



# SPYDER POD

VEHICLE CAMERA  
MOUNTING SYSTEM



**USER'S GUIDE**



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**About the  
Spyder Pod  
Vehicle Camera  
Mounting System**

Congratulations on your purchase of this Digital Juice Spyder Pod Vehicle Camera Mounting System. Please read this guide carefully before using the unit. Follow the procedures described, in order to optimize the lifespan and functionality of the components of this Digital Juice Gear product.

Shooting video from a moving vehicle can be a challenge, but if done well it can add tremendous impact to your shots and increased value to your production. Until now, vehicle camera mounting systems have been expensive, ungainly, complicated, risky to use, unattractive to look at—or all of the above. Once again, Digital Juice has come to the rescue with the development of a professional video gear solution which is innovative, attractive, easy-to-use, reliable and a tremendous value for the money. The Digital Juice Spyder Pod Vehicle Camera Mounting System is a complete solution contained in a lightweight attractive carry bag. Using three professional-grade suction mounts and built with precision-machined high-grade aluminum and stainless steel components, this system is strong and secure—giving you the confidence you need to safely achieve your desired vehicle shots.



Each suction mount is fitted with an adjustable ball joint, allowing for an extensive range of lockable positions for the attached interchangeable multi-length legs. The camera mounting stage of the Spyder Pod has three attachment points for the suction mounted legs, each fitted with two positive locking ratchet joints, one for tilt and one for swivel. Each joint has a quick-turn lock ring that makes adjusting and locking supremely easy. The Spyder Pod mounting system also includes a comprehensive safety kit that allows you to secure your camera to three additional anchors on your vehicle for added safety and security for you and your camera.

**Materials:** Precision-machined high-grade aluminum and stainless steel (legs & camera plate), sealed spring-loaded ball bearing positive locking ratchet joints (camera plate), soft cloth suction mount carry bags, vacuum-actuated industrial-grade 4.75-inch rubber suction cup mounts, heavyweight nylon polyester fabric & sueded leather (carry bag and straps)

**Dimensions:** 13" height x 8.5" diameter / 33cm height x 21.6cm diameter (Complete Spyder Pod Kit in Carry Bag)

**Weight:** 15 lbs/ 6.8kg (Complete Spyder Pod Kit in Carry Bag); 3 lbs/ 1.36kg (Spyder Pod camera base plate); 1 lbs/ .45kg (Spyder Pod suction cup mount); 2.2 lbs/ 1kg (Spyder Pod Safety Kit - straps & anchors); .6 lbs/ .27kg (Spyder Pod leg extension rod - 12"); .4 lbs/ .18kg (Spyder Pod leg extension rod - 6"); .2 lbs/ .09kg (Spyder Pod leg extension rod - 3"); 3 lbs/ 1.36kg (Spyder Pod carry bag)

Check to see that the following components are included when you receive your Spyder Pod kit:

## Specifications

## What's Included



**Spyder Pod:** camera base plate with 3 leg attachment joints (1); three 3" (2), three 6" (3) and three 12" (4) solid aluminum legs; 3 suction mount units (one for each leg) (5), each in its own black soft cloth bag (6)

**Spyder Pod Safety Kit:** 2 suction mount safety anchors (7) (each in a red soft cloth bag (8)); 3 variable length safety straps, 2 pinch strap anchors, 2 velcro anchor straps & 2 carabiner anchor straps (9) (all contained in 1 grey soft cloth bag (10))

**Spyder Pod Carry Bag:** Includes attractive cylindrical carry bag (11), detachable shoulder strap, zippered full access top lid, padded top carry handle, nine cloth loops around inner edge to hold the leg extension rods (12)



