

Alberta's Young Innovators

Petrol Films

Making film equipment affordable and easily transportable

Making independent films can be a challenging endeavor, but a Calgary-based entrepreneur hopes to make it easier with a new line of high-end film equipment that's compact and easy to transport.

Dave Milan, a recent graduate of SAIT's Film and Video Production Program, has worked on a number of film productions that have allowed him to scrutinize current film equipment and its functionality. He's combined this knowledge with his experience as a hobby mechanic to create portable film gear and cameras called the Indie 500 Line.

"Items like a dolly, jib arm and camera mounts are usually only available to productions with higher budgets," said Milan. "The main idea for the Indie500 line is to create film equipment that produces a high quality cinematic product but is compact in size and leaves a small footprint on transport vehicles."

One of Milan's other product ideas is an independent grip truck, much like those used on large production films. The truck would be smaller in size but still equipped with the movie-making essentials – something not currently not available in the film industry.

Although the Indie500 gear is currently in the pre-commercialization stage of development, Milan hopes he will be able to finalize his equipment in the near future so they can be rented or purchased by film makers.



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