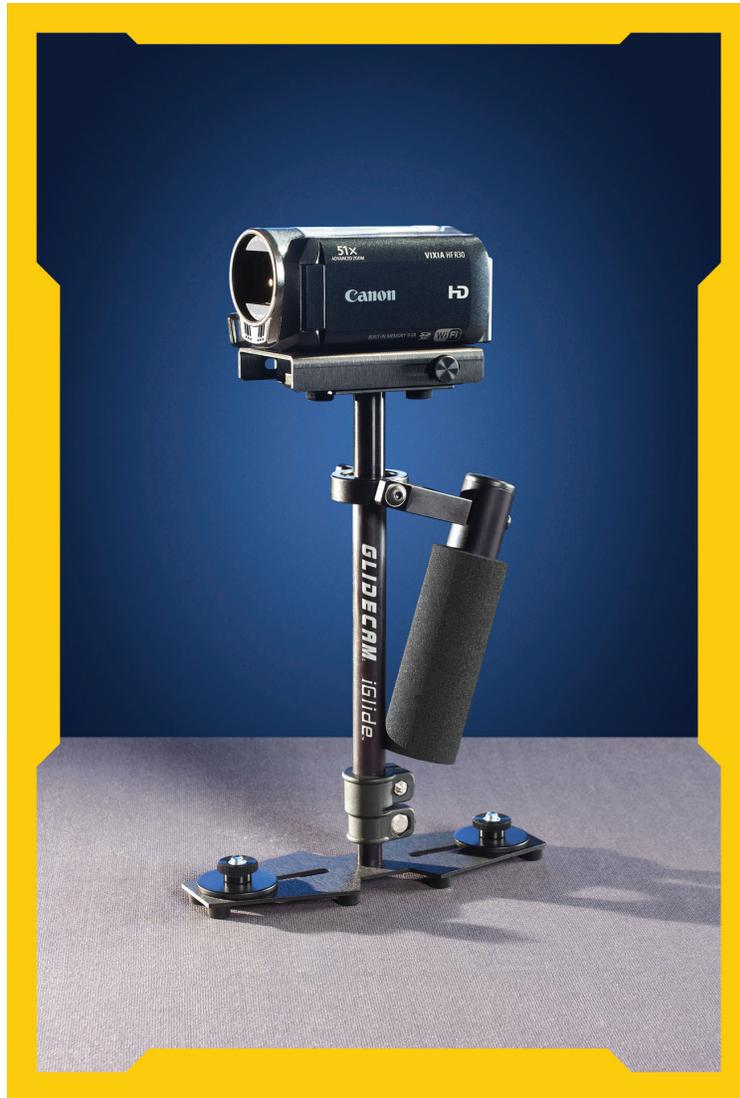




# **GLIDECAM *Glide***



## **MANUAL**

### **Set-up and Operations Guide**

**Glidecam Industries, Inc. 23 Joseph Street, Kingston, MA 02364**

**Customer Service Line 1-781-585-7900**

Manufactured in the U.S.A.

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# #1 INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your purchase of a Glidecam iGlide.

The Glidecam iGlide is a lightweight, aluminum, hand-held camcorder stabilizing system designed to allow you to walk, run, go up and down stairs and travel over rugged terrain without any camera instability or shake. When used correctly the Glidecam iGlide can move with such fluidity and grace as to be virtually indistinguishable from shots made by professional dollies, cranes and stabilizers. The Glidecam iGlide is the most versatile and dynamic of all the consumer camcorder stabilizers on the market. It can shoot straight up and down, or even sideways and still produce stable images.

Fluid tilts and pans, crane-like booms, dolly-type maneuvers, and the ability to shoot smooth shots from moving vehicles are all easily accomplished with the Glidecam iGlide. The offset gimbaled handle-grip and enclosed bearing assembly allows your hand to move freely in several directions, while the horizontal yoke allows your hand and arm to move up and down, alleviating the bouncing, pogo-type action often associated with our competitors' systems. The upper camera platform moves back and forth, and side to side to quickly allow the balancing of your camera in relationship to the counterweights. By varying the length of the central post, the Glidecam iGlide can support any camcorder weighing from 4-14 ounces.

While the Glidecam iGlide is in essence a very simple device, its simplicity doesn't lend ease in answering that often asked question, "how does it work?" To answer this question completely would require delving into Newtonian Physics. We would have to explain - center of gravity displacement, inertia, friction and angular motion reduction etc. However, a quick answer reveals the Glidecam iGlide works by isolating your hand and arm's motions from your camera, while your camera is balanced in a relatively motionless state.

