



# CAPTURE RIDING MC

## 1. INTRODUCTION

There are many ways to capture video while riding a motorcycle. You can have a friend shooting film while you riding, Samsung has just made a small pocket camera with an lens extension that you can fasten to your helmet or the bike itself, you can buy a bracket of some sort and fasten your camera to the gas tank – or you can do as VE will show you in this tutorial.

Simply mount your regular video camera on the gasoline tank. This requires some preparations, but the results can be great since the video quality is superb (normal DV quality to be precise).

## 2. START

In order to accomplish this, you do need some sort of device to fasten your camera on. On the editor's bike, there is a Bagster fasten to the tank. And the editor has a bag that is attached to the Bagster. In the bag the editor uses cloths and soft fabrics to make a soft foundation for the camera.

If you don't have this, there are of course other options. You can strap the camera directly onto the tank, but this might be a little tricky. With the Bagster (or similar products) the whole process is easier.

And as you can see from Fig. 1, the camera is visible above the steering. At Fig. 2 there is a closer from behind showing you how the editor has done it.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

## 3. PREPARING THE CAMERA

Now, to be able to shoot video, the camera must have the right leverage – depending on what you want the film of course.... Your speedometer, the sky or the open road. The editor has made some sort of box in which to place the camera. The box is made of wood with padding to protect the camera and make sure the camera stays in place. You can use almost anything for this purpose. The point is to be able to fasten the camera to your bike without damaging the camera and make sure it stays in place when you accelerate.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

The padding inside the box (Fig. 3) is adjusted to fit the editor's camera. The strap is fastened with normal screws (Fig. 4). Also keep in mind that you should be able to operate the camera, turn it on/off being the most important. If you have a remote controller, it can be used to make adjustments as you go unless you want to take the camera constantly in and out of the box. You should also be able to see what you are shooting and adjust the position of the camera (see Fig. 2).

#### 4. MOUNTING THE CAMERA

The camera can be mounted on the Bagster (in the editor's case) with some proper straps. What's important is to fasten the camera tight enough so to avoid shaking from the engine and keep the camera in place (you don't want to lose it at high speed....). From the backside of the camera you should be able to operate the basic functions.

#### 5. SHOOTING

If your camera has some sort of stabilisation setting that would be a huge benefit since the camera will be exposed to some shakings from the engine. You should also adjust the white balance to outdoor. Try and see what gets the best results.

When driving, this should enable you to record actual driving from the driver's perspective. When you make a stop, you can pick up the camera and use it in "normal mode" and simply fasten it when you ride on and in case of rain you can take the camera down. Remember though that you need some driving skills doing this and it should not be attempted if you feel insecure. It should neither be attempted if you are afraid of might damaging the camera as the lens in particular is exposed (to flies among other things).

#### 6. CONCLUSION

With some work and equipment, you can make your own "bracket" to fasten your video camera with onto your motorcycle. The editor finds this very useful and fun and has recorded several hours riding – tapes that later have been made into movies. The box the editor has made is just one example of how it can be done. Hopefully it has given you some ideas. ■■