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## USER REPORT

# KWOON Kicks With Glidecam

by Todd Roy

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KWOON

SAN JOSE, CALIF.

**K**WOON: it's like porno, but with kung fu instead of sex. It's a martial arts series that we created on the Web at [www.thekwoon.com](http://www.thekwoon.com).

Here in San Jose, Calif., we shoot 25-minute Kung Fu flicks with two Canon XL1 MiniDV cameras.

Why kung fu movies? Well I take kung fu and always wanted to make a movie. Over the last three years, that idea has evolved from making a single film to creating an online Web series. We hope to cultivate a fan base and make a feature film someday, but for now, we're shooting online episodes.

From the beginning I wanted these movies to be funny, with cool fight scenes and a very high production quality. I did not want this to look like home video. The light, sound and camera movement had to mirror that of a feature film.

There is one tool we use that helps makes our shows look professional. That is the Glidecam.

The Glidecam allows us to create some of those really cool shots you've seen in movies — the ones where the camera seems to float or "glide" as it follows a subject that is running or walking.

I found out that these type of rigs are traditionally pretty pricey. Then I found Glidecam. I now knew what a bee feels like when it finds a flower. Glidecam and KWOON were made for each other.



The author (left) and crewmembers set up to shoot a scene from "Death vs. Kung Fu Carwash."

I bought the V-16, which can hold up to a 20-pound camera. The system came in pieces that were not too difficult to assemble with the help of the manual.

### RIG ENVY

After about two hours of tweaking I had it set up and put it on. I looked good. Women wanted me. Men envied me.

The problem was, I had no idea how to use it. On the Glidecam Website, I saw there was a five-day workshop on how to use a rig. At that workshop, not only did I learn how to use the Glidecam, but also got to meet some professionals who use it in the field.

So here I am now. A typical day for us is shooting six to eight pages of script. This is not so bad, but one of our three-minute fight scenes might have as many as 15 cam-

era setups and 50 shots.

This is where my Glidecam earns its keep. I can move fast and furious with the Glidecam. I get in and get smooth shots that would take a camera on sticks longer.

For driving or long-running scenes, I'm able to use a vehicle mount to attach the V-16's arm to a truck. By the way, I've nicknamed my rig "Swooping Eagle of Truth."

All in all, Glidecam makes my life easier and saves me lots of time. And in this business, that saves money. ■

*Todd Roy is the producer of KWOON, a kung fu action series available on the Web. Todd can be reached at [thekwoon@yahoo.com](mailto:thekwoon@yahoo.com).*

*For more information, contact Glidecam (508-830-1414, [www.glidecam.com](http://www.glidecam.com)).*