

Cinematic Videography

Cinematic tips and tricks for using handheld video cameras, such as the DJI Pocket 2, including how to achieve a tilt reveal, use ND filters, and vary shot distances. The creator also demonstrates how to use low angle shots, slow motion, and orbit shots to add visual interest to your videos.

Source video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FiMRBUo9aLg&t=1s>

Tilt Reveal

Description: This technique involves slowly tilting the camera either upward or downward towards a point of interest. Instead of showing everything at once, it teases the viewer, making them want to see more.

How to do it: Use "follow mode" on the DJI Pocket 2. Point the camera down, then slowly raise it. For a better effect, you can walk forward or backward simultaneously.

General applicability: Most of these ideas can be applied to regular cameras or smartphone gimbals.

Shot Variation (Wide, Medium, Close-up)

Concept: The idea is to capture at least two different shots of your subject or location, with three or four being even better. The basic concept involves having a wide, a medium, and a close-up shot.

Types of Shots:

Wide Shot: Provides a good perspective as an establishing shot, showing what is happening in the scene.

Medium Shot: Focuses more on the subject rather than the surrounding environment.

Close-up Shot: Highlights more of the details of the subject.

Importance: This is a valuable tip, even for experienced videographers who sometimes forget to implement it.

Low Angle Shots / Underslung Mode

Description: This technique offers a unique perspective by filming closer to the ground.

How to do it: With the Pocket 2, simply flip it upside down, and the camera will orient itself correctly.

Ideas for use:

1. Moving side to side
2. Moving forward with the Pocket 2.
3. Attaching the Pocket 2 to a small tripod, monopod, or extension stick can make it easier on your back, but be careful not to hit the camera on the ground.

Slow Motion

Impact: Adds a deeper emotional feeling to a scene and allows you to capture details that are not visible to the naked eye.

Caution: Avoid overusing slow motion, as it may not always make sense for every clip.

How to do it on Pocket 2: Swipe from right to left on the screen, select "slow motion," and choose your desired speed.

Bonus Tip: Add movement like a push-in, pull-back, or slowly lifting the camera for a more dynamic video clip.

Orbit Shot

Description: This involves a circular motion around a subject, creating dynamic movement between the subject and the background.

Execution:

1. Maintain a consistent distance between yourself and the subject.
2. Use "tilt lock" on the Pocket 2.
3. Walk forward in a circle while looking at the screen.
4. Try to keep the subject centered in the frame for as long as possible.

Additional Tips and Tools:

Wide Angle Lens: A Freewell wide-angle lens can transform the Pocket 2's 20mm equivalent lens to a 15mm wide angle, allowing you to capture more of the scene.

ND Filters: These are like "sunglasses for your camera" and are essential for filming outdoors on bright days. They help manage light entering the camera's sensor, preventing videos from becoming too bright or "blown out" when following the 180-rule (shutter speed double the frames per second, e.g., 1/48th or 1/50th for 24fps). Freewell wide-angle lenses and anamorphic lenses often come with sets of ND filters (ND8, 16, 32, 64), which are magnetic and easy to attach.

Anamorphic Lenses: These lenses provide a more cinematic feel by delivering a wider aspect ratio (true black bars) and introducing cool-looking horizontal flares commonly seen in movies. The Freewell anamorphic lens also comes with ND filters. A bundle including both the wide-angle and anamorphic lenses with ND filters is available. If choosing just one, the wide-angle lens is recommended.