



While Police Scotland doesn't have a dashcam portal, England and Wales do. See cyclinguk.org/close-pass-footage



David Brennan
Commuting cyclist

- DJI Osmo Action 6 (helmet camera)
- Insta360 X5 360 degree camera (bike mounted)
- Amazeap Protective Cage for X5 camera
- Insta360 Studio (editing software)
- VLC Media Player

I run a standard-format helmet camera, along with a 360-degree camera attached to my bike's seatpost just under the saddle. The helmet camera provides footage of what I see, and the rear 360-degree camera provides footage that I can adjust after a ride to provide the most appropriate view. Sometimes that is rear footage; sometimes it's forward-facing footage that provides some perspective on how close a pass is to me.

I did try mounting my 360 camera on a selfie stick on the back of the bike as this provided excellent views looking forward. Unfortunately, I discovered that this setup didn't last long on Glasgow's potholed roads.

In the past I posted many incidents online to highlight the issues I faced on my commute. Now, with many other cyclists posting footage, I mainly focus on reporting serious incidents to the police. Unfortunately, there is no online reporting system in Scotland: the police need to visit you to see any footage before they will consider charging a driver. Thus, I only report the most serious incidents due to the significant time required for each report.

My cameras aren't cheap, but because I ride all year round and in all conditions, I want cameras that are able to provide good-quality footage in low light. If you can afford the top-tier cameras, video quality in low light has improved significantly over the last couple of years. I now find that my setup can often pick out car registrations using only my bike lights on completely unlit roads.

bsky.app/profile/magnatom.bsky.social



Sound matters

Sound is just as important as the video footage – apart from for Instagram Reels and TikTok shorts, which many watch with the sound off. For these, I generally choose an appropriate classic tune from Instagram when posting.

If you'll be shooting and talking while riding, wind noise will be an issue. Although you can buy small wind muffs for your phone's microphone, you're better off using an external lavalier mic that clips to clothing. For off-bike shots, a small shotgun mic that attaches to the phone works well.

I haven't had great results on the bike with cheaper wireless mics; the best are the options from DJI (dji.com/uk/mic) and Røde (rode.com/en-gb). If you're on a tighter budget, Boyamic wireless mics are worth a look (boyamic.com).

Editing

There are plenty of decent, free mobile editing apps. For vertical-format video, I use the Instagram Edits app. For everything else I use the Adobe Premier app – the free version, which is available on both on iOS and Android. It's very powerful and easy to use.

“If you'll be shooting and talking while riding, wind noise will be an issue”

When editing, the key thing is to try to use numerous short clips rather than one long take. Start with something bold, then add variation as you get into your story. Think about sound before you do this. If you're going to do a voiceover, add this in at the end.

It's important to match your shot frame rate to the same rate when exporting the edit. For horizontal-format videos, I export at the highest bit rate and resolution available. →