

Feel The



Up
Left Right
Down

Crosshair

The Art of TACTILE FEEDBACK

A JIB OPERATORS OWNER MANUAL

By Gerard "GRIPP" Richardson
aka "TheHipHopJibOp"



Feel The Crosshair: The Art of Tactile Feedback by Gerard "GRIPP" Richardson

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INTRODUCTION

Who is the Author?

Gerard Gripp Richardson also known as The Hip Hop Jib Op is a professional jib operator, music producer, and entrepreneur based in Columbia, South Carolina.

PROFESSIONAL JIB OPERATOR

Having a bio of 3 successful Winter Olympics, 2 successful live streams from The Pyramids of Egypt, 1 Emmy Award, 5 Grammy nominations, 1 Gold Ring Award, 1 Bronze Ring Award, and over a decade of experience. Gripp has proven that his love for music is directly connected to his skills as jib operator. *His passion to achieve the best and create a positive productive environment even under pressure is what makes him special.*

MUSIC PRODUCER

Growing up in a musical family is what created the love Gripp has for producing music.

With over two decades of working with artists in South Carolina in the 90's to early 2000's, Gripp began to make a name for himself as a music producer and recording engineer dedicating entirely 3 years straight living in the studio. In 2012, finally after many years of sacrifice, and failure at music Gripp decided to leave South Carolina and headed to Tarzana, California. This is where he would find a deeper love for film production.

ENTREPRENEUR

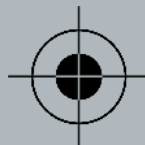
Since he's become successful in the film and broadcast industry. Gripp has decided to put together an online course that teaches participants everything he know about operating a jib crane to starting your own business that will thrive!





**"HIS PASSION TO ACHIEVE
THE BEST AND CREATE A
POSITIVE PRODUCTIVE
ENVIRONMENT EVEN
UNDER PRESSURE IS WHAT
MAKES HIM SPECIAL".**





The Art of Tactile Feedback

Concepts & Ideas

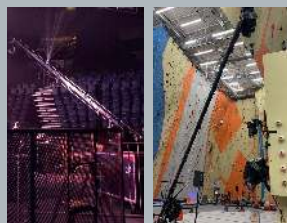
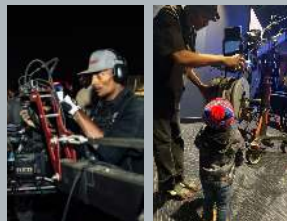
There's something remarkable about the way our bodies respond to touch—the way a gentle caress or a firm grip can convey information sometimes leading to a profound connection. When I started as a jib operator over a decade ago, my relationship between the camera and *I began to grow beyond the mere buttons and controls that operators are used to.*

I quickly learned that it was more about forging a tangible bond between the equipment itself, the camera's movement and my entire body and thus the concept of feeling the crosshair was born. In this chapter, we will explore the concepts and ideas I have created overtime based on tactile feedback and how you can use this data to serve as a bridge, connecting you and your body to the movements of your camera and jib.

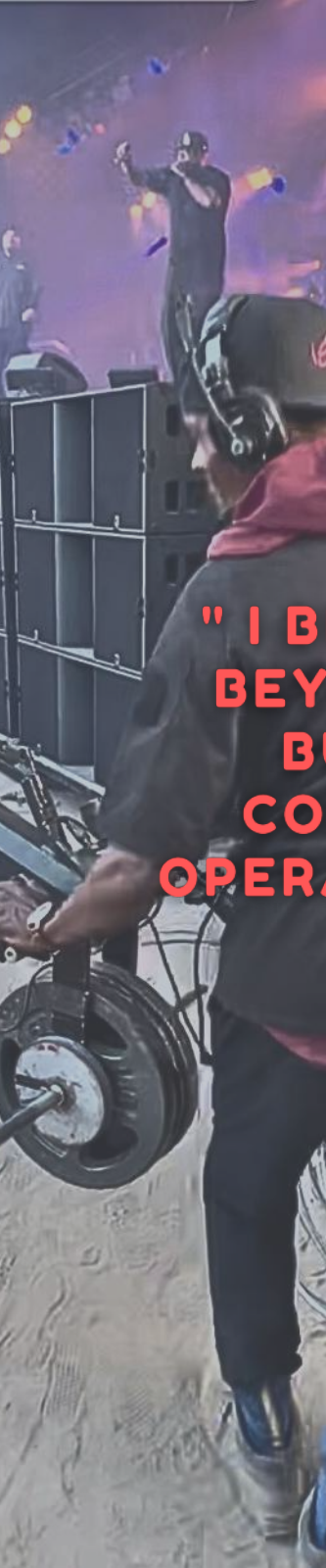
What is tactile feedback?

Tactile feedback refers to the physical sensation we experience when our bodies interact with an object and or surface. There are some devices that use a vibration or audible click to employ some type of sensational feedback. Depending upon the device many use an actuator that presses against a piece of metal, closing or opening an electrical circuit creating a snapping sensation. This snapping sensation is an indication that the device is being turned on or off.

EVERY
IMPRESSION
MATTERS!



However in the context of operating a jib, two of the controllers I frequently use such as the CamMate System and the Stanton Jimmy Jib both have what I call a crosshair inside of the joystick controller. If you were to take the joystick controller of either system and move it straight up  or down  or straight left  or right  you will find what I call the crosshair inside the controller.



" I BEGAN TO GROW
BEYOND THE MERE
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TO".



CHAPTER ONE

It is with this crosshair inside the joystick controller that I correlate to the crosshair you normally see on the monitor screen. By embracing the crosshair inside the joystick controller, I have developed a deep understanding of how the crosshair inside of the joystick controller corresponds to the crosshair on the monitor. After incorporating this technique I began making the camera behave more comfortably under my control, enabling me to respond with precision and finesse in environments that can be filled with many challenges.

One of my primary ways to engage with the crosshair inside the joystick controller was to know my boundaries in the environment in relation to—the intersecting lines within the crosshair on my monitor screen. This way would serve mostly as a muscle memory visual reference point by setting these visual boundaries.

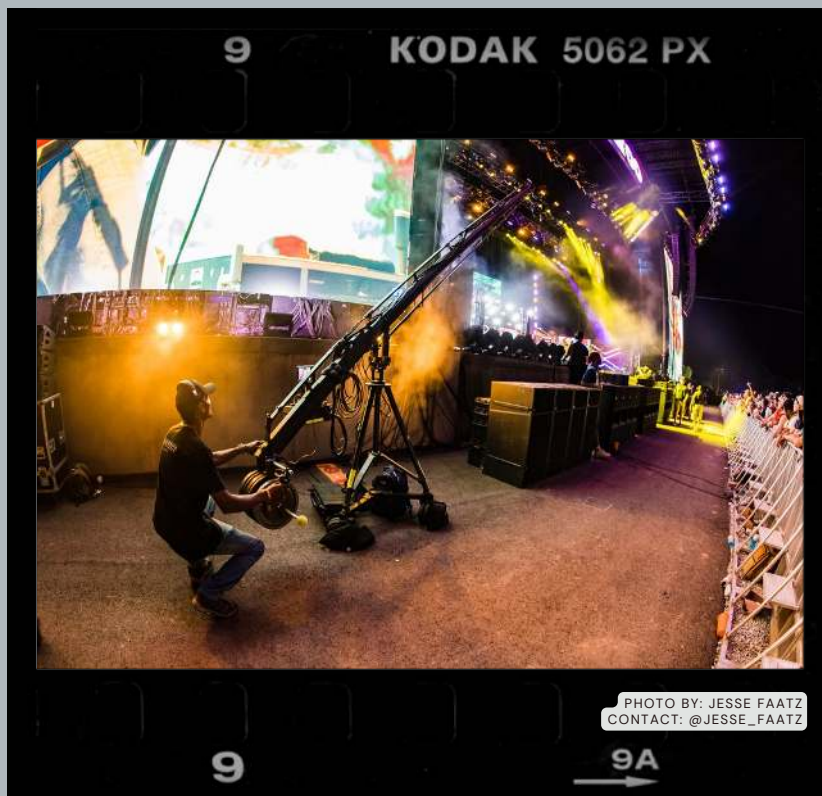


PHOTO BY: JESSE FAATZ
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CHAPTER ONE