## Spyder Pod Key Features



- Quick and easy to set up on any vehicle with any camera rig or configuration. Variable length legs, adjustable ball joints on top of each suction cup, ratcheting attachment joints and a variety of accessory mount and safety tether options mean you can adapt the Spyder Pod to any shooting situation quickly and easily (13).
- Vacuum-actuated industrial grade 4.75" suction cup mounts can be affixed to just about any smooth surface on any vehicle (14).
- Each suction mount is fitted with an adjustable ball joint allowing for an extensive range of lockable positions for the attached legs.
- Three variable length legs can be created from the nine linkable 7/8" diameter leg extension rods (15) provided in three lengths (3", 6" & 12") to create the perfect length Spyder Pod legs to fit your shooting situation, positioning your camera at a variety of distances and angles from the vehicle.
- Spyder Pod's camera mounting base plate has one 3/8"-16 threaded and eleven 1/4"-20 threaded mounting holes, in addition to a thru-hole for each thread pitch (16), allowing you to attach accessories such as articulating arms, lights, monitors and more. It can also accommodate just about any camera configuration.
- The innovative ratchet lock system for the Spyder Pod's three legs improves on the usual friction lock method through a spring-loaded ball bearing mechanism, assuring the camera won't shake from joint movement while the vehicle is in motion.
- Positive locking ratchet joints at the top of each leg control tilt and swivel and can be locked or unlocked with a slight twist of the wrist and no pressure (17).
- Spyder Pod components are machined from solid high quality aluminum and stainless steel, with a high attention to quality, durability and usability.
- The Spyder Pod is an attractive, professional-looking piece of gear that you will be proud to display on any production set, both in and out of its compact carry bag.
- Suggested 50-lb load capacity for camera base mounted with three suction cup legs means that just about any camera rig or setup can be safely accommodated by the Spyder Pod on your next vehicle shoot.
- A versatile safety kit (18) is included to provide flexibility & safety for you & your camera when shooting from inside or outside of a moving vehicle. You don't have to worry about damaging or dropping your gear when getting that all-important moving vehicle shot. Plus, you can rely on the shake-free footage you can capture with your camera attached safely where you need it.

### Using the Suction Cup Mounts

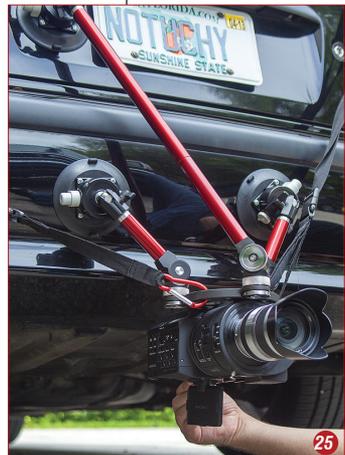
The Spyder Pod's vacuum-actuated industrial grade 4.75" suction cup mounts can be affixed to just about any smooth surface on any vehicle. They provide a solid, stable, adjustable base for the 3 variable length legs. A few pumps of the large pin on the side of each unit and you are in business. A red line on the side of the pin will disappear once adhesion is achieved (19). The built-in low suction indicator helps to insure that the Spyder Pod, and its valuable cargo, remain securely attached to your vehicle. Releasing the suction when you are done is as simple as lifting one or both of the tabs on the sides of the suction cups (20). Each suction mount is fitted with an adjustable ball joint allowing for an extensive range of lockable positions for the attached legs (21). The suction cup mount units are each contained in their own soft cloth bag to keep them clean and undamaged so that adhesion will be optimized every time they are used (22).

### Using the Spyder Pod System



### Adjusting leg lengths and angles

Three adjustable length legs screw into the camera base plate ratchet joints at one end (23) and into the adjustable locking ball joint at the top of the 3 suction cup mounts on the other end (24). The nine leg extension rods are all 7/8" in diameter. Three rods are provided for each length – 3", 6" & 12". These rods can be linked together in any combination you need to create the perfect length Spyder Pod legs to fit your shooting situation, positioning the Spyder Pod unit at a variety of distances and angles from the vehicle (25).



## Using the Spyder Pod System (continued)

**NOTE:**

*There is no need to wrench the lock ring tightly closed—the lock will engage with a gentle twist in the right direction.*

### Adjusting & locking camera plate leg joints

The mounting stage of the Spyder Pod has three leg attachment points that are each fitted with two positive locking ratchet joints, one for tilt (26) and one for swivel (27). Each locking ratchet joint has a quick-turn knurled lock ring that makes adjusting a breeze. This innovative ratchet lock system improves on the usual friction lock method through a spring-loaded ball bearing mechanism. You can unlock and lock each joint with a slight twist of the wrist and no pressure. The joints are marked for easy reference (28).

To adjust the tilt or swivel of each leg, first make sure the lock ring on the appropriate joint is in the UNLOCK position, then adjust the position of the leg in the joint, moving the leg through the ratchet positions (29). Finally, turn the lock ring back in the LOCK direction. Once locked, the no-slip ratchet positioning system assures the camera won't shake from joint movement while the vehicle is in motion.



### **Attaching camera & accessories to the camera base plate**

The versatile camera mounting plate on the Spyder Pod unit has one 3/8"-16 threaded and eleven 1/4"-20 threaded mounting holes, in addition to a thru-hole for each thread pitch (30), allowing you to attach accessories such as articulating arms, lights, monitors and more. It can also accommodate just about any camera configuration including direct camera attachment as well as cameras on ball head or fluid head attachments. Four of the 1/4"-20 holes are designed to accept our own optional high hat riser unit (31), enabling the use of a fluid head for more flexible and smooth camera movement.