The Glidecam iGlide requires practice and understanding to achieve professional looking results. We highly recommend that the user read this manual thoroughly before setting up and operating the Glidecam iGlide. Doing so will save you time, and will minimize the risk of damage to your camcorder or the Glidecam iGlide. It is important to perform and follow the Set-up and Operation's procedures in the proper sequence to avoid both frustration and a possible accident.

If you have any need for technical assistance, you can call our **Technical Support Line at 1-781-585-7900**, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Eastern Time.

We're sure you will find many years of enjoyment with your Glidecam iGlide once you have it up and running.

1

# GLIDECAM *iglide*



CAMERA MOUNTING SCREWS



## #2 ATTACHING YOUR CAMERA TO THE GLIDECAM iGLIDE



Now it's time to attach your camera to the Glidecam iGlide

Roll the camera on a pen to find the center of gravity, if needed.



First, find the threaded insert on the bottom of your camera.

Threaded insert



Remove the HEAD PLATE from the Glidecam iGlide and with the camera placed upside down in your lap align the appropriate hole in the HEAD PLATE with the threaded insert in the bottom of the camera. As shown in photo # 5.



The HEAD PLATE should be in alignment and square with the bottom of the your camera.

Rubber or tape can be used as a gasket if needed.



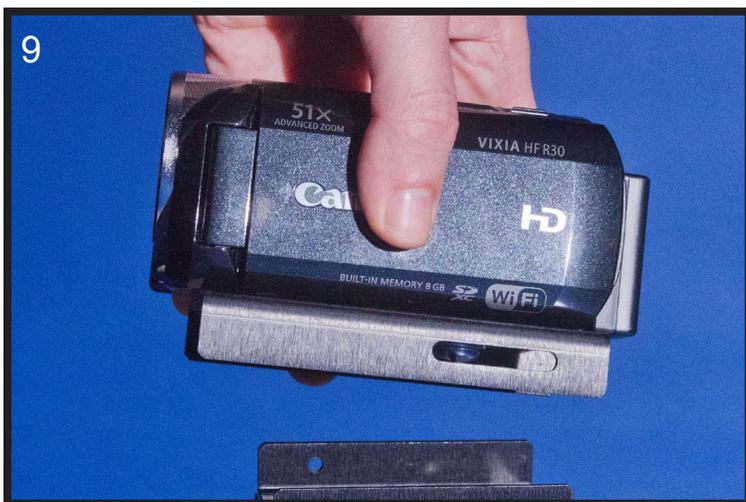
Find a CAMERA MOUNTING SCREW and  $\frac{1}{4}$ " washer and use these to attach the HEAD PLATE to your camera.



Place your camera upside down in your lap and with the HEAD PLATE in place use a flat head screwdriver to secure the HEAD PLATE to your camera using the CAMERA MOUNTING SCREW you've just selected.



The HEAD PLATE should be secured and square with the camera.



Now connect your camera and the attached HEAD PLATE to the MID PLATE.



Insert the remaining two BLACK THUMB SCREWS through the slots in the sides of the HEAD PLATE.

## #3 BALANCING YOUR GLIDECAM



Before you begin the balancing process check for the following:

- 1) Camera is securely attached to HEAD PLATE.
- 2) Lens cap has been removed.
- 3) Camera battery is connected.
- 4) Flip out LCD is in it's operating position (if applicable)
- 5) Telescoping clamp has been tightened.
- 6) All 4 BLACK THUMB SCREWS in place and secure.

### BALANCING THE HORIZONTAL AXIS



Now that your Glidecam iGlide is assembled properly, and your camera is securely attached to the HEAD PLATE, you can now test the horizontal balance. The objective in obtaining correct horizontal balance for the iGlide is to allow the camera to remain level during operation, given you are not applying either a pan, tilt, or roll type of hand pressure to the iGlide. In other words, if iGlide is horizontally balanced correctly, then the camera will remain level, and the CENTRAL POST will remain vertical unless you intentionally position the iGlide otherwise, and if the iGlide is horizontally balanced correctly it will always return to a level and vertical position after you release any pan, tilt, or roll pressure on the CENTRAL POST.



The best way of adjusting the horizontal balance is to move the center of gravity of the camera. This can be accomplished by either repositioning the camera on the HEAD PLATE, or by adjusting the position of the HEAD PLATE, either front to back or side to side with the camera on it.

