

Mobile Video Capture



Producing great video has never been easier, which is one of the reasons that more organizations and establishments than ever are choosing to take advantage of the power of video learning as part of a flipped classroom approach.

Although the iPhone 4 and 4S can record beautiful, high-definition video right out of the box, there's still a lot of room for improvement when compared to professional video cameras. Thankfully, there's now a huge range of third-party accessories available to take your iPhone or iPod Touch's camera – and your video – to the next level.

We took a look at some of the best to save you some time and help you get the most bang for your buck when capturing video on iPhone as part of a flipped classroom approach.

Tripods and Stabilization

While the iPhone's camera shoots great quality video it's nearly always a little (or a lot) shakier than you'd like. Stabilizing your footage is a really simple way to make it look a lot more professional.

It's possible to stabilize most footage in post-production using video editing apps like iMovie or Final Cut Pro, while iPhone 4S owners already benefit from in-camera stabilization applied directly to your footage. However, as a rule of thumb it's always better to shoot smooth footage than to rely on post-production stabilization techniques. Luckily there are some great accessories available to help.

Glif – Tripod Mount & Stand For iPhone 4 / 4S

The Glif lets you mount your iPhone 4 or 4S onto any standard tripod. Fixing your iPhone to a tripod is a great way to guarantee stable footage and is absolutely vital if you're planning on recording any kind of long-form content such as a lecture, performance or presentation.

GorillaPod Flexible Tripods

As well as functioning as a small, portable tripod the GorillaPod's flexible legs let you easily fix your iPhone almost anywhere. Manufacturer Joby sells a variety of GorillaPods

to accommodate different cameras; check out the GorillaMobile model if you're just shooting on an iPhone or the GorillaPod Hybrid and a Glif if you're shooting with any accessories (lenses, external microphones, etc).

Microphones

If there's one area that the iPhone's camera could use the biggest improvement it's the on-board microphone. Check out some of the great options available to help you easily record better quality audio.

Tascam iM2 Portable Digital Recorder for iOS devices

The iM2 is a simple 'plug and play' stereo microphone for iOS devices. The unit has its own pre-amp and can handle up to 125dB, allowing it to record a wide dynamic range at high quality. Its pair of condenser microphones are also adjustable over 180 degrees to ensure optimum placement for recording.

Note: If you're recording outside with the iM2 you can easily minimize wind noise by purchasing an additional slipover windscreen.

MiC – Studio Quality Microphone for iPhone, iPad & Mac

If you're shooting an interview, podcast, speech or music-heavy production and really need great quality sound then the Apogee MiC could be just what you need. A compact, studio-quality condenser microphone, the MiC is portable and requires no external power source.

Note: An optional adapter and cable kit adds a 3m cable and compatibility with any standard 5/8" microphone stand or boom pole.

Lenses and Expandability

OlloClip 3-In-One Photo Lens

The iPhone 4 and 4S's cameras both use a fixed focal length lens approximately equivalent to a traditional 35mm camera lens. While this is a great all-purpose lens, anyone using their iPhone as a serious video camera will quickly run up against its limitations.

The Olloclip offers wide-angle, macro and fisheye lenses in a tiny package that clips right onto your iPhone's camera. The wide-angle and fish-eye lenses are especially useful when you need to shoot wider than the iPhone's built-in lens will allow – for example, when shooting inside a confined space like a lecture theatre or office.

Additional iPhone Shooting Tips

1. The volume up button on Apple earphones with remote and mic included with every iPhone can be used as a shutter release button for your iPhone's camera. This

gives you a much easier way to start recording video without requiring such close proximity to the device.

2. When using any external microphones always remember to enable Airplane mode on your device to avoid any wireless interference.

For more resources on flipping your classroom

www.flippedinstitute.org