In that I quickly learned how to refer to the crosshair on my monitor about 20% of the time and 80% of the time assess my outside environment in relation to how the feeling of the crosshair inside the joystick controller matched the monitor crosshair. *However, the crosshair on the monitor was not just an abstract marker; it also served as potential conduit for tactile communication between the crosshair inside the joystick controller and my actual camera movements.*

This was how I truly began to really feel the crosshair inside of the joystick controller. It was how I was able to establish a tangible connection between my body and the camera's movement, creating a direct line of feedback that would transcend through the visual output.

After practicing this technique for over a decade it has provided me with a special technique and style that I use worldwide today. It was this movement technique of the jib and my own body in relation to the crosshairs that helped me better understand how to move the camera in relation to objects in my surrounding environment.

This allowed me to intuitively anticipate how the camera will move and how to position the jib and camera for a desired shot and result. This would also allow for me to visualize a subject trajectory and make precise adjustments to achieve the desired framing and composition even if the subject is in motion. This is also key to knowing where every obstacle in my environment is positioned at all times in relation to the subject in my field view of operation.

Spatial awareness is the foundation upon which successful jib operators like me are built. This is where and how I receive confirmation of the deep understanding I have about knowing my equipment and how to operate it. As I became more proficient at utilizing the jib, I began to blend my visual perception of power with my kinesthetic awareness of feeling the crosshair within the joystick to communicate with the camera seamlessly.

Developing this keen spatial awareness was very fundamental to me for several reasons. First and foremost, it allowed me to maintain control over my jib and camera's position at all times avoiding collision with

any obstacles. Also ensuring that every shot I composed was precisely framed as intended.

So by having this strong sense of how and where to position the jib and camera's location proved to me that tactile feedback read from feeling the crosshair inside of the joystick controller and monitor is magical. Since then I have only been able to make subtle adjustments to achieve optimal composition with the desired impact intended almost every time.

Spatial awareness is particularly important when I'm operating a jib, as it sometimes extends beyond my immediate line of sight. It can also cause complication to a shot and how I build muscle memory anticipating the movement or trajectory of a subject. This is where I began to grow and utilize my peripheral eye view a little more than often. While I would sometimes become so focused on watching my monitor to frame a shot, it was easier to become more distracted just watching the monitor screen unaware of someone or an obstacle.

So it became crucial to use the 80/20 rule to eliminate unseen danger by knowing information like what is the



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ON THE MONITOR WAS NOT
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POTENTIAL CONDUIT FOR
TACTILE
COMMUNICATION"...**



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height, weight, swing radius and most important the people and obstacles that may unexpectedly enter into your line of sight. *This awareness is what helped me navigate safely throughout my career, preventing any potential collisions* that could have lead to accidents or damages that could and should have been avoided. Sharing this strong sense of spatial awareness ensures that the safety of myself, my crew, and everyone present on the set is at my best of interest at all times.

Furthermore, spatial awareness has allowed me to anticipate and adapt to the forever-changing shooting environments as a jib operator I had to deal with along my career. Whether I was shooting in a small indoor studio environment or a 4 day music festival held outside where the weather is hot and people are drunk and dancing uncontrollably. Over time with practice the faster you become aware of your shooting spatial constraints will enable you to plan and execute your shots more safely and effectively.

So I began to foresee early potential challenges, such as low ceilings, narrow doorways, children on

daddy's shoulders walking very close to my jib and would make the necessary adjustments to ensure a safe enjoyable professional working environment for all parties involved. So with continuous practice and experimentation I started to possess a heightened spatial awareness, and sense of how my jib, camera and subjects are all layered in this three-dimensional space. It was this heightened sense of depth and perception that was critical for me to create this sense of depth and dimensionality.

Gaining this understanding of the spatial relationships between these objects' within my mental and physical frame, I began to imagine visual layers, emphasizing the foreground and background elements, enhancing the overall depth of the subject or object in my mental or physical composition. This heightened imaginary visual layering perception allowed me to craft shots that will immerse the viewers into the scene, evoking a more captivating and impactful visual experience.

Moreover, spatial awareness aids in the executing of most complex camera movements even though I do them with finesse. Jib operators' work often involves intricate and dynamic shots that require

precise control of the camera and jib crosshairs while keeping your subject in the desired framing while. So by having a solid spatial awareness, you can visualize the camera's trajectory, by foreseeing how it will move through that space. This would allow for me to adjust my actions accordingly leaving me to utilize my ability to anticipate and adapt to the next move smoothly, fluidly making them visually pleasing.

So, how did I enhance my spatial awareness as a jib operator?

One essential technique I used was to actively engage with the crosshair inside of the controller by practicing swinging the jib arm while keeping my subject in the crosshair on my monitor. Feeling the crosshair inside of the joystick controller while keeping my subject in the crosshair on the monitor provided a tangible connection between my body, my jib and the camera's movement in my spatial environment.

Another valuable practice I engaged in was to immerse myself into a shooting environment by showing up early to analyze the space I have to shoot in. I would take the time to explore the space, understanding its dimensions, and internalize all the physicalities of the surrounding.

The background features a series of concentric circles in shades of gray, centered around a red circle with a black dot in the middle. Overlaid on these circles are several vertical bars of varying heights and widths, some solid gray and others with diagonal lines, creating a layered, architectural effect.

**"THIS AWARENESS IS WHAT
HELPED ME NAVIGATE
SAFELY THROUGHOUT MY
CAREER, PREVENTING ANY
POTENTIAL COLLISIONS"...**



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So I figured out by familiarizing myself with a location beforehand, I could develop a mental layered map that would aid in the planning and precise execution of my shots.

So nowadays it is very important to observe your spatial relationships between objects, identifying any potential obstacles, and envisioning how your jib and camera will navigate in that space seamlessly. This only enhanced how I began to feel the crosshair inside of the joystick controller synchronize with the crosshair on the monitor screen.

By mentally mapping my environment before operating my equipment I will also run a few trial swings slowly and easily to mentally map my boundaries within that environment. For instance, I find it super valuable to introduce myself to the other staff workers that will be working in that area.

I will communicate and kind of explain to them that the jib will be swinging and moving along this path by giving them a demonstration of my moves to build some type of trust with them.

At times I find myself warning the same people multiple times of the same moves over and over. However it is my duty to watch out for them and keep them safe all while remaining aware of my spatial environment.

Additionally, maintaining clear communication with the talent and crew while on set is vital for special reasons. Showing that you are spatially aware of your environment can be the reason you get a call back again for more work. Establishing effective communication channels, such as using walkie-talkies or hand signals, would ensure that everyone is aware of my jib and camera's movements just to avoid any potential hazards. Regularly updating each other on the moving or repositioning of my jib and camera or any changes in the shooting plan solidifies the overall trust, safety, and coordination on production sets.