When checking the horizontal balance you want to make sure that you are picking up the iGlide from a flat and level surface (i.e. a table) and that you let the iGlide hang freely as you hold it. If the iGlide is balanced correctly on its horizontal axis, then it will be level and upright, with the CENTRAL POST in a virtually perfect vertical position, as pictured in photo #12.

If the iGlide tilts to the front (see photo #13), then you will have to loosen up the BLACK THUMB SCREWS on the sides of the HEAD PLATE and gently slide the HEAD PLATE back a bit. If the iGlide still tilts to the front, then move the HEAD PLATE more to the back. If the iGlide is tilting to the back, then move the HEAD PLATE to the front. Always secure the BLACK THUMB SCREWS after any adjustments. If you cannot get the front to back axis balanced with this method then try remounting your camera to a different hole in the HEAD PLATE. Once you achieve correct horizontal balance for the front to back axis, you can tighten the BLACK THUMB SCREWS that control the movement of the HEAD PLATE.



If the iGlide leans to the right, then you will have to loosen up the BLACK THUMB SCREWS on the bottom of the BOTTOM PLATE and gently slide the MID PLATE over to the left a bit. If the iGlide leans to the left, then move the MID PLATE to the right. Always secure and firmly tighten the BLACK THUMB SCREWS after any adjustment.

After adjusting the side to side balance as mentioned above you might have to go back and readjust the front to back balance to obtain a fine balance of the whole system. You can use your eyes to judge for correct horizontal balance, or you can use a bubble level to ensure that the iGlide has correct horizontal balance. The Horizontal Balance of the iGlide becomes less sensitive, as the iGlide becomes increasingly bottom heavy and conversely, the horizontal balance becomes very sensitive, as the iGlide progresses towards correct vertical balance.



Also, another way of fine tuning the horizontal balance is to move the COUNTER WEIGHT DISKS back and forth, or side to side on the BASE PLATFORM. There are slots on the BASE PLATFORM to help with this task. Also, replacing the WEIGHT DISKS away from the CENTER POST on the BASE PLATFORM will increase panning stability. Make sure to tighten the WEIGHTS down after you move them.

NOTE: The Horizontal Balance of the iGlide becomes less sensitive as the iGlide becomes increasingly bottom heavy, and conversely, the horizontal balance becomes very sensitive, as the iGlide progresses towards correct vertical balance (see next section).



NOTE: LATER AFTER YOU ADJUST THE VERTICAL BALANCE OF THE iGlide YOU WILL HAVE TO GO BACK AND READJUST THE HORIZONTAL BALANCE AGAIN IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A FINE BALANCE OF THE WHOLE SYSTEM.

### **BALANCING THE VERTICAL AXIS**

Now that your iGlide is horizontally balanced, it's vertical axis can now be tested and properly balanced. The objective in obtaining correct vertical balance of the iGlide is to allow the camera and iGlide to remain level during operation, given you are not applying either a pan, tilt, or roll type of hand pressure to the iGlide, and most importantly that the iGlide's CENTRAL POST remains vertical even if you are walking, running, or turning while the iGlide is in operation. In other words, if the iGlide is vertically balanced correctly, then the camera will remain level, and the CENTRAL POST will remain vertical unless you intentionally position the iGlide otherwise. If the iGlide is not vertically balanced properly, then it will swing about and pendulum when you walk, run or turn.



Photo #17 shows the Glidecam iGlide swinging between horizontal and vertical during the "Sled Arc Test" (see next page)

Again, if the vertical balance is set correctly you will be able to move about quickly, as well as start or stop moving suddenly, and still have the central support post remain vertical. The best way to adjust the iGlide's vertical balance is to telescope the BASE PLATFORM in or out. Another way to adjust the iGlide vertical balance is to either add, or subtract the one WEIGHT DISC from the BASE.



**To test the balance of the vertical axis,** perform what is called the SLED ARC TEST. To perform the “Sled Arc Test” simply hold the iGlide by its handle and grab hold of the back end of the iGlide BASE PLATFORM and pull the base up and back until the iGlide CENTRAL POST is horizontal (see photo #16). Now carefully let go of the BASE PLATFORM and count how many seconds it takes for the iGlide to then first swing to vertical (see photo #17 & #18)

If the iGlide is properly vertically balanced then it should take about TWO to THREE seconds for this to happen. Count your seconds with the words “one thousand one, one thousand two” etc for accuracy. Adjust the amount of COUNTER WEIGHT DISCS used or the length of the telescoping BASE PLATFORM until it takes only TWO to THREE seconds for the iGlide CENTRAL POST to swing in an arc from horizontal to vertical. NOTE: The sled arc test “drop time” is operator preference. The iGlide will pendulum past vertical when the sled arc test is performed, and one should count only the time it takes to go from horizontal until it passes vertical once. Swinging time not counted.