### **Using the Spyder Pod System (continued)**



### **Mounting the Spyder Pod to your vehicle**

- 1) **Have a plan:** Decide where the camera needs to be placed to get the desired shot (32). Familiarize yourself with the vehicle by inspecting it for places where additional safety mounting points can reside. This could include door jambs, ridges, a wheel well, chassis, hood, frame etc. (33) These areas are defined as "anchor points".



**Using the  
Spyder Pod  
System  
(continued)**

**Mounting the Spyder Pod to your vehicle (continued)**

2) **Mount the Spyder Pod:** Construct your custom Spyder Pod configuration by attaching three legs to the suction cup mounts at one end and to the camera base plate at the other end (34). Figure out the best placement of the three suction cup mounts on the vehicle, taking into account where the smoothest surfaces and best

adhesion will be. Pump the suction cup mounts to achieve vacuum adhesion in the desired positions. Your aim is to form a solid balanced three-legged base for the camera platform and for your attached camera (35). Adjust the leg lengths, if required, by swapping in and out different rod lengths on each leg, in order to get the camera plate level and at the right distance from your shooting subject and vehicle. Adjust the ball joints on the top of each suction cup and the ratchet joints on the camera plate to place the legs in the position needed to create a level base for your camera. Lock down the ball and ratchet joints to form your solid shooting platform.



3) **Identify & attach the safety kit hardware needed:** Now that the camera position and Spyder Pod attachment points have been determined, you will want to add additional security for your precious equipment using the provided safety kit straps and anchors (36). There are many methods and combinations possible, all of which will provide secure anchor points, but some offer advantages over others. Anchor points on a vehicle can include hood edges, door jambs, wheel wells and the front chassis, to name just a few of the possibilities.



## Using the Spyder Pod System (continued)

### Using the Spyder Pod Safety Kit

The safety kit provided with the Spyder Pod includes 2 suction mount safety anchors with heavy duty metal loops (37), 3 variable length safety straps (38), 2 pinch strap anchors (39), 2 velcro anchor straps (40), 2 carbiner anchor straps (41) and a convenient set of soft cloth bags to keep everything organized and clean between uses (42). This comprehensive safety kit allows you to secure your camera and the Spyder Pod mount to up to three additional anchors on your vehicle.



The three variable length safety straps provided in the kit have quick release buckles at both ends for attachment to any of the 3 safety anchor options—to a pinch strap, a velcro strap or to a carbiner

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**Using the  
Spyder Pod  
System  
(continued)**

**Using the Spyder Pod Safety Kit (continued)**

anchor strap/suction safety mount combination (43). Which type of anchor you use depends on where it is needed. Pinch anchors work well wedged between a door and door frame (44) or between a car hood and hood lock channel. The sturdy Velcro strap anchors can be used to securely loop around a car mirror, hitch or any other surface you can safely wrap around. Finally the suction cup safety mounts are handy when you need to secure your rig in places where no other safe mounting option can be found such as on the roof or back door of a vehicle (45).



**Spyder Pod  
Vehicle Mounting  
Options**

**NOTE:**

*You should not feel limited to the possible setups described here. Every situation is different. By using the suggestions provided as a starting point, you should be able to customize the basic setups to create an option that works best for you.*

- 1) The Spyder Pod system can be mounted to the side of a follow vehicle that will be used to track shots of a second vehicle. In this setup (46), you can use a high-hat riser accessory to attach your camera with a fluid head controlled by a cameraperson for more seamless control of the shot and of the camera's movement. This setup is great for tracking cars with almost 180 degrees of pan, something that would be impossible while shooting through a window.



- 2) You can mount the Spyder Pod system on the side of a vehicle to get a close-up shot of the driver (47). This is great for capturing one or more people in a car while in motion. This shot could be achieved using a green screen, but with the SpyderPod you can capture the real-life action of driving and the real motion of the background, saving you from a time-consuming composite in post-production.

## Spyder Pod Vehicle Mounting Options (continued)


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- 3) Mounting the Spyder Pod on the hood of a car allows you to capture the car's interior through the windshield (48). For this shot you can mount the camera directly to the mounting stage of the Spyder Pod. This setup allows you to see the motion of the exterior of the vehicle and its surroundings, as well as the reflections in the windshield. Once again, this will save you time in post. Plus, actors will always give you a better performance when their actions are as real as possible.



- 4) To achieve a dynamic low-angle shot of the front of a vehicle, you can suspend the camera inverted from the rear of a lead vehicle (49). The camera can be attached directly to the camera mounting stage of the Spyder Pod and secured with additional safety straps from the Safety Kit.



