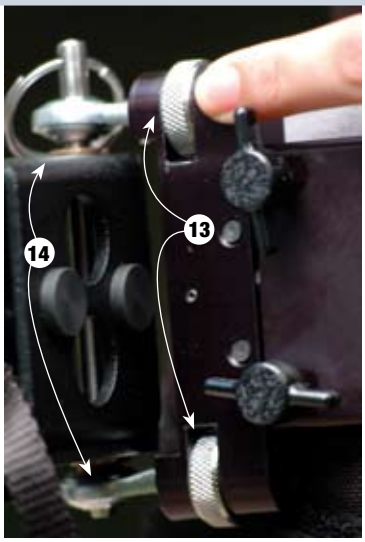


Before mounting the Merlin on the **arm**, we suggest turning the bottom **wheel** until the **rod end** (14) is all the way in. Then turn the top most **wheel** in the opposite direction (out) until about 3 threads are showing. That will lean the **arm** slightly away from the operator, allowing for proper use.

When switching the **arm mounting** to the opposite side for left or right-handed operation, be sure to re-adjust these **wheels** so the 'top' attachment is out and be sure the 'bottom' one is always in.

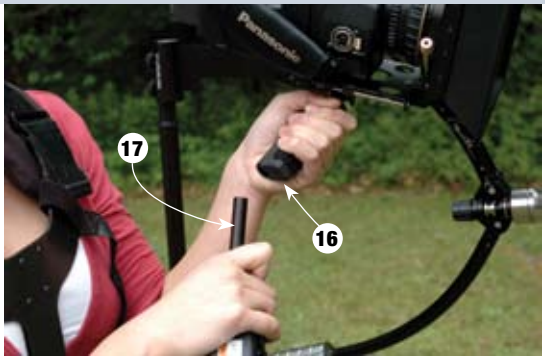
DON'T OVEREXTEND EITHER ATTACHMENT SCREW AS THE ARM WILL EVENTUALLY COME APART FROM THE MOUNTING BLOCK.

To operate the Merlin on the right side of the body, remove the **pin** from **arm** as shown in the photo detailing **wheels** (13). Turn the **socket block** upside down, insert **pin** again. Then, lay the **vest** down on a table. Loosen and remove all four **thumb screws** holding the **arm bridge** (9) to the **vest** and turn the **bridge** around 180 degrees so it rests on the left side of the **vest** center. (right of center as you look at it) Lock it in place again using **thumb screws**.

Insert the **arm**. Tighten the bottom **wheel** all the way and loosen the top one a few turns and you are set. This mode frequently offers an easier view of the camera's flip-out viewfinder that's used when operating the Merlin system.

There is an **arm restraint strap** (15) on your Merlin **vest**. To capture the **arm** from moving about while the Merlin is not mounted, open the **strap**. Draw it away from the **vest**. Tuck the Steadicam **arm** up against the **left vest spar** area near the **strap**. Wrap the **strap** around the **arm** and capture it against itself. Now the **arm** cannot move, but can quickly be freed.

Your Steadicam Merlin Vest/ Arm system comes with an **all-metal gimbal** (16). As per instructions in the Merlin for adjusting your **gimbal**, remove your Merlin **gimbal** and replace it with this new one. There is no need to go back and forth. Using this new **all-metal gimbal**, you can use the Merlin on or off the Arm/Vest system.



To mount the Merlin onto the **arm**, hold the **arm** still with your right hand. Grasp the Merlin **gimbal/ handle** (16) with your left hand and lift off of the optional **docking bracket**. Line up the **hole** in the bottom of the Merlin **handle** with the **arm post** (17) in the Steadicam **arm**. Rest the Merlin onto the **arm post**.

To adjust the lift delivered by your Steadicam Merlin **arm**, lower the **arm** by pushing down with the left hand until the **arm section closer** to your body is just above horizontal. This is the "sweet spot" for turning the **lift adjust knob** (18). Turn to the right to increase lift. Turn to the left to decrease lift. When that section appears to feel as though it is floating flat – parallel to the ground- make the identical adjustment to the other section.

When the Merlin Vest/ Arm system is properly adjusted, both **arm** sections are parallel to the ground. The Merlin Handle is held in the right hand. The left hand operates the Merlin **gimbal** as usual. Practice proper standing, walking and hand position. See the Merlin DVD for further operating tips.

TIFFEN®
Helping Create the World's Greatest Images

The Tiffen Company, 90 Oser Avenue, Hauppauge, NY 11788 • 631-273-2500 • 1-800-645-2522 • www.tiffen.com
Tiffen Steadicam Operations, Glendale, CA • 818-843-4600 • 1-800-593-3331

STEADICAM® MERLIN

Arm and Vest Quick Start Card

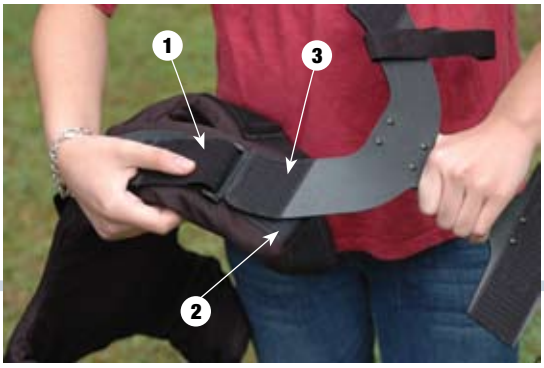
LIT-801001

We thank you for investing the time and resources in our S
build the components into a compete system and begin to cr

Remove the **straps** from the bag. There are two that are 12" long. These are the **shoulder straps**. Attach to both shoulder areas as shown in the photos, using the **keeper** near the end.