This photo shows the Glidecam iGlide swinging past an illustrated vertical line. The iGlide will pendulum or swing past this line during the “Sled Arc Test”, and the iGlide will swing back and forth over a dozen times if left to keep swinging, but it is only the time the iGlide first swings in an arc from horizontal to vertical that you need to analyze. After you have counted the time it takes for it to go from horizontal until it passes vertical once, then simply stop the iGlide from swinging, then either put the iGlide down or make adjustments and to the test again.

Another way to check for correct vertical balance is to walk briskly forward with the iGlide, and then stop suddenly. If the iGlide swings or pendulums away from the upright vertical position it was just in at the moment you stopped, then the iGlide is not balanced correctly. This type of “movement test” applies also to running, or turning around quickly with the iGlide. Again, if the iGlide is balanced properly, then any body movement like running or turning will not effect the basic upright and vertical position of the iGlide.

## #4 HANDLING YOUR GLIDECAM iGLIDE



When handling your Glidecam iGlide you will be using one hand to hold onto the handle and the other hand to gently guide the camera in the direction you wish to shoot. We shall call the hand that holds the handle, the holding hand (see photo #19) and the hand that aims the camera for tilting and panning etc the guiding hand. (See photo #20)



When holding the handle of your Glidecam iGlide you will need to: 1) hold it firmly, and 2) hold it either in the middle or at the bottom of the handle. Which position you choose will depend on the kind of shots you are shooting. For normal shooting hold the handle in the middle. For shots that require aiming the camera either up or down or sideways, hold the handle firmly at the bottom. This will allow the yoke to twist around without hitting your hand or knuckles.

When you handle your Glidecam iGlide you will want to use your guiding hand to gently hold onto either, the point just below the yoke and bearing assembly, (see photo #20) or an area down by the weight disks (see photo #26) etc. These two areas allow for easy control of the Glidecam iGlide when in use. Which position you choose will depend on the kind of shots you are shooting.

For normal shooting hold the Glidecam iGlide at the point just below the yoke and bearing assembly. (see photo #20) This will allow you to subtly aim the camera without disturbing the camera's upright position. It is this position which will allow you the smoothest shots when walking or running with the unit during normal shooting. NOTE: Make sure that your guiding hand and holding hand do not touch either, the bearing assembly, or the yoke during shooting, for doing so can cause unstable shooting. For unconventional shots, like one that require aiming the camera either up or down, or sideways hold the Glidecam iGlide down or near the weight disks (photo #26) This will allow your guiding hand to have a greater degree of control over the Glidecam iGlide while shooting very erratic shots.

## #5 OPERATING YOUR GLIDECAM iGLIDE



The Glidecam iGlide is designed to work correctly only when operated with two hands. (See photos #19, #20) One being the holding hand and the other being the guiding hand. If you try to operate the unit with just your holding hand, the camera might drift away from its originally balanced set-up position. Also, without the guiding hand in place, you will be unable to control the direction of the camera.



When operating the Glidecam iGlide you will not be able to put your eye right up to the eye cup on the viewfinder, for doing so will cause the unit to be restricted in its ability to stabilize and eliminate camera shake. Even though you cannot place your eye directly up to the camera, you can however indirectly look into the viewfinder by removing its magnifying eye cup and then watching the little monitor that is inside the viewfinder from several inches away. Another choice in external viewing is to simply rely on your own sight and judgment as to what the camera is shooting. This is also referred to as the point and shoot method. (This is very easy to do if you camera is set-up with a Wide Angle Lens Converter.)



Still another way to see what you are shooting is to attach a Liquid Crystal Display, color video monitor by Citizen TM or Sony TM to the accessory shoe on top of your camcorder. We recommend using it or a monitor similar to it, so you will achieve optimum results with your Glidecam iGlide.



You can also attach one of these L.C.D. monitors directly to the BASE PLATFORM of the Glidecam iGlide. Located at the front edge of the BASE PLATFORM is a 1/4" hole. If your camera has a flip out LCD monitor (see photo #11) then you will not need an additional monitor.



Operating the Glidecam iGlide for extended periods of time can easily tire your holding hand. If fatigue sets in while shooting you can try operating the Glidecam iGlide with your other hand. You can also rest for a while by placing the unit on the ground, or by holding the unit with your guiding hand.



