

Make A Handlebar Camera Mount For Under One Dollar!

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January 10, 2007

This camera mount is designed to hold a portable camera onto the handlebars of your road bicycle, motorcycle or possibly a mountain bike. On the MTB: I would advise caution; the shock of trail riding might be too much for this mount. I am not responsible for loss of or damage to anybody's camera. If you don't want to risk your camera, do not attempt this project.

Parts List

- One 1-inch Conduit Hanger w/nut and bolt - price: \$0.62 (from Lowe's Lumber)
- A discarded foam mouse pad (or other piece of ¼" thick dense rubber foam)
- One ¼" bolt and two ¼"nuts, that is 1½" long - price: \$0.25 for all
- Some black (electrical) tape
- Optional: Two ¼" washers.

Instructions

A conduit hanger looks like this:



If you don't know, then just ask the hardware guy at virtually any hardware store in the world. This one costs me 62 cents, from Lowe's Lumber. It has a ¼" hold in the bottom of it. Screw the nut all the way down the bolt, to the head of the bolt, to use up some of the bolt.

Then stick the ¼" bolt through the hole in the conduit hanger, with the head of the bolt inside and the threads of the bolt sticking out. Then screw the other nut on the threads, all the way down.

This is what it looks like now, without any foam added. You can try screwing it into the camera tripod base, to see how it will work:



Now, take the bolt that came with the conduit hanger out, and set it aside. Cut the rubber $\frac{1}{4}$ " foam into one long strip that is 5 inches long and 1 inch wide. Stick the foam inside the conduit hanger, so that you line the inner edge of the hanger, and then gently wrap black tape around the hanger, and around the foam, to hold it in place. I say gently, because you don't want to compress down the foam with the black tape; you merely want to hold the foam in place. This will allow it to compress when you mount it to your handlebar.

Now, cut a 1 inch x 1 inch square of the foam out. Gently, poke a hole in the center of the square that is a little less than $\frac{1}{4}$ " in diameter. Then stick this square on the bolt that is sticking out of the top of the conduit hanger and twist it in. If one side of the foam is more rubbery, you might want to face that side up. Now, you will have about $\frac{1}{8}$ " of bolt sticking up out of the rubber square. This is where you will mount the camera.

You are done! This is what the mount looks like:



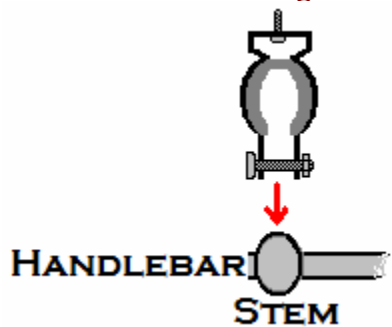
Usage

Take your digital camera, as shown below:



...and screw the top bolt that is sticking out of the conduit hanger into your camera tripod mounting hole. Be gentle; you don't want to strip the threads out of it. You only need to snug the camera down, so that it doesn't wiggle.

Also, you may have to remove the camera and slightly rotate the bolt, so that its threads start in a better position, to finish in a position where you want it to be. For example, you might want to mount your camera on the bicycle stem; in that case, you would want the opening in the conduit hanger to face forward, as in the picture below:



You might want to mount on the stem, if your handlebar is already full, with a GPS, a bike computer, headlight, and/or bell.

Or you might want to just mount it like I did, on the handlebars, as seen below:



Notice that the camera lens is practically over the stem, so it is practically centered on the handlebars.

Simply screw the conduit hanger bolt in and bolt it to your handlebars. I would only do it enough to tightly snug it to the bars, so that the foam can still absorb the impact from the road. I suggest that you tilt the camera slightly up, so that you can video or photograph items on the road, instead of just your front tire.

Note, in the picture above, that I also left the camera's lanyard (strap) on the camera, and wrapped it around the handlebars, just in case this mount comes loose – then the camera will simply be hanging from the strap, from the handlebars, instead of on the pavement! I really recommend that you opt for this safety feature.

I set the camera to VGA video mode, and then take off riding. If you have a 1GB SD card, you can get about 55 minutes of video on your camera. Obviously, if you have a 2GB card, you can get a little under 2 hours of video. That is certainly long enough for a leisurely ride, and all the video will be pretty clear.

I don't think I would use this on a mountain bike, because of the high impact and shock that a mountain bike endures. It might be too rough for a camera. You could certainly use this on a motorcycle, however, and videotape rides on that, because it has shock absorbers to make the ride smoother.

Have fun!

Michael