Two straps are 22" long. One is 18" long. Attach one of the 22" straps to the right side of the **waist panel** of the **vest**. Overlap the second 22" **strap** on top of it. Pass the open end of that second 22" **strap** through the **keeper**, and fold it back on itself. This is your **waist strap** length adjustment. Then take the 18" strap and pass it through the **keeper.** Follow directions to affix to **waist panel**.

After you put the **straps** in place, the **vest** will look like this.



Fold back the **right shoulder strap** (1), so that the **right-hand pad clasp** (2) is able to line up with the right top of the **chest spar** (3). Press the **spar end** against the hook area on the **pad clasp**. Close the **shoulder strap** over onto the top of the **chest spar**. This insures a very tight grasp. Do not repeat this step on the left hand side-it is left open until you put the **vest** on.

Draw the **left chest** (7) **strap** across the **chest bridge** (6), while at the same time holding firmly onto the **waist panel** (8). Make sure **chest spar** is vertical to your body as you do this, not crooked. Press the **left chest strap** on top of the **right chest strap** on the **chest bridge**.The **vest** is now 2/3 fitted to your body.

The **waist strap** should look like this as you reach behind with your left hand to grasp it. The long smooth part is pressed into the right side of the **waist panel**. The adjustable part is grasped in the left hand.

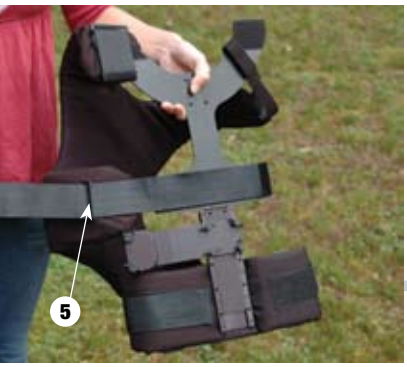
Hold the **waist panel** with the right hand. Draw the **waist strap** firmly around your back and press it down onto the left side of the **waist panel**.

From the back the **straps** are symmetrical, insuring an even fit with good distribution of the weight.

Insert the **connecting pin** through the sections as shown. Insert it so that the **ring** is on the top of the **arm**.

Insert the **arm** into the **vest socket block** (12). Holding the section shown in your right hand, guide the **arm socke**t into the **vest socket block**. Line up the **pin** to the **hole**.

Using the left hand, gently guide the **socket** into place.



Pull the **right chest strap** (4) through the **keeper** (5) and affix to the back of the **vest**. This will take a few tries back and forth. The goal is to have both **chest straps** symmetrical, and to have the upper part of the **vest** held firmly against the torso.

Take the portion of the **right chest strap** (4) that will hold the right side of the **vest** and press it against the **chest bridge** (6). Slip your right arm through the armhole and pull the **vest** on until it is resting on your shoulders.

Repeat the **shoulder clasp** maneuver on the left side, pressing the **left shoulder strap** onto the left top of the **chest spar**. Line up the **left chest strap** with the **chest spar**. Attach it.

From the front, the **chest spar** is straight. The **straps** snugly fit along the chest and waist. The shoulder **pads** of the **vest** are resting on your shoulders.

The length of your **vest** can be adjusted. Loosen the **thumb screws** located on the bottom area of the **arm bridge** (9). They hold the **bridge** on the **vest spar** and also permit for vertical adjustment. All four **screws** should be loosened no more than three turns. This is enough to allow the **spar** to be moved. Once the **thumb screws** are loose, grasp the **chest bridge** in the right hand and the **waist panel** in the left hand. Gently tug them apart and the two parts will slide easily.

To move the **arm bridge** along the **vest spar** when the **vest** is made shorter, lay the **vest** down. Loosen all **four thumb screws** until they come out. Remove the **arm bridge** and move it lower on the **vest spar**, lining up the **holes** in the **bridge** with **holes** in the **spar**. Re-attach using the **four thumb screws**.

Hold the lower section of the Steadicam **arm** (10) in the right hand and pull the **connecting pin** (11). It is the **steel pin** with the **ring** attached. Line up the two sections of the Steadicam Merlin **arm**. One section nests just inside the other. Some find this easier if the sections are held as shown, others prefer to lay the sections on a table.

The **arm** is not properly inserted in this view. Note the shiny **steel back plate** pressed against the **bolts**. The **thumb screws** must be turned out far enough to allow the **socket** to insert fully.

The **arm** is properly inserted in this view, with the **thumb screw bolts** nested in the slight groove in the **steel back plate**. Now the **screws** can be adjusted for each operator.

Wheels (13) on **arm mount** are used to fit the side-to-side angle of the Steadicam Merlin **arm** to the individual user.