

Steadicam posts new inventions

BY Gareth Cosslett

THE latest G-force-combating Steadicam tracking mount, known as the "all-terrain dolly", can be towed by any vehicle – even a scooter.

Invented by French Steadicam operator **Jean-Marc Bringuier**, noted for his work on films including *Full Metal Jacket* and *Highlander*, the Steadicam sled and arm are attached to a harnessed seat within a two-wheeled frame.

The seat in turn is attached to the frame by a rotating disc so that, regardless of the angle of the terrain, the operator always remains upright and level. The operator can also be boomed up or down by remote-control during the shot.

Steadicam expert **Harry Panagiotidis**, who trialled the all-terrain dolly in Italy, said: "This device eliminates the need for the operator to physically combat the G-force generated when going around corners at high speed.

"The effect of the G-force usually pulls the camera off level and generally blows the shot.

"We tested this vehicle at 60kph with hard cornering and rough terrain and were able to effortlessly maintain a steady

shot throughout the whole course."

Another, more basic, Steadicam tracking platform has been invented to clamp onto a push-bike for jogging or running shots.

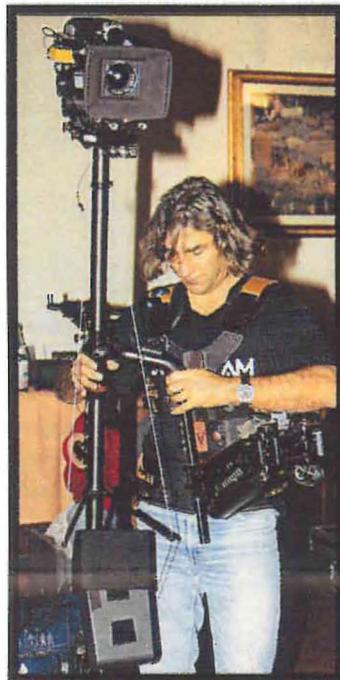
The Universal, created by Steadicam inventor **Garrett Brown**, is a lightweight, compact tracking platform which can clamp on to any make or model of push-bike and which allows the operator to travel at any speed.

Brown has also co-developed a new telescopic Super Post with Steadicam expert **Jerry Holway**. It enables the operator to get the camera lens up to a height of about three metres or as low as the ground (previously operators have been restricted to knee-high shots).

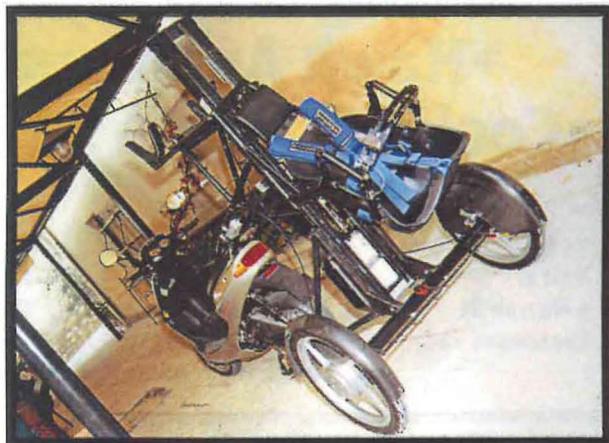
"It has always been a problem getting the lens high or low enough," Panagiotidis said. "This can achieve a high shot within minutes, where you would normally need to use a mini-crane."

The three-section telescopic post has guidewires attached to eliminate any flex when it is fully extended. It was displayed at NAB and will soon be available in Australia through Lemac Film and Video.

The latest in Steadicam technology will also be shown at the Australian Steadicam Workshop, to be held later this year in Sydney under the direction of Panagiotidis and head instructor **Ian Jones**.



Steadicam instructor **Floris Sijbes** demonstrates the company's new telescopic Super Post.



The new Steadicam tracking mount.

Miller moves ahead

SYDNEY-based camera support specialist Miller Fluid Heads has launched a new fluid head in its range of broadcast products.

The DS 25 digital support fluid head is aimed at news camera operators shooting with DVCAM, DVCPRO or SX/SP camcorders.

The new system is designed to match the weight, balance and price-performance of current digital camcorders.

The DS 25 is a 100mm ball levelling pan and tilt head featuring four-position drag selection and a selectable counterbalance which allows operators to tune the support system to the camera/lens payload. It is available in eight system configurations with a choice of aluminium and carbon-fibre tripods and ground or above-ground spreaders.

The company has also launched the DS 30, a fluid head designed for the heavier dockable ENG/EFP cameras and camcorders. It is available in six system configurations with either single-stage or two-stage tripods.

A new two-stage tripod has been made available for Miller's DS 10 75mm MiniDV/DVCAM support system. The company said a two-stage tripod allowed for a greater height range as well as more compact transport.



Miller's new DS 25 digital support fluid head.

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