Ultimately, spatial awareness is a cornerstone to my success as a professional jib operator. It has enabled me to freely maintain control over my jib because of knowing I have done my due diligence of analyzing my equipment and environment. This will allow for others to trust me when I can show that I can navigate safely, set up my equipment, communicate

through an unknown shooting environment, and have the ability to anticipate and adapt to any challenges.

Creating visually captivating stunning shots that invoke impact is accomplished by actively engaging with the crosshairs, immersing myself in my environment, and fostering a clear communication within my crew. Once I began to master spatial awareness and enhanced my proficiency as a jib operator to create super dope smooth shots with any camera and crane that exists I became an unstoppable force.

So when applying tactile feedback from feeling the crosshair inside of the joystick controller and monitor screen correctly this enabled me to execute smoother camera movements at will. From my experiences, I began to develop a nuanced sense of the camera's speed, acceleration, and deceleration according to the environment I was operating in. This heightened awareness allowed me to make subtle adjustments, resulting in fluid and seamless muscle memory shots.

The tactile connection guides of the crosshair



**"ULTIMATELY, SPATIAL
AWARENESS IS A
CORNERSTONE TO MY
SUCCESS AS A
PROFESSIONAL JIB
OPERATOR".**



CHAPTER ONE

inside of the joystick controller and on the monitor screen in relation to my fingers, is what helps me to always maintain a steady and controlled shot whenever I'm in motion. This technique is what elevated the overall quality of my service and the outcome of my production output when working with some of the highest paid artist in the music industry.

When my jib is balanced properly from the main base to the remote head, I have analyzed my spatial environment and I have a full understanding and relationship with the crosshair inside of the joystick controller and on the monitor screen, I can produce magical jibs shots at will.

This heightened mental perception of the camera's position within my monitor's screen only helps me to visualize how my camera's movement will corresponds to the subject and my overall composition. This tactile feedback is what empowers me to make minute adjustments, ensuring that my shots are meticulously framed, capturing the essence of the creative vision.

When I'm shooting live music, I tend to express a lot of my style and technique through rhythmic

body movements, sometimes in the form of a dance. However my spatial awareness and intuitive connection to the crosshair inside the joystick controller and on the monitor in which I operate is very important to the result of all my shots. This intuitive anticipation is what empowers me to capture crucial moments and create compelling footage on some of the largest stages around the world.

By syncing the timing of my body movement with the subject movements, *I am able to help tell the story by keeping a steady dynamic frame capturing compelling shot* that showcases the message of the subject along with the desired emotions. Anticipating the moves of my subject has improved my overall operations and safety anywhere I have worked around the world. This tactile connection with my spatial environment the crosshair inside of the joystick controller and on the monitor screen has only enhanced my safety during operation of my jibs.

How has it enhanced your overall safety during operation?

I have developed this skill and ability to safely operate the jib with one hand never to compromise the shot by

processing the tactile feedback from the crosshair inside of the joystick controller and applying it to the crosshair on the monitor screen to frame and maintain my shots.

This tactile feedback serves as a constant reminder of my connection to my surroundings, fostering a safer working environment for everyone involved.

To fully harness the power of this tactile feedback, I suggest it is essential to cultivate a mindful and present mindset of your spatial environment at all times. Allow yourself to be fully present in the moment, attuning your senses to the jib and camera movements in that environment, it is just that important.

The people in your spatial environment and the controlling system you are using is what you should use as guides, actively engaging with them through touch and muscle memory. So as you deepen your understanding and connection with the crosshair inside of the joystick and on the monitor screen, you will unlock a new level of control and precision in your jib operations.



**"I AM ABLE TO HELP TELL
THE STORY BY KEEPING A
STEADY DYNAMIC FRAME
CAPTURING COMPELLING
SHOT"...**





The Art of Tactile Development

Practice & Repetition

Imagine a scenario where you no longer rely solely on your visual perception to operate a jib. Instead, you have a deep and intimate relationship with the concept of feeling the crosshair, a tactile connection that guides your every move when operating a camera crane.

In this chapter, we will explore the art of developing a tactile relationship with the crosshair through exercises that connect you to your controllers, allowing you to confidently feel the camera's movement and unleash the full potential of your jib experience.

Exercise 1 – Cultivating Mindfulness: The first step in developing a tactile relationship with your joystick control crosshair and monitor crosshair is to cultivate mindfulness as a jib operator and develop your own operating style. Being fully present and

aware of your body, the camera's movement, and the sensation of touch is crucial to crafting your own skills and techniques.

Before you begin operating a jib, take a moment to ground yourself, focusing on your every breath and centering your attention on the crosshairs. By immersing yourself in the present moment, you create the foundation for a deeper connection with confidence and a successful outcome.

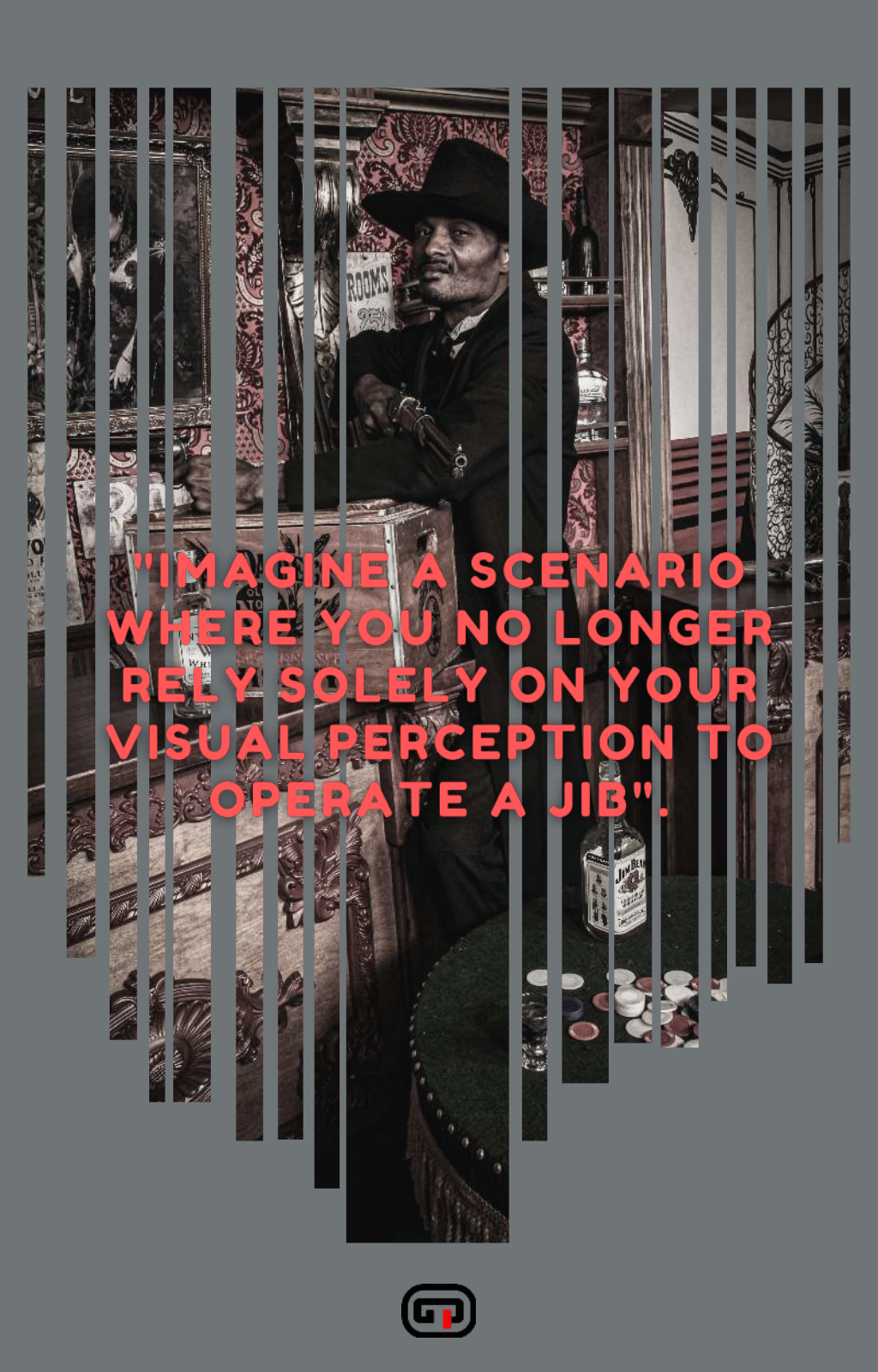
Exercise 2 – Engaging Your Sense of Touch: One technique to truly get in touch with the feel of the crosshair, is to engage your sense of touch by allowing your fingertips to gently graze the surface of the monitor screen, following the movement of the crosshair. Pay attention to the subtle changes in pressure, texture, and motion. By actively engaging your sense of