When handling and operating your Glidecam iGlide always avoid violent moves. Doing so could cause damage to the unit or cause your camera to pull loose of the HEAD PLATE.

**Glidecam Industries also sells accessories for the Glidecam iGlide which can help you use the iGlide for extended periods of time. Call us, or one of our authorized dealers, or go to [www.Glidecam.com](http://www.Glidecam.com) on the internet to find out more. The Glidecam BodyPod and the Glidecam Forearm Brace make excellent support accessories for the iGlide.**

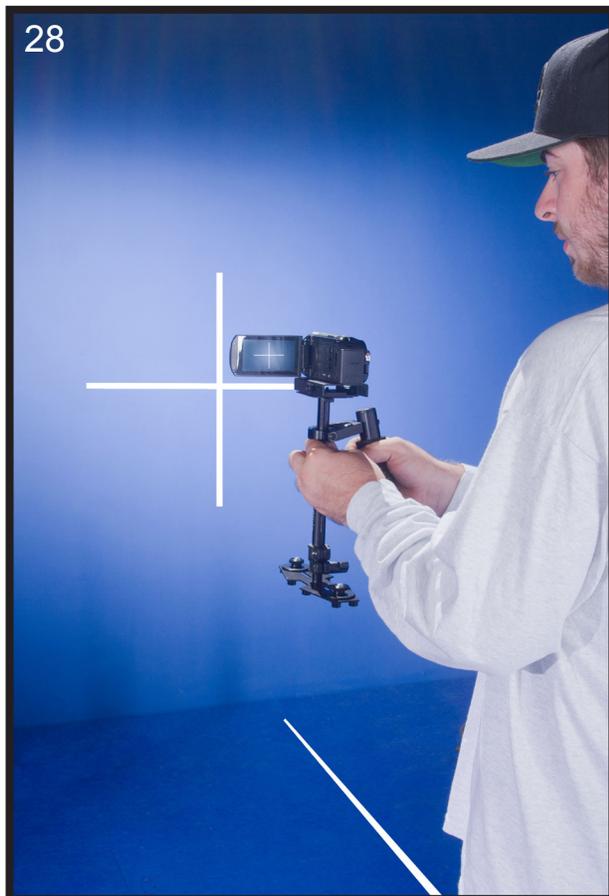
The Glidecam iGlide does not work under water, nor is it waterproof (meaning the bearing and of course your camera), so avoid direct exposure to rain or water spray. Also the bearing is not sand proof, so avoid getting dirt or sand into it. (See bearing maintenance)

## #6 SHOOTING TIPS



### Use of a wide angle lens converter

If you have a common consumer camcorder you will probably discover that the widest setting on the lens is not very wide. You might find that this wide setting is not adequate enough to give you the look like those produced by professional Hollywood dollies, cranes and stabilizers. To achieve this kind of look you will have to place a wide angle lens converter on the front of your existing camcorder lens. We highly recommend that you use one on your camcorder when shooting.



### Walking the Line

This is an exercise that is designed to help you operator your iGlide more successfully.

Using masking, camera, or gaffers tape create a cross mark on a flat and even wall (see photo #28) This cross mark will be used for framing purposes. Now, on the floor leading up to the cross mark on the wall tape a straight line, about 20 ft long. The idea behind this exercise is to walk the line that you have taped on the floor, while keeping the cross mark centered in the viewing monitor of the camera that is attached to the iGlide (see photo #29) In other words this exercise helps you practice your framing with the Glidecam iGlide.

## #7 IMPROPER TECHNIQUES



When shooting with the Glidecam iGlide avoid grabbing the **CENTRAL POST**, (see photo #29) this defeats the purpose, and isolation that the three axis gimbal provides. Instead handle your Glidecam iGlide as shown in photo #20



Also, allowing the handle of the Glidecam iGlide to come in contact with the **BOTTOM PLATE** (see photo #30) is something that you should avoid. This limits your range of motion, and will result in "jerky", and unpleasant footage. Instead position the handle as shown in photo #19

## #8 OTHER CAMERA ATTACHMENT METHODS

**Quick release and installation** - To either remove or put your camera onto the CAMERA MOUNTING PLATE without removing the MOUNTING PLATE from the top of the unit, loosen the four BLACK THUMB SCREWS on the CAMERA MOUNTING PLATE and then slide the PLATE either forwards or backwards, so as to gain access to the underside of the CAMERA MOUNTING PLATE. (Not all of the MOUNTING HOLES are accessible this way, however all the MOUNTING HOLES can be accessed by removing one set of left and right BLACK THUMB SCREWS, and then sliding the CAMERA MOUNTING PLATE until all of the MOUNTING HOLES are accessible.) Also, the Manfrotto 394, 3273 or 577 Quick Release plates work well.

