

# Kipkay's Video Tips & Tricks

by **Kipkay** on January 27, 2008

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## **Intro:** Kipkay's Video Tips & Tricks

Here are 5 easy and cheap tricks for anyone who uses a camcorder. Total cost for all 5 is under \$10!



### **step 1: Tip #1**

Pick up a cheap rubber doorstop at your local hardware store or grocery store (about \$2) This little handy guy works great under your camera for low floor shots. You can adjust the height of the angle just by moving the camera forward or back on the doorstop!



**step 2: Tips #2**

Buy a pair of 'nude' pantyhose (\$.99), or slip some off of your wife or girlfriend. After cutting a small square, you can stretch it over your lens and hold it with a rubber band. This is a great way to create a soft focus effect!



**step 3: Tip #3**

Never use duct tape to hold down cables or power cords when shooting video. It makes a big mess. Here's the alternative. Scotch Blue painters tape (approx \$3) works great because it is designed to hold tight and also made to be removed easily!



**step 4: Tip #4**

A crooked tripod means crooked video. Unless you have a fairly expensive tripod, there's no way to tell if you are shooting level or not...until now! I found a cheap (\$1.65) bubble level at my hardware store and using double sided tape, I mounted it to my tripod. Now I know what's on the level!



## step 5: Tip #5

A tripod you can put in your pocket? Pick up an eyebolt (\$.35) and a length of bungee cord (also cord shock cord, \$2). Make sure you get an eyebolt that has the standard thread of a camera. Either bring your camera with you or find another bolt to match the threads at the store. Tie the bungee to the bolt, screw the bolt in to the tripod mount on your camera and stand on the bungee cord! Now you have a cheap 'steadyshot'. Hope you enjoyed these 'instructable' tips! Happy shooting!



## Related Instructables



**Kipkay's Video Tips & Tricks 2**  
by Kipkay



**Simple Camera Trick** (video) by ChappyShowcase



**Video Tips & Tricks ep07: How to create a cheap windscreen for your camcorder mic** (video) by markapsolon



**Underwater Camcorder Mod! With Video!** by Kipkay



**Super Nightvision Headset Hack!**  
by Kipkay



**Video Tips & Tricks ep14: How to create a logo and video bug** (video) by markapsolon




**Make a Guerilla Battery Brick** (video) by ChappyShowcase




**Video Tips & Tricks ep11: How to make a great movie! 12 stages of the Hero's Journey!** (video) by markapsolon

## Comments

44 comments [Add Comment](#)

 **xproplayer** says: Oct 13, 2009. 2:18 PM [REPLY](#)  
so for tip 5 wouldn't it be a little embarrassing to be taking a shot and have the camera slip and fly towards the floor with a bungee cord aided fall

 **Shadow Ops** says: May 15, 2009. 8:33 PM [REPLY](#)  
Tip #3:  
Red and Green would not be proud!

 **xproplayer** says: Oct 13, 2009. 2:17 PM [REPLY](#)  
agreed!



**crazypoop** says:  
???

May 25, 2009. 11:33 PM [REPLY](#)



**dbarak** says:

Apr 3, 2008. 2:35 PM [REPLY](#)

Most camera tripod sockets are "1/4 20", meaning 1/4 inch in diameter, with 20 threads per inch. That last number is important so you don't strip the threads on your camera. Fortunately, that's a pretty common size for nuts and bolts in hardware stores, so you can make all sorts of rigs.

Some bigger cameras use a larger size, but I don't remember what it is. Something like 5/16 inch, but more than likely you won't have to worry about that.



**Ryan Damm** says:  
3/8"-16

Mar 20, 2009. 2:15 PM [REPLY](#)



**theoffice101** says:  
i think kipay is awsom

Jan 5, 2009. 3:50 PM [REPLY](#)



**james.mcglashan** says:  
same he rules

Mar 16, 2009. 1:24 AM [REPLY](#)



**scorcher** says:

Dec 12, 2008. 7:41 PM [REPLY](#)

i saw you kipay on the tv show, Brink , on the science channel for your air blaster horn



**wethecom** says:

Jun 28, 2008. 2:14 PM [REPLY](#)

very good stuff thanks  
before i die i want to make a film  
and a album  
this info was awesome



**AT** says:  
Nice tips!

Jan 30, 2008. 7:39 PM [REPLY](#)

Do you happen to know what the thread of a tripod mount happens to be?

Here is my easy tip: If you don't have a fluid pan head for your tripod and you want a nice smooth pan, there are two simple things you can do to get a nice pan shot.

- I find that many cameras don't like to pan smoothly when you have image stabilization turned on. So turn that off.
- Your neck is a great fluid pan head on your body tripod. Hold your camera along the side of your head or on top of your head and make your shot. You should be able to do the pan with your head and it will turn out nice and smooth. And it is quite a bit cheaper than a good fluid pan head for your tripod.



**cool!** says:  
Just wondering, but how do you get those bullets?

Jun 1, 2008. 10:47 PM [REPLY](#)



**AT** says:

Jun 2, 2008. 6:05 PM [REPLY](#)

That is a good question. I wish I remembered what I did. I have tried a few things and am unable to repeat that. I think I might have cut and pasted from Word but when I tried that again, it didn't work.

Maybe someone smart could figure it out.



