well.

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## **The Steadicam® Operator's Handbook** By Jerry Holway, Laurie Hayball Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"*The Steadicam® Operator's Handbook* is the most comprehensive and complete text available on Steadicam equipment and operation. It is essential reading for beginners and experienced operators alike."  
-Dan Kneece, President of the Society of Steadicam Operators

"This is the first book to demystify the operation of the Steadicam"  
-Paul Taylor: Steadicam, owner - operator / fifteen year advanced Steadicam workshop lead instructor and developer of Steadicam instructional techniques

"Precision is key when it comes to pulling off a successful Steadicam shot, and it is also the best word to describe what makes *The Steadicam Operator's Handbook* essential reading. Written by veteran operators Jerry Holway and Laurie Hayball, it is a treasure trove of specific, detailed information regarding the theory and practice of Steadicam operation. Intelligent but not dryly academic, and complete but never overwhelming, *The Steadicam Operator's Handbook* is a must." - Jim Hemphill, American Cinematographer

#### From the Back Cover

#### Foreword by Garrett Brown!

"The Steadicam Operator's Handbook is the most comprehensive and complete text available on Steadicam equipment and operation. It is essential reading for beginners and experienced operators alike." -Dan Kneece, SOC President

"This is the first book to demystify the operation of the Steadicam." -Paul Taylor, Steadicam owner, operator, and instructor

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Written by the premier Steadicam® operators in the world, this book covers everything a camera operator needs to get started using a Steadicam® rig and to master this art form. Both informational and inspirational, *The Steadicam® Operator's Handbook* moves from the physics and balancing of a Steadicam, through a series of step-by-step line dances and practice shots, to the most personal aspects of filmmaking-how individual operators make creative and practical decisions using this unique camera setup. The book discusses the wide array of equipment and accessories currently available, and it also illustrates the latest operating techniques and tricks, a variety of strategies for working with others, and the business side of a Steadicam career.

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global cast of other experienced Steadicam operators, including the legendary inventor of the Steadicam® himself, Garrett Brown. The Steadicam® Operator's Handbook is both a master class and a master reference for all camera operators and directors who want to move the camera well.

## **About the Authors**

Jerry Holway has been a Steadicam operator for 25 years, with many feature film credits including Donnie Brasco, As Good as it Gets, Rounders, The Apostle, All the Pretty Horses, and Reign Over Me. Over the past 18 years, Jerry has been the head instructor at more than 60 week-long Steadicam workshop worldwide. He is generally regarded-along with Garret Brown, inventor of the Steadicam-as one of the premier Steadicam workshop instructor in the world.

Laurie Hayball has been a Steadicam operator and workshop instructor for 10 years. She earned a degree in Motion Picture and Television from UCLA's School of Fine Arts. Her training as a cinematographer brings a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of media production, especially as it pertains to visual storytelling. Laurie is the author of The Infrared Photography Handbook, The Advanced Infrared Photography Handbook, and How to Photograph Your Baby's First Year, all published by Amherst Media.

### **About the Author**

Holway is the co-inventor of the Steadicam® and is known as one of the premier Steadicam® instructors in the world. His workshops are routinely sold out, leaving a lengthy line of eager participants. He has spent over 25 years as a Steadicam® operator and served as the first president of the Steadicam® Operator's Association and remains an active member today.

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Hayball has over 10 years experience as a Steadicam® operator and instructor. An experienced cinematographer, she has authored a number of bestselling titles in photography.

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