

Prosumer Camera Options for use with the Comrex LiveShot Portable Codec

The Comrex LiveShot Portable incorporates an Anton-Bauer-style “Gold Mount” (also known as 3-stud) battery arrangement that allows the device to be “sandwiched” at the back of a pro video camera, between the camera body and the battery. But many good HD cameras built in the “prosumer” format are being adopted by customers. These cameras are easy to connect to LiveShot Portable via the HDMI input. But these cameras typically don’t have pro-style battery mounts, making mounting the LiveShot difficult. Luckily, there are inexpensive options available to convert these cameras into a form factor that allows the LiveShot (and an accompanying battery) to be mounted conveniently onto them.

There are two different scenarios where these cameras are used, and a different mounting option for each. First, these cameras are often tripod mounted for steady, fixed locations. In this scenario, a special mounting plate can be fixed between the camera and the tripod which supports standard 15mm rod arms. The arms can be set to extend to the back of the camera, where a rod mounted cheese plate is mounted. Finally, a Gold Mount adapter is mounted to the cheese plate to allow for mounting the LiveShot and battery assembly. This assembly is shown in figs 1 and 2.



Figure 1



Figure 2

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The rod adapter kit used was the IndiPro Indi-Base which retails for around \$100. The cheese plate was the Shape CP33 (\$130).

The Gold mount adapter can be of the passive type, with simple power connections like the Anton Bauer QRC Gold. When using this mount, the battery leads will remain unconnected and the camera will be powered from its own battery. Alternately, a Gold mount with DC output adaptation like the Anton Bauer FGM-S, FGM-P, FGM-C, or FGM-EX1 can be used to provide a DC outlet for the camera from the bigger battery. In our prototype, we used the FGM-S but replaced the output connector with one appropriate for our JVC GY-HM150U camera.

The second scenario is useful when prosumer cameras are required to be mobile. Essentially, the camera can be converted to a shoulder-mount style using an adapter. Two that we have tested are the Anton Bauer Stasis Flex (\$230-\$380), and the Switronix HDV-PRO/A (\$330, pictured in figs 3 and 4).

In the case of the Stasis Flex, the rear plate used to mount things can be purchased as a generic cheese plate, or alternately as either the passive or active Gold Mount arrangement described above can be utilized. In the case of the HDV-PRO/A, the Gold Mount is passive and the camera uses its own battery.



Figure 3



Figure 4