**The Real Elliot** says:  
Camera-mount screws are 1/4"

Feb 3, 2008. 11:02 PM [REPLY](#)



**coolz** says:  
I hope you dont mind that I added this to my group

Apr 29, 2008. 4:11 PM [REPLY](#)



**emac** says:  
The Norm of video camera and camera tripod mounts is 1/4 diameter

Feb 5, 2008. 1:17 PM [REPLY](#)



**Joanassie** says:  
and how long is a diameter? 10m? try using units next time please.

Mar 28, 2008. 11:31 AM [REPLY](#)



**cavtrooper** says:  
Better than the bungee cord, I built an inexpensive steadicam camera mount using pvc pipe and fittings from the local home improvement store. The whole thing didn't cost more than ten bucks and it works like a charm! It looks like I paid lots of \$\$\$ for it too. I stuck it all together using pvc cement... and if you've ever worked with pvc, you know that the pvc cement welds the parts together permanently. I used half-inch pvc pipe, a half to one inch coupler, a piece of one inch pvc pipe about four to six inches long with a pvc cap on the end (this is to hold the lead weights at the bottom). I used lead fishing sinkers inside the 1 inch pipe and left a whole big enough where I can dump or add weight depending on the camera I'm using. After I got the whole thing cemented together, I used Krylon Fusion (for plastic) black satin finish spraypaint to make it look like I paid big \$\$\$ for it!

Mar 20, 2008. 12:26 AM [REPLY](#)



**adriandilena** says:  
I would caution that despite it being a good idea for an impromptu steady shot, one must be careful as it doubles as a sling shot that would send your camera hurtling towards your feet if ever dropped. yikes!

Feb 21, 2008. 4:53 PM [REPLY](#)



**cubester808** says:  
nice tips, but y on earth do you have a pantyhose  
?  
?

Feb 18, 2008. 3:40 PM [REPLY](#)



**technodude92** says:  
kinda off topic but is does anyone know of good free video editing software? Or if anyone is good with virtDubMod?

Jan 30, 2008. 9:20 PM [REPLY](#)



**StonerKitty** says:  
Well a good operating system would be Ubuntu Studio...it has good video and audio editing software

Feb 2, 2008. 6:02 PM [REPLY](#)



**bumpus** says:  
haha the cat

Jan 27, 2008. 5:02 PM [REPLY](#)



**Kipkay** says:  
Yea, we had to do a few takes to get her to pull the scene off right but the payoff was treats. So she was happy in the end.

Jan 27, 2008. 6:03 PM [REPLY](#)



**xproplayer** says:  
my would just hurdle towards the treat and mess it all up  
ps also you should make a pet lie detector like you tried lol jk  
pss keep the Instructables coming!!

Jan 30, 2008. 8:27 PM [REPLY](#)



**richelton** says:  
Okay, now the eye-bolt bungee monopod is a clever idea.

Jan 30, 2008. 4:54 PM [REPLY](#)



**judelizowski** says:  
That doorstep is amazing! It works great! And the eye bolt, BRILLIANT! thank you Kipkay, kudos to you....

Jan 27, 2008. 5:14 PM [REPLY](#)



**Kipkay** says:  
Thanks. It's amazing what can be done with junk around the house...


Jan 27, 2008. 6:02 PM [REPLY](#)





**judelizowski** says:  
True... :)

Jan 28, 2008. 6:55 PM [REPLY](#)

 **ltx** says: Jan 28, 2008. 3:36 PM [REPLY](#)  
1/4" for most cameras.


 **ltx** says: Jan 28, 2008. 3:33 PM [REPLY](#)  
Great video, I love all your Instructables and your stuff on Metacafe. Question though, how do you get such great sound? I see that boom mic on your camera with something else, is that what you use? Where can I get those and for how much?  
  
Thanks,  
Josh


 **mrdspecks** says: Jan 28, 2008. 1:58 PM [REPLY](#)  
Awesome. I'd be worried about that bungee cord snapping back up at me though.


 **Phoghat** says: Jan 28, 2008. 7:59 AM [REPLY](#)  
Liked you tips, but the portable tripod-cord thingie is more useful IMO if not bungied. I use either rope or thin strong chain. That way I can step on it at the level I want and then "Dynamic Tension tm" keeps it steady at that height. Otherwise liked all your tips. Keep 'em commin'.

 **comodore** says: Jan 28, 2008. 6:01 AM [REPLY](#)  
Cool tricks. When is the volume 2 coming out? :)

 **Brennn10** says: Jan 28, 2008. 4:15 AM [REPLY](#)  
Nice ideas KipKay, nice video!


 **alvincredible** says: Jan 27, 2008. 7:33 PM [REPLY](#)  
alvincredible <3's you. great instructable and video! hahah i like your instructables, they're all well done and useful! keep it up!


 **dchall8** says: Jan 27, 2008. 6:44 PM [REPLY](#)  
Your video tips are long awaited, thank you! We are also interested in your editing to make your videos interesting, informative, and compact.


 **SPGWhistler** says: Jan 27, 2008. 5:19 PM [REPLY](#)  
Those are great, but all I want to know is how I can make my own voice sound more like KipKay's!

 **Kipkay** says: Jan 27, 2008. 6:02 PM [REPLY](#)  
That's a tough one. I guess I could 'throw my voice' at ya!

 **Weissensteinburg** says: Jan 27, 2008. 6:41 PM [REPLY](#)  
hehe..I get it =]

 **rickw** says: Jan 27, 2008. 5:02 PM [REPLY](#)  
Thanks Kipkay. It is nice of you to give us a glimpse at some of the tools you use to make your vids.

 **GorillazMiko** says: Jan 27, 2008. 4:58 PM [REPLY](#)  
Yay, thanks KipKay! Great idea(s), gotta try these next time.

 **!Andrew\_Modder!** says: Jan 27, 2008. 4:57 PM [REPLY](#)  
yay! lol great idea, for lots of little tips and tricks all in 1 instructable :-D.

 **de-evolution** says: Jan 27, 2008. 4:54 PM [REPLY](#)  
those are some very awesome tricks i will have to try