## Spyder Pod Care & Maintenance



## Spyder Pod Cautions & Warnings

The Spyder Pod kit includes a sturdy, compact carry bag carefully designed to hold and protect the various components of the Spyder Pod system (50). Returning the various components to their original placement within the bag (51) will ensure your Spyder Pod remains in the best workable condition. After every use, you should make sure to wipe the suction cup mount units with a damp or dry cloth and remove any dirt, grease or debris that they may have picked up. They should then be returned to the soft cloth bags provided in the kit in order to ensure that the rubber suction surface does not get dirty or incur any damage during transport and storage. You should also return the nine solid screw-in leg rods to their designated holders on the sides of the cylindrical bag so as to avoid any damage they may do to each other or the other components of the kit. Likewise, returning the safety kit straps and wiped-clean suction anchors to their respective bags (52) will keep your kit organized and working as well the 100th time you use it as the first.



- We strongly suggest using the provided safety kit to add additional security when using your expensive camera equipment with the Spyder Pod. Safety straps can be attached to the camera mounting stage and/or the camera itself with up to three anchors at various locations on the vehicle. These safety anchors and straps are not designed to hold the Spyder Pod in place and should be snug but not pulled overtight. Correct use of safety straps & anchors will ensure that, if you do unexpectedly lose suction on the Spyder Pod's legs for any reason, your camera will not fall to the road or ground.
- When a pinch strap is used as a safety anchor for the Spyder Pod on a car door, that door should remain closed. Remember to leave an entry way for the driver to enter and exit the vehicle.
- Make sure to abide by any traffic laws when operating any motor vehicle with a Spyder Pod mounted to it.
- While we do not endorse any minimum or maximum speeds, we have internally tested this device at speeds of 70 mph.
- Should an operator need to ride along on the shot—in the back of a pickup truck for example—the necessary precautions must be taken.
- If your shot requires a lot of turns, creating added inertia to the camera and Spyder Pod, the proper precautions must be taken. Extra fastening may be necessary.



Digital Juice, Inc. warrants all Digital Juice-built Spyder Pods and accessories purchased new by original owner to be free from defects in the material and workmanship under normal use for a period of 24 months from the date of purchase. Warranty is void when misuse or neglect is the cause. THIS WARRANTY IS VALID ONLY IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

No other express warranty or guaranty, except as mentioned above, given by any person or entity with respect to Digital Juice Spyder Pod shall bind Digital Juice, Inc. This warranty supersedes all other warranties expressed or implied. NO IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE APPLY TO DIGITAL JUICE SPYDER POD AND ARE HEREBY DISCLAIMED.

In the event of a possible warranty claim, the defective products must be returned to Digital Juice, Inc. If proven to be defective upon inspection, they will be exchanged for new or comparable rebuilt products, as determined by Digital Juice, Inc. and shipped back to the original purchaser. All shipping costs are the responsibility of the customer. Warranty replacement shall not extend the original warranty period of the defective Digital Juice Spyder Pod.

The customer's remedies with respect to defective Digital Juice Spyder Pod or Spyder Pod accessories shall be exclusively limited to the repair or replacement remedy as above provided and in no event shall Digital Juice, Inc. be liable for loss of profits, revenues, savings, inconvenience, associated costs, expense for equipment or service, use of capital, facilities, services, storage charges, damage to property, or any other special, incidental or consequential damages caused by the use or misuse of, or inability to use, the Digital Juice Spyder Pod or accessories, regardless of the legal theory on which the claim is based, and even if Digital Juice, Inc. has been advised of such damages. In no event shall recovery of any kind against Digital Juice, Inc. be greater in amount than the purchase price of the Digital Juice product sold by Digital Juice, Inc. and causing the alleged damage. Without limiting the foregoing, the purchaser assumes all risk and liability for loss, damage or injury to persons, animals or property arising out of use or misuse of, or inability to use, the Digital Juice Spyder Pod and accessories. Digital Juice, Inc. is not liable for third party claims. This limited warranty shall not extend to anyone other than the original purchaser of the Digital Juice product, or the person for whom it was purchased as a gift, and states your exclusive remedy. In no event shall Digital Juice, Inc. be liable for incidental or consequential damages to the full extent such may be disclaimed by law.

Unless otherwise noted this warranty agreement is the only warranty agreement between the parties. This agreement states the limits and association of risk between the two parties. By use of the Spyder Pod and Spyder Pod accessories the customer acknowledges understanding of this warranty and agreement and binding to the terms contained within.

## **Spyder Pod Limited Warranty**



[www.digitaljuice.com](http://www.digitaljuice.com)