

INSIDE+

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# WING WORLD

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# INSTALLING A BULLETHD BIKER PRO CAMERA

BY GARY L. MACE

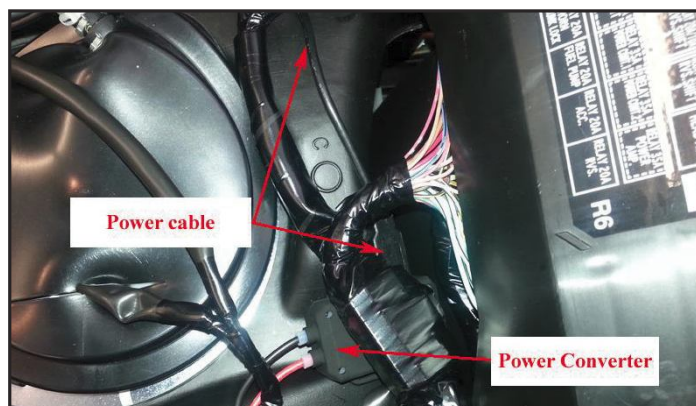
**J**une 2015 while riding my almost new 2015 Gold Wing, a utility truck crossed into my lane and hit me head-on. It totaled my bike, but I escaped with survivable injuries thanks to my gear. The truck driver lied and said it was I who was in the wrong lane. This time I was fortunate an eyewitness saw the entire accident and confirmed my report.

I realized if there is a next time, I might not be so lucky to have a witness and no way to prove that the other driver was lying. So I decided that I wanted a dashcam to record my travels. My criteria for this camera were:

1. It had to be fairly unintrusive. I did not want some bulky gadget in my field of view.
2. It had to be powered. I did not want anything I needed to change or charge batteries.
3. It had to come on automatically. I did not want to have to remember to start this or click that.
4. Needed to automatically loop. I did not want to have to dump a memory card when full.
5. It had to be a neat install.
6. Retrieving video had to be fairly easy. With this one, I can remove the microSD card and put into my phone or use the Wi-Fi feature to download to my phone. I find the Wi-Fi is easiest. But in a crash, I can simply grab the microSD card and take with me if need be.

After searching the internet, I found there are a lot of fairly cheap options. But none fit all my criteria. Many hunting-style cameras would work but they were battery operated, which I was not OK with.

I found this one called Biker Pro by BulletHD. It seemed to fit all my criteria. However, it appears to be very new and there are not many reviews on it. But for \$169, I decided to take a chance on it. After installation and initial testing, I am happy with the device. It takes decent video and after you figure out the smartphone app, it is easy to set-up. The





only issue so far was it locked up a few times, but when I reported this to manufacturer, they sent me the current version of the mount and new camera cable and so far so good.

### Installing Biker Pro

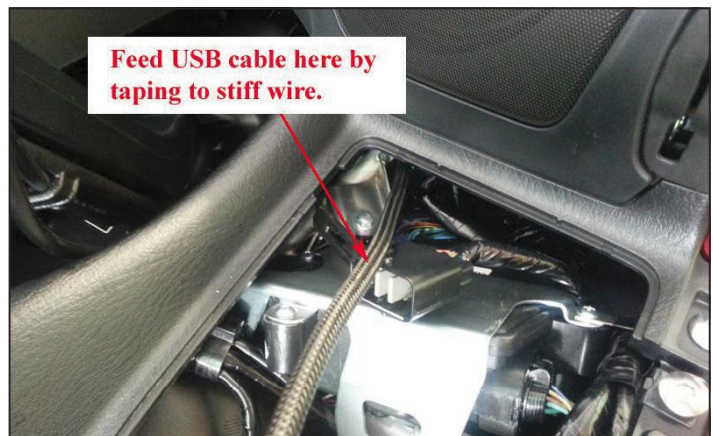
To install the kit to my 2015 Gold Wing, I needed to remove the following: seat, both side panels and upper right side control panel. First, I installed the dual USB power converter. This was fairly simple. Open the Gold Wing fuse box and use the two accessory screws to power the converter. I then routed the power converter to an out-of-the-way location under the seat area.

Next, route the power cable from the seat area to the upper right control panel area. I used a stiff wire and taped the cable to it to fish under the top housing. Then I fished the USB camera cable from the top, right side control box area to come out under the fairing. Again, I used a stiff wire and taped the USB cable to it to fish it through. Be careful to route the wire so it doesn't interfere with the forks. There is a little sub-frame in the center of the fairing. I routed the USB cable in front of that to help keep it clear of forks.

I decided to cut a notch in my top control panel in order to route the power and camera wires from the controller to their locations. If you are not into cutting this notch, I suppose one could route the wires in the area between the fairing and forks. But I do not like this for two reasons. First, I do not like any wires in that area that could maybe hang-up on forks causing me issues. Plus, it would be sloppy looking to me. I used a saw and utility knife to cut this notch.

Then, I tucked the excess power cable and camera USB into the compartment, then re-installed the control cover routing the wires through the notch I made. I then placed the Biker Pro controller mount to the cover using the double-sided tape. Be sure where you mount that both wires will reach the controller! I then clicked the Biker Pro controller into the mount and connected the wires.

Finally, mount the actual camera. I spent much time trying to find the best location that would be both out of my way plus also give a good picture. You can hook the cable to the camera and fire up the WiFi so that your smartphone acts as a monitor. That will help with camera placement. I opted to



## THROTTLE & HOW-TO

place mine so it is not in my way at all.

In my first installation, I used the camera mount as shipped. It is a nice mount and works great. However, I discovered a problem. The Gold Wing has a little over 4 inches of possible fork travel. Under normal conditions, the camera mounted such as I did would be fine. But, should I hit a major dip in road, it is possible the camera could have hit my fender.


I really wanted to keep this location. So, I decided to perform surgery on the mount. Basically, I did away with the section that allows you rotate and swivel camera. I used only the part that the camera straps to and screwed that into the fairing. One could also use double-side tape.

My final camera install gives ample of room for full fork travel. Adjusting the camera up and down is a bit trickier since the swivel is gone. I had to use some double-sided tape as sort of a wedge in the front to get the angle where I wanted it.

Remember, this is only one of many possible installations. You may find elsewhere else you want to mount both the controller and camera. For example, one could put the controller in the left side storage compartment. I use mine for other stuff so that wasn't an option. And some may prefer the camera in behind the windshield where it would be better protected and give a better ride video, showing the lean more.

### Additional help

A sample video from this setup can be viewed at <http://youtu.be/ND3T6rckMjc>.

More info on the product and several links to installation manuals and videos (what ships with the kit only shows the basics of how it installs) is located online here: [www.bullethd.us/#!/motorcycle-video-camera-biker-pro/c1luz](http://www.bullethd.us/#!/motorcycle-video-camera-biker-pro/c1luz). 

*Gary Mace, GWRRA #391215, and his wife, Lisa, live in Mooresburg, Tennessee, and ride with the Lakeway Wings Chapter F. A 54-year-old retired air traffic controller, Mace can often be found riding the southern portion of Blue Ridge Parkway, Great Smoky Mountains or one of the countless reptile-named adventure roads in the east Tennessee area.*