**Creating a gasket** - If when attaching your camera to the HEAD PLATE you find that the bottom of your camera isn't flat enough to allow for a good solid attachment, try making and adding a paper/cloth or rubber gasket to the HEAD PLATE. (Try using a piece of a rubber dish washing glove.) Simply cut the material to the size of the top of the HEAD PLATE and then create a hole in it to allow the CAMERA MOUNTING BOLT to fit through it and into the base of your Camcorder.

## #9 PROFESSIONAL USAGE

If you are using the Glidecam iGlide to shoot professional looking shots, and you plan on incorporating them into a short movie or some sort of commercial project, we suggest that you plan the shot out in advance, perhaps rehearse the move a few times before shooting, and that you use an assistant to help you during complex shots. This will give you optimum results and will make your movies look more professional.

Good luck with your shooting.

## #10 MAINTENANCE

**Bearing Maintenance** - The main bearing on your Glidecam iGlide is attached to the Central Support Post about two inches down from the top. It is metal and is partially enclosed by the Bearing Assembly. If after some period of time your bearing doesn't turn smoothly, you can oil it lightly. We recommend that you use very little oil. Very little, because this is all that is needed, plus anything more than a little will end up coming out of the bearing and onto the rest of your Glidecam iGlide. Light oil may also be used (5-20 weight or 5-30 weight) if needed on the yoke and handle bearings.

## #11 WARNINGS

You should make sure that you are very careful when using the Glidecam iGlide at night or in low light conditions. Do not make the mistake of focusing so much on what you are shooting that you trip or fall over something, or wander into something dangerous like a swimming pool or automobile traffic, and be extra careful when shooting on stairs etc. These cautions pertain to daytime shooting as well.

**Storage** - If you are going to store your Glidecam iGlide for a long period of time then please store the unit upright in a dry or low to normal humidity area whenever possible. If you are unable to find an environment like this, then we suggest you store the unit in an air tight plastic container or bag. Standing the unit upright helps to alleviate stress on the system.

**Cleaning** - Do not use solvents or harsh cleaners of any kind on your Glidecam iGlide. If the unit becomes dirty, use only a cloth or sponge with water to gently rub the unit clean

## #12 WARRANTY

For 1 year from the date of shipment, we will repair or replace your Glidecam iGlide, free of charge, in the event of a defect in materials or workmanship (the shipment date appears on your purchase receipt) which occurs during normal use in accordance with the Glidecam iGlide's instruction manual. Shipping, packing, and insurance costs to and from the factory are your responsibility. This limited warranty extends only to the original purchaser, and you will need your purchase receipt. This warranty does not cover, by way of example, damage caused by products not supplied by us or damage resulting from mishandling in transit, accident, misuse, vandalism, neglect, modification, lack of reasonable care (or commercial use, including rentals to others) of the Glidecam iGlide or service by anyone other than us. There are no express warranties except as listed above. This warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

WE ARE NOT LIABLE FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES RESULTING FROM THE USE OF THE UNIT OR ARISING OUT OF ANY BREACH OF THIS WARRANTY. ALL EXPRESS AND IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING THE WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, ARE LIMITED TO THE 1 YEAR WARRANTY PERIOD.

To obtain service during (or after) the warranty period: Contact **Glidecam Industries' Customer Service** Department by calling **1-781-585-7900** or write to us at: **23 Joseph Street, Kingston, MA 02364** and explain the problem.

**DO NOT SEND THE UNIT TO US WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING A RETURN AUTHORIZATION NUMBER.**

# ***GLIDECAM INDUSTRIES, INC.***

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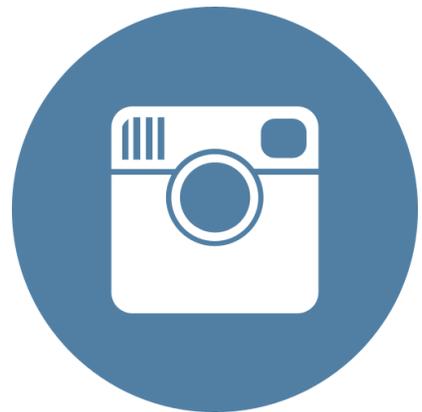
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