touch, you establish a tangible connection that goes beyond visual perception.

Exercise 3 – Sensory Awareness: Developing a tactile relationship with the crosshair requires an acute sensory awareness. As you feel how the touch of the crosshair feels in the joystick controller, focus on the sensations that arise.

Notice the vibrations, the temperature, and the texture of the crosshair in the joystick controller. By honing your sensory awareness to this sensation, you can gain a deeper understanding of the camera's movement and respond with greater precision.

Exercise 4 – Kinesthetic Visualization: This is a powerful technique that can enhance your tactile relationship with the crosshair in the joystick controller which is a major



**"IMAGINE A SCENARIO
WHERE YOU NO LONGER
RELY SOLELY ON YOUR
VISUAL PERCEPTION TO
OPERATE A JIB".**



CHAPTER TWO

element to creating the best dynamic jib shots.

As you feel the crosshair in the joystick, visualize the camera's movement in your mind's eye by imagining the trajectory, the speed, and the direction of the camera's motion. By combining touch, visualization, and memory you create a synergy that enables you to anticipate and execute precise camera movements.

Exercise 5 – Developing Muscle Memory: Just as athletes train their bodies to perform specific movements, jib operators can develop muscle memory to enhance their tactile relationship with the crosshair in the joystick controller and monitor. Through regular practice and real time experiences, the repeated motions of operating the jib will become ingrained in your muscle memory without a doubt.

This will allow you to move instinctively, relying on the tactile feedback from the repetition of feeling the crosshair in the controller to guide your actions. With time and practice, operating the jib will become an extension of your body.

Exercise 6 – Trusting Your Intuition: As you become more attuned to the camera's movement through feeling the crosshair in the joystick controller, you develop a heightened sense of intuition. Trusting this intuition allows you to make instinctive decisions, responding to the dynamic nature of a challenging shooting environment.

This will empower you to capture spontaneous moments and make creative choices that will elevate your jib operations.

Exercise 7 – Embracing Mistakes and Learning Opportunities: Sometimes, my very own touch may not yield the desired results I am looking for, but these moments provide valuable insights for refinement. Learn to adapt and learn from each experience, and continue to nurture your tactile relationship with synchronizing the crosshair in the joystick controller and the one on the monitor screen.

Stay Curious and Open-Minded!

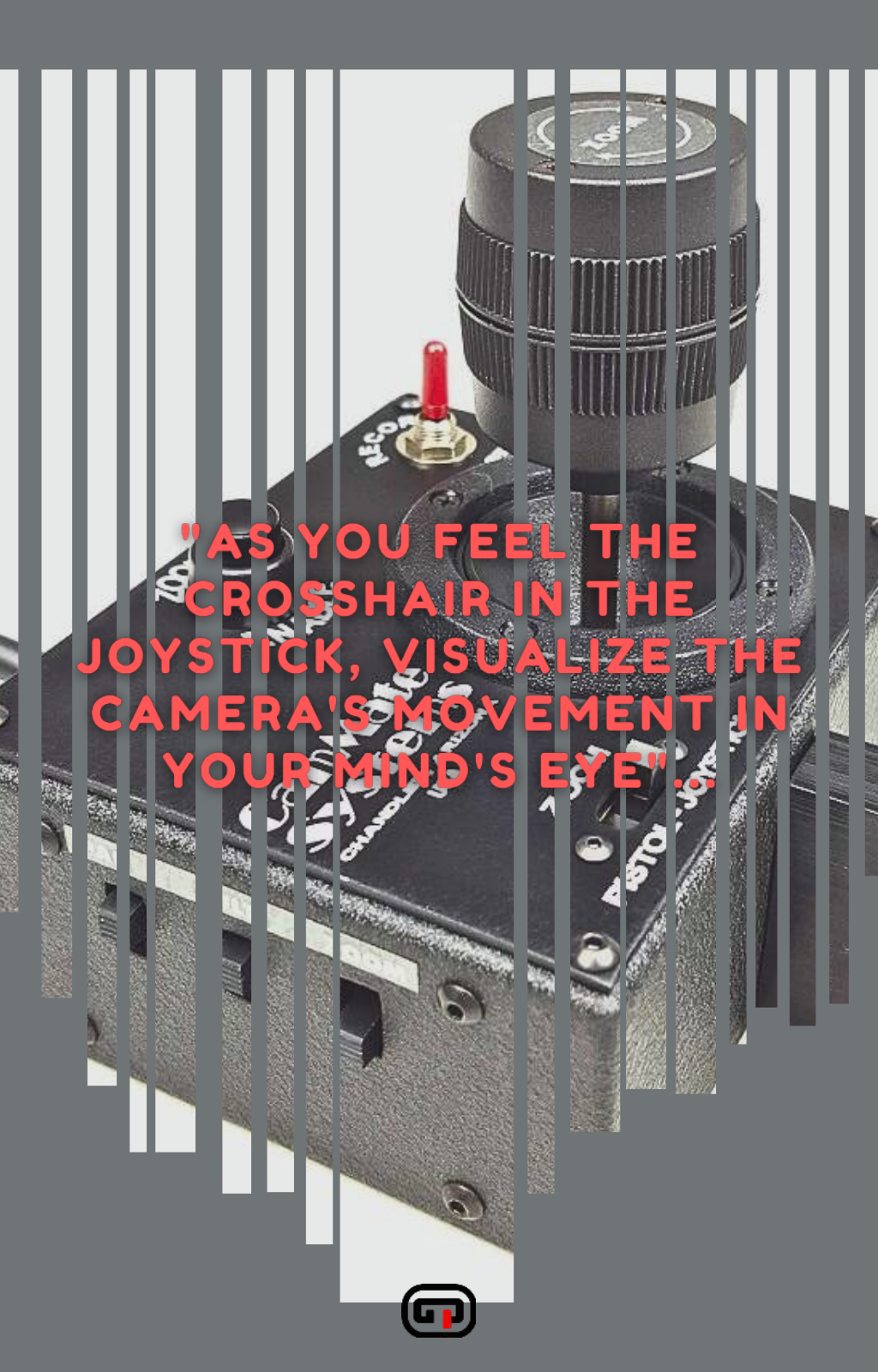
Imagine being an explorer, venturing into uncharted territories with a spirit of curiosity and a mind open to new possibilities. Well, that's exactly how you should approach building

muscle memory as a jib operator! Being curious is like having a treasure map that leads you to new discoveries.

