

Video Recording Supplies for Short “How-To” Videos

This fact sheet summarizes the starter kit of equipment to help you film good “how-to” videos.

Essential To Have (See pictures of selected essential equipment on the next page)

- Modern Smartphone or tablet with free space to record clips
- Headphone dongle, if needed (included with most phones)
- Lightweight tripod with a head, 60+ inches tall; Examples: (Almost any will work.)
 - Victiv 72-inch Camera Tripod Aluminum T72, \$48
 - AmazonBasics 60-Inch Lightweight Tripod with Bag, \$24
 - MOUNTDOG 70" Professional DSLR Aluminum Alloy Camera Travel Tripod, \$39
- Smartphone tripod holder with shoe mount for light – Ulanzi ST-02S, \$15
- 5-in-1 reflector kit, at least 32"Ø – UTEBIT 5-in-1 32"/80 cm Reflector, \$14
- Smartphone Lapel mic (lavalier mic) – PowerDeWise Lapel Lavalier Mic, \$19
- Gaffer's Tape - \$10 to \$15
- Editing software (iMovie or Windows 10 Video Editor: Free; Premiere Elements: \$30-\$80; Camtasia 2019: \$160)
- Light gray card stock, fabric or posterboard for close up shots



Nice to Have

- Dimmable LED video light, recommend getting a sheet of ¼ CTO gel with it (\$7)
 - Neewer CN-160, \$22 (Light alone); *or*
 - Neewer CN-160 with rechargeable batteries and case, \$48
- Light/reflector stand (or just use another tripod) – I've tested #1 & #3
 1. Just good enough: Neewer 75" Photography Light Stand, \$21
 2. Much better: Manfrotto 5001B 74-Inch Nano Stand, \$53
 3. Also much better: LumoPro Compact 7.5" Light Stand, \$45 (Midwest Photo)
 - (The last 2 do not come with a speedlight head, not needed for purposes here)
- Screen capture software (OBS Studio, \$0, Camtasia 2019 \$160)
- Tabletop tripod, \$10 to \$30
- External Hard Drive
- Storage tub
- Tablecloths or other pattern-free fabrics

Bonus Equipment for Well-Funded Projects

- Directional, shotgun mic (\$30 to \$500)
- Fluid Pan Tripod head (\$50 to \$600)
- Gimbal: \$107 to \$400 see: <https://thewirecutter.com/reviews/best-android-and-iphone-gimbal/>
- Backdrop:
 - Green-screen backdrop, \$15-\$30;
 - Other neutral studio backdrop, \$15 to \$80 depending on type;
 - Backdrop stand set, \$35
- White roof 10'x10' easy-up tent, \$130
- Adjustable LED Light
 - Pixel RGB Camera/Camcorder Video Light, \$110; *or*
 - Weelite RB08P, \$70; *or*
 - Boling BL-P1 RGB Light \$160;
 - And many more...

Essential Equipment (examples)



iPhone dongle



Tripod



iphone holder for tripod



holder with shoemount for light



Reflectors



iPhone lapel mic



Gaffers tape



Posterboard or fabric