



### Vocas base plate

The last few years have been revolutionary for cameras and as a Director of Photography working mostly in Documentary, it hasn't always been easy. The Arri SR2's and Panasonic Varicams I started out with were ready to go out of the box and sat comfortably on the shoulder. The Canon 5D, and subsequently the Canon C300, brought an irresistible leap in image quality, (from 2/3" chip video), but a lot of ergonomic headaches. After a long time wandering the woods of third party accessories I'm happy to say I finally have a solid hand held configuration for the C300 and the foundation is the new Vocas Universal Shoulder Base Plate.

For me, the essential baseplate ingredients are -

- Balance, camera body over the shoulder
- Built in shoulder pad
- Instant tripod to hand held transition
- Lightweight
- Rock solid build quality
- Simple design

The Vocas Universal Shoulder Base Plate nails all the above and has another feature I didn't know I needed, (more on that later). I recently tested the USBP on a documentary shooting in a Super Max Prison. Our access inside the prison was precious, time was limited and we were often working with inmates in restraints and accompanied by two or more correction officers. Needless to say, I couldn't have any delays caused by gear. Also, almost everything was handheld so the rig had to be balanced, comfortable and as light as possible because with cine zooms, follow focus, matte box and filters, every ounce counts.

The essential beauty of the USBP design is you have front rods and rear rods separated by the base plate and shoulder pad, rather than rods that run all the way through as they did on my old plate. This saves on weight and width. The base plate is slim, only slightly wider than the C300 body, so no hard edges digging into my neck. The shoulder pad is adjustable; I slid mine all the way forward. The Rear 15mm Rail Holder on the USBP allowed batteries and wireless receivers to act as counterweights, achieving a 55/45 front to back balance. The rod clamps are solid and spring loaded so they never get in the way.

The feature I didn't know I needed is height adjustable front and back rods. This is fantastic, thank you Vocas! Some jobs I do are all cine primes and zooms and others are all DSLR lenses and some mix the two. Being able to raise or lower the rods makes it easy to match the rig to any lens. The Vocas performed better in all regards than any shoulder rig I've used thus far. Finally, this new camera is feeling like the good old days.



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