Embrace challenges and be willing to try new techniques. It's like embarking on a thrilling adventure, where every twist and turn brings you closer to becoming a master jib operator. Let me tell you a secret—every professional jib operator was once a curious beginner, just like you. They asked questions, tried new things, and never stopped exploring the wonders of jib camera crane operations.

So, get up get out and get something going on, don't be afraid to ask questions. Wonder why a certain movement feels a certain way? Ask! Curiosity is the key to unlocking new knowledge and insights that will take your skills to the next level. And guess what? You don't have to figure it all out on your own.

Seek guidance from experienced jib operators, like the youth seeking clues from wise elders. They have a wealth of knowledge and wisdom to share, and they'll be delighted to see young enthusiasts like you eager to learn and grow. Now, let's talk about being open-minded.



**"AS YOU FEEL THE
CROSSHAIR IN THE
JOYSTICK, VISUALIZE THE
CAMERA'S MOVEMENT IN
YOUR MIND'S EYE".**



CHAPTER TWO

It's like having a magical door that opens up to endless possibilities.

Be willing to try new techniques and explore different shooting styles. It's like having a colorful palette of paints, each stroke adding a new dimension to your artwork. Remember, every shot is a chance to experiment and let your creativity shine. Play with angles, explore unconventional movements, and surprise yourself with the magic you can create.

The world of jib camera crane operations is vast and forever-changing.

Embrace this ever-evolving landscape with open arms. Keep learning and expanding your skills, like a never-ending treasure hunt. And here's the exciting part—through this curiosity and open-mindedness, you'll continuously refine your skills.

It's like polishing a precious gem until it shines brightly. Each challenge you embrace, each new technique you try, and each lesson you learn adds another layer of skill and expertise to your jib operator journey. So, my incredible jib operators in training, remember this: stay curious, stay open-minded,

and never stop exploring the magical world of jib camera crane operations.

Your curiosity will lead you to incredible discoveries, and your open-mindedness will unlock doors to new creative heights. The jib camera crane is your magic wand, and you have the power to create visual wonders. Now, I know you're all eager to jump right into those fancy camera movements, capturing breathtaking shots like the pros.

But here's the secret to becoming a true master—take it one step at a time. When building muscle memory, starting slow and deliberate is like laying a strong foundation for a magnificent skyscraper. You wouldn't want to rush and build a shaky base, right? Well, the same goes for becoming a skilled jib operator.

Begin with the basics—simple movements like panning and tilting. It's like learning the alphabet before writing a beautiful story. These core movements are the building blocks of your jib operator journey. Now, I want you to focus on executing these movements with precision and control. It's like mastering a dance

move, perfecting every step. Take your time and feel the crosshair—the magical tool on the monitor screen—in your hands.

Let your muscles get used to the motion, like a musician playing a new instrument. As you practice, you'll notice something incredible happening—your muscle memory will start to grow. It's like planting a seed in fertile soil and watching it sprout into a beautiful flower. Your body starts to remember those movements, making them smoother and more effortless with each repetition.

And here's the exciting part—as you gain confidence with those core movements, you can gradually increase the complexity of your actions. It's like leveling up in a video game, unlocking new challenges as you progress. Incorporate more intricate camera movements, like booming up and down or smoothly combining panning and tilting.

It's like adding more colors to your artistic palette, creating a masterpiece of shots. But remember, there's no need to rush. Take it one step at a time, like a puzzle coming



**"THE WORLD OF JIB CAMERA
CRANE OPERATIONS IS VAST
AND FOREVER-CHANGING".**



CHAPTER TWO

together piece by piece. You'll be amazed at how far you can go with patience and practice. And here's a golden rule—avoid developing bad habits by starting slow and deliberate

It's like tending to a delicate flower, giving it the right care to blossom beautifully.

By building a solid foundation, you'll have the confidence and skills to tackle even the most challenging shots. It's like having your personal artificial intelligence bot that leads you to success as a jib operator.

So, my incredible jib operators in training, remember this: start slow and deliberate, perfect those core movements, and gradually take on more challenges. Your journey as a skilled jib operator is like an epic adventure, filled with growth, discovery, and unforgettable moments.

By developing a tactile relationship with the crosshair, you unlock a whole new level of control, precision, and creativity in your jib operations. It becomes a dance between your body and the camera, where touch and movement blend seamlessly. As you continue to practice and refine this tactile

connection, you will witness the transformation of your jib camera crane work, achieving shots that will captivate and inspire your clients and audiences.



CAMERA1
PLAY ▶

"IT'S LIKE TENDING TO
A DELICATE FLOWER,
GIVING IT THE RIGHT
CARE TO BLOSSOM
BEAUTIFULLY".

SLP

00:23:59



The Art of Anticipation

Prediction & Timing

As a jib operator, one of the most valuable skills you can cultivate is the art of anticipation. Anticipation goes beyond simply reacting to the present moment—it involves predicting and preemptively responding to the camera's movements. In this chapter, we dive into the art of anticipation and how touch, specifically through the joystick controller crosshair, becomes the key to predicting camera movements with precision and finesse.

Sensing the Subtle Shifts:

When you engage with the crosshair through touch, you develop a heightened sensitivity to the camera's subtle shifts. *You can feel the gentle sways, the slight tilts, and the smooth pans* as if they were an extension of your own body. By honing your tactile awareness, you can anticipate these nuanced movements, allowing you to adjust your grip and positioning in

advance, ensuring a seamless and fluid camera motion.

Interpreting Tactile Cues:

The joystick controller crosshair becomes a language of tactile cues, providing you with valuable information about the camera's future movements. Through touch, you can sense the tension, resistance, or fluidity of the joystick crosshair's motion. These cues serve as a roadmap, guiding intuition and allowing you to predict the camera's trajectory. By interpreting these tactile cues, you gain a unique advantage in capturing the perfect shots, even before they unfold.

Visualizing the Shot: Touch not only connects you to the camera's movement but it also aids in visualizing the shot before it happens. As you feel the joystick controller crosshair, you can mentally map out the composition, framing, and

overall aesthetics of the shot before it happens.

My tactile relationship with the crosshair allows me to see beyond the present moment, envisioning the desired outcome and preparing myself to capture complicated shots like these with precision. By staying connected through touch, you can navigate complex shooting environments with ease capturing shots that truly stand out.

Building muscle memory is also crucial for becoming a skilled jib operator. When you're out there on set, capturing incredible shots, you want your hands to respond effortlessly to the camera's movement. That's where muscle memory comes in to play—it allows you to execute precise camera movements without even having to think about it. This frees up your mind to focus on the creative aspects of the shot, like framing and composition, rather than



**"YOU CAN FEEL THE
GENTLE SWAYS,
THE SLIGHT TILTS,
AND THE SMOOTH
PANS"...**



CHAPTER THREE

getting tangled up in all the technical details.

Understanding Muscle Memory and Timing!

Now, I know the term "muscle memory" might sound a bit mysterious to you, but let me break it all the way down for you the best way I can. Imagine for the first time you're learning how to ride a bike. At first, it may seem a bit wobbly to keep it balanced, right?

But with practice, something magical begins to happen to you—your body starts to remember how to balance and pedal without you even thinking about it. That would be my simplest explanation of muscle memory in action however very powerful when utilized correctly! It is like knowing that your body possesses a superpower.

It is a special kind of memory that allows your muscles to remember specific movements and actions through repetition.

Start with the basics—simple movements like panning or tilting—and practice them deliberately and slowly. Gradually, as you gain confidence, you can move on to more complex camera movements.

Developing a tactile relationship with the joystick controller crosshair will only enhance the muscle memory training and timing between the camera and your subject motion. As you touch and feel the camera's movements, your body becomes attuned to the rhythm and timing required to capture specific shots. Through repeated practice and experience, your muscle memory becomes finely tuned, allowing you to execute precise movements to anticipate the perfect timing for capturing key moments.

But it's not just about mindlessly repeating the same actions over and over. You need to practice with a specific purpose in mind. Set specific goals for each practice session and focus on improving one aspect of your jib camera crane work at a time. By practicing with a purpose, you can track your progress and see how far you've come.

It's like programming your body to perform tasks automatically, like a well-trained superhero! When you practice with a purpose, you sort of give yourself a clear target to aim for. It's like having a treasure map with an "X" marking the spot where you want to go. With

each practice session, you're taking a step closer to your destination to becoming a master jib operator, and to me that's super exciting!

So, during a practice session, you'll concentrate on making those smooth and controlled horizontal camera movements. You might start slow and deliberate, getting a feel for the motion. As you progress, you'll find yourself getting better and better at it, and that's when the magic of muscle memory starts to happen! On the other hand as a jib operator, building muscle memory is crucial for becoming a master of the craft.

It's like having a magical connection between your brain and your hands, allowing you to execute precise camera movements without even having to think about it. Maybe you want to work on your tilting technique or master those swooping crane shots. Whatever it is, choose one aspect to focus on at a time.

Next, break down your goals into smaller, manageable steps. Rome wasn't built in a day, right? Take it one step at a time, and celebrate each milestone you reach. It could be as simple as getting that perfect tilt or



**"IT IS A SPECIAL KIND OF
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REMEMBER SPECIFIC
MOVEMENTS AND ACTIONS
THROUGH REPETITION".**



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nailing the timing of a crane shot. And guess what? Practicing with a purpose is not only effective but also can be whole lot of fun!

It's like performing a new song for the first time as an artist, and with each successful practice, you're uncovering new skills and improving as a jib operator. As you continue practicing with purpose, you'll notice that your skills as a jib operator will soar to new heights. Imagine you're operating the jib, and your hands are moving gracefully, capturing smooth and controlled shots without thinking about it.

It's like having a dance partner knowing the dance routine however, your dance partner happens to be the camera, and your goal is to make everything feel effortless and magical. But how does muscle memory work, you may wonder? It's all about practice, practice, practice, and repetition. The more you operate the jib, the more your muscles will get used to the equipment's weight, balance, and range of motion.

Just like a musician learning to play the same song over and over until it becomes second nature, you too

repeat those camera movements until they become ingrained in your muscle memory. Here's a little secret: muscle memory involves more than just your hands—also it's about understanding how to feel the crosshair inside the joystick controller and on the monitor screen.

These two crosshairs are like your guiding stars, helping you frame and compose your shots with precision. By training your hands to respond intuitively to the crosshair inside of the joystick controller and your equipment, you become one with the jib making it an extension of your own body. It's like having a sixth sense, anticipating its every move and capturing those perfect shots with ease. So, why is muscle memory so essential for becoming a professional jib operator?

Well, from my experiences, it's like having a secret weapon in my toolbox. When I build a strong muscle memory, it helps me focus on the artistry of operating the jib camera crane only to focus on only outputting the best work. This allowed me to not get so bogged down by the technicalities of operating my equipment. Instead, I was able to focus on being

creative in order to tell incredible visual stories through my shots.

So, when you embrace the magic of muscle memory, practice those camera movements, and become skilled jib operators as intended. Remember, with practice, your hands will dance with the jib camera crane as the great dance partner it can be, and you'll capture shots that will leave audiences in awe.

The jib camera crane is like your magic wand, giving you the power to create visual wonders. So, practice, practice, and practice some more. Your journey as a professional jib operator is just beginning, and I can't wait to see the incredible shots you'll create. Remember, building muscle memory takes time and patience. Be prepared for ups and downs along the way.

Celebrate your successes, no matter how small, and don't be discouraged by setbacks.

As you continue to practice, you'll notice significant improvements in your skills as a jib operator. Practice, practice, and practice some more! Embrace challenges, seek feedback, and stay curious. By developing strong muscle memory,



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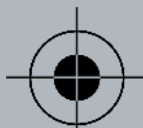


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you'll be well on your way to becoming a professional jib operator, capturing breathtaking shots with confidence and finesse.



**"YOU'RE IN CONTROL, AND
EVERYTHING FEELS
EFFORTLESS AND
SMOOTH"...**



The Art of Mental Visualization

Mind Mapping

Okay now that we've covered the art of tactile feedback, development, and anticipation through physical practice, here's the real secret sauce—your brain is just as powerful as your muscles when it comes to becoming a top-notch jib operator! Mental visualization is like creating a movie in your mind that you control. You can close your eyes and imagine the camera movements, envisioning those epic shots you want to capture.

It's like being the director of your own movie, and the jib camera crane is the magical tool to bring your vision to life. So, why is mental visualization so important? Well, here's the deal. When you mentally rehearse those camera movements, your brain makes strong connections with your muscles. It's like they have just become best friends, working together in perfect harmony. This reinforcement actually strengthens the muscle memory you build during

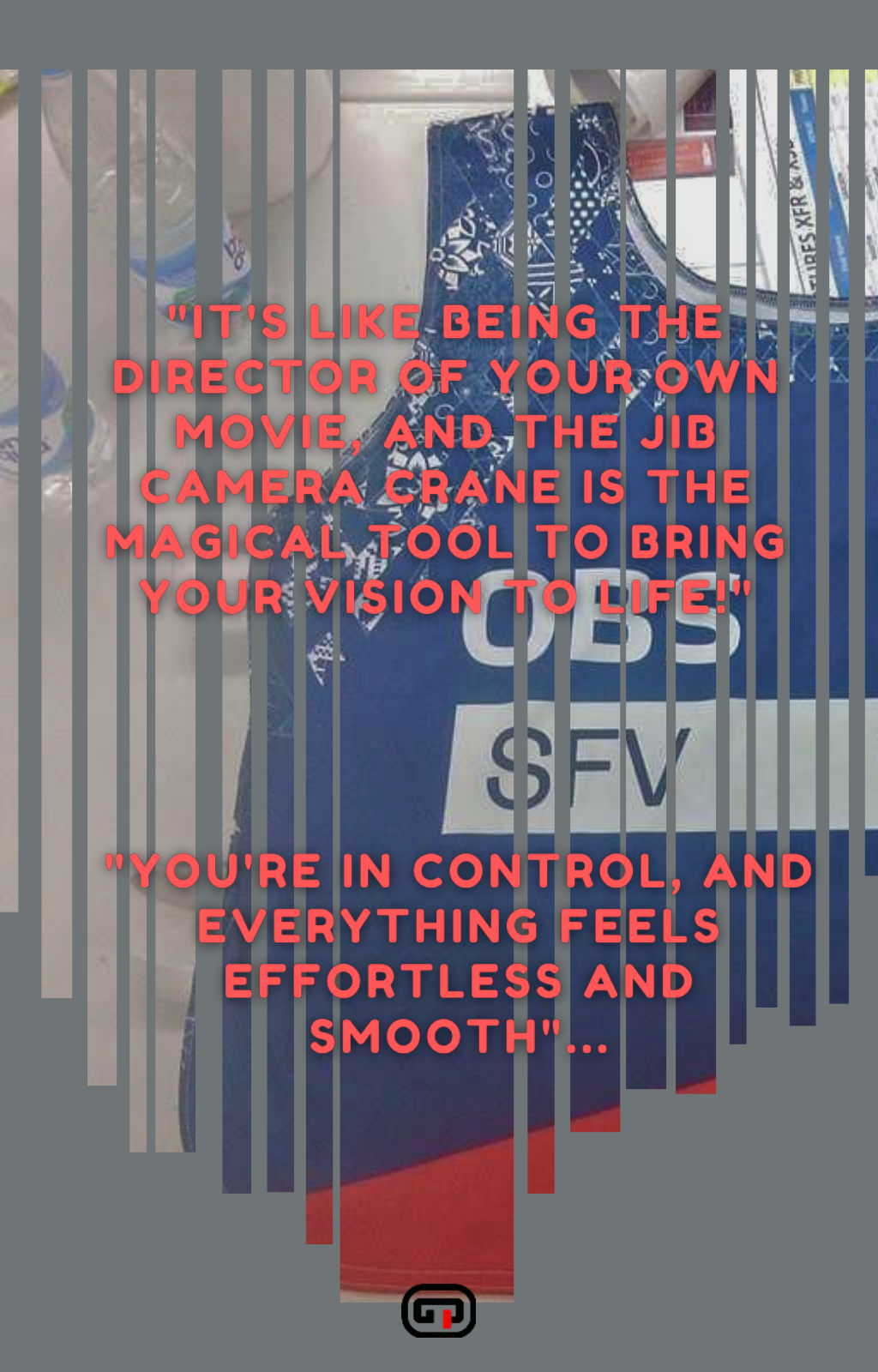
physical practice.

It's like a double dose of training your mind and body for your jib operator skills! Think of it as getting your brain and muscles to speak the same language. When you visualize yourself tilting the camera smoothly, your brain sends signals to your muscles, saying, "Hey, we got this!" So when you're actually out there operating the jib camera crane, your body already knows what to do, showcasing those smooth intriguing and precise shots!

Here's a little trick to get started with mental visualization. Find a quiet space where you can close your eyes, and take a few deep breaths. Now, imagine yourself operating the jib. Imagine the crosshair on the monitor, feel the touch of the controls in your hands, and envision the camera gracefully moving to capture that perfect shot.

You're in control, and everything feels effortless and smooth. Right! The more you practice mental visualization, the stronger those brain-muscle connections become. It's like giving your brain a sneak peek into the amazing shots you're going to create. And guess what? Your brain loves it! But remember, mental visualization is not just about the big, mind-blowing shots. It's about visualizing every detail, no matter how small.

Maybe it's adjusting the height of the crane just right or capturing a subtle tilt that adds that extra magic to your shot. Every little detail matters, and mental visualization helps you become a master of those details! So, my fellow jib operator superheroes, remember this: incorporate mental visualization into your practice routine regularly. Spend time creating those movie-like scenes in your mind, and watch as your skills skyrocket!



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CHAPTER FOUR

But here's the thing—you don't have to do it all alone. Seeking feedback from experienced jib operators can be a game-changer. It's like having a road map that leads you to hidden gems of knowledge and expertise! So, how does seeking feedback help you become an amazing jib operator? Let me break it down for you.

Firstly, when you ask for feedback, you open yourself up to a world of valuable insights. Those experienced jib operators have been there, done that, and they know the ins and outs. They can offer you tips, tricks, and techniques that can take your skills to the next level. It's like having your own team of mentors cheering you on! Secondly, feedback is not just about hearing what you're doing right—it's about learning from your mistakes too.

We all make mistakes, and that's totally okay! Feedback from others helps you identify areas where you can improve. *Think of it as a treasure hunt for hidden treasures of growth and progress!* Now, I know it might feel a bit nerve-wracking to ask for feedback at first, but let me tell you something—it's one of

the best ways to grow as a jib operator. So, embrace those opportunities to learn from others.

Be open to constructive criticism, because it's not about tearing you down—it's about building you up! Here's a little secret also: all those experienced jib operators you know were once beginners too. They know what it's like to be in your shoes, and they more than likely want to see you succeed! So, don't be afraid to reach out and ask for feedback. You'll be amazed at how much wisdom and encouragement you'll receive.

And hey, you don't have to limit yourself to just seeking feedback from mentors. Your peers can be valuable sources of feedback too! Jib operators of all ages can learn from each other, share experiences, and grow together. It's like a treasure trove of knowledge waiting to be explored! Remember, seeking feedback is not just about getting pats on the back—it's about becoming the best version of yourself as a jib operator.

It's about taking those precious nuggets of advice and using them to polish your skills. So, take a leap of

courage and seek feedback from your peers and those experienced jib operators around you. *Embrace the opportunity to learn, grow, and shine like the stars you are!* And as you continue on your journey, remember this: never stop seeking feedback from all sources and never stop learning.

Every piece of advice you receive, every technique you observe, and every improvement you make will bring you closer to becoming a top-notch jib operator. So, go out there, seek feedback, learn from others, and let your jib camera crane skills shine bright like the sun! Becoming a skilled jib operator is like embarking on an exciting adventure, filled with ups and downs, twists and turns.

Building muscle memory and mastering those camera movements is a gradual process. It won't happen overnight, and that's okay! You might have days when everything feels smooth and effortless, and then there might be days when things don't go as planned. But stress what? That's all part of the journey, and it's totally normal. Here's some more secret sauce: every successful jib operator has faced



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CHAPTER FOUR

challenges and setbacks along the way.

It's all part of the process of learning and growing. So don't be discouraged if you don't see immediate progress. Instead, remain patient and keep moving forward. Celebrate every little success, no matter how small it be! Maybe you nailed that perfect tilt or smoothly panned across the scene—celebrate it all counts. Each tiny victory is like a sparkling gem on your path to greatness. So take a moment to celebrate and be proud of yourself for the progress you've made. And even when you encounter setbacks, remember this—it's not a dead-end; it's just a detour.

Keep your eyes on the prize, and keep pushing forward. Sometimes, the most significant breakthroughs come after facing challenges head-on. It's like climbing a mountain—you might stumble on some rocks, but with every step, you get closer to the top. Each stumble is an opportunity to learn and become even better.

So, you should never give up, even when the going gets tough. Stay persistent and keep training your hands. Like a gardener tending to a garden, nurture

your skills with love and dedication. Water them with patience and watch them blossom. With every practice session, you'll notice significant improvements over time. It's like a beautiful flower unfolding its petals, revealing its true beauty.

You'll see yourself becoming more confident, more skilled, and more in tune with the jib camera crane. And you know what? The journey itself is just as incredible as the destination. Embrace the ups and downs, the twists and turns. Cherish the moments of growth and learning. Every step you take brings you closer to becoming the jib operator you've always dreamed of being.

So, jib operators, stay patient and persistent. Remember that greatness doesn't happen overnight. It's built with dedication, perseverance, and a whole lot of heart. And as you continue on this fantastic adventure, remember this: you have what it takes to become a shining star in the world of jib camera crane operations.

Keep pushing forward, keep training those hands, and watch as you soar to new

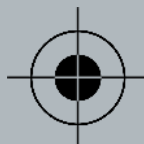
heights. The world is waiting to see the magic you'll create! Happy practicing and never stop believing in yourself!





**"IT'S ALL PART OF THE
PROCESS OF LEARNING AND
GROWING. SO DON'T BE
DISCOURAGED IF YOU DON'T
SEE IMMEDIATE PROGRESS".**





The Art of Consistency

Repetition is Key!

In order to become a skilled jib operator one must embark on an epic adventure that requires dedication, persistence, and a whole lot of practice!

Consistent practice is like watering a plant—you give it love and attention every day, and it will blossom beautifully. The same goes for mastering your skills as a jib operator.

Regularly operating the jib was the key to unlocking my full potential as a professional jib operator. I think of it as me being the king of my castle building a fortress with swag. And the more I put into active practice, the more my hands become familiar with the equipment I was handling.

I started to understand its weight, the balance, and its range of motion along with the way my body moves. I began to feel every twist of the mounting knobs when screwing them to the arm extensions. To me it was like

getting to know a new friend, the jib became an extension of my friendship, and a solid new relationship was built. However here's the magic—consistent practice is what helped me build the muscle memory that fueled our relationship. And when knowing the importance of how to communicate within self is what helped me to build the technical know how.

It's like leaving footprints in the sand, marking your journey towards becoming an expert jib operator that will only lead you back to your beginning. The more frequently you handle your equipment and controls, the more ingrained that tactile feedback becomes in your muscle memory. Just like a musician practicing their instrument or an athlete perfecting their game, you too need to aim for regular practice sessions.

It's like honing a special superpower, making you unstoppable in capturing

incredible shots. Here's a secret hack—it's not about practicing once in a while when you feel like it. It's about consistency which is the secret ingredient that makes the difference in your output. Set aside time each day or each week or whenever it permits to set up, tear down, and operate the jib. Make it a part of your daily process, like brushing your teeth or being a partner in a dance routine.

Being consistent with practice not only enhances your skills but also brings joy and fulfillment. Think about discovering a treasure chest filled with wonders every time you operate the jib. These incredible things happen when you really embrace consistent practice like your movements become smoother, your confidence soars, and your creativity will uncontrollably flourish.

Remember this: embrace the consistent practice regime like a champion. Be



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dedicated, and persistent, by making the jib your trusted companion. With each practice session, you'll witness a steady progression in your skills.

But make sure you celebrate your small accomplishments. It's like climbing a mountain—one step at a time, you'll reach these new heights as a jib operator. And as you continue on this journey, remember to enjoy the ride.

Embrace the challenges, cherish the victories, and let your passion for operating the jib shine brightly. The world is your stage, and you have the power to create visual wonders. Through practice and dedication, embrace the consistent practice concept, and watch as you transform into a professional jib operator.

Repetition and variation is like having the perfect recipe to become a master jib operator! Repetition is the key that unlocks the door to moving as one, effortlessly capturing those incredible shots! But here's the exciting part—repetition isn't just about doing the same thing over and over again, it's about providing variation.

You see this is what makes

you truly shine as a professional jib operator! Imagine this—you start with the core movements, like just panning and tilting the jib arm itself. Just practice these things consistently, focusing on building that muscle memory and its tactile feedback.

Your skills will start to grow once you've got the basics down by introducing some spice into your practice sessions. Experiment with different shooting scenarios and challenges by playing with various shooting angles, heights, and speeds in your practice.

Tackle different shooting conditions, like filming in the woods, by the beach, or even in a bustling city. Each scenario is like a new adventure, and your muscle memory will help you to adapt in order to handle them all like a pro!

You see, variety is one of the secret ingredients I used to become a well-rounded jib operator with skills and experiences. Just like a skilled chef knows when to add a dash of spice, you'll know which movements and techniques to use in each shooting situation. Creating various styles will keep you ready to tackle any project that

comes your way.

So, to my fellow jib operators and those in training, practice with repetition and embrace variation to allow your skills to blossom and grow, like a beautiful garden. And remember, every practice session is a new opportunity to learn and explore more of your own untapped potential to become the greatest you can be.

Don't be afraid to try new things in different environments you have not been used to working in. Because the more you are placed in uncomfortable and unfamiliar working environments, the more you'll discover your unique style as a jib operator.

However, let's keep in mind that it is important to be mindful of knowing the difference between your ego and your competence.

The reason for knowing the difference is to never place yourself in a situation that can damage your reputation. Because taking on an obligation that you can not fulfill will follow you throughout the industry. Now on the other hand your relationships can be of benefit in these types of



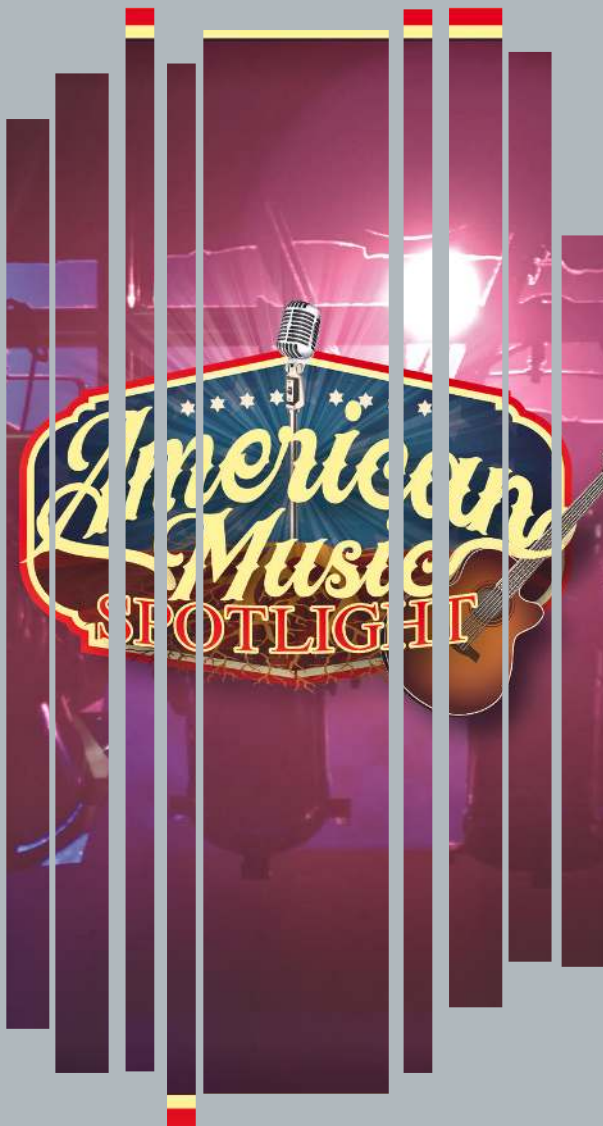
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situations

In certain cases you can build a relationship with a production company that owns their own jib as their exclusive jib operator. Offering your services exclusively will give you the opportunity to grow and create value by learning a lot about technical issues with that gear.

Trusting your intuition allows you to make split-second decisions, responding to the ever-changing dynamics of a shooting environment. By trusting your instincts, you can seize the perfect opportunities, even in the midst of unpredictability.

As you continue to develop this skill, your jib operations will transcend technicality, becoming a dance of intuition and motion. So when you master the art of feeling the crosshairs you unlock the magic of The Hip Hop Jib Op!





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ENVIRONMENT".**





Who is the Author?

Gerard Gripp Richardson also known as The Hip Hop Jib Op is a professional jib operator, music producer, and entrepreneur based in Columbia, South Carolina.

PROFESSIONAL JIB OPERATOR

Having a bio of 3 successful Winter Olympics, 2 successful live streams from The Pyramids of Egypt, 1 Emmy Award, 5 Grammy nominations, 1 Gold Ring Award, 1 Bronze Ring Award, and over a decade of experience. Gripp has proven that his love for music is directly connected to his skills as jib operator. *His passion to achieve the best and create a positive productive environment even under pressure is what makes him special.*



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