

Options for Body-Worn Camera Placement: A Tool for Mount Locations

Several different mount configurations are available for body-worn cameras (BWCs). These mounts can be used with a wide variety of uniforms to hold the camera to officers' or deputies' shirts, patrol vests, hats, or jackets. The red dots on the uniform below correspond to different locations you may choose to mount your BWCs, with benefits and limitations of each location detailed in the following pages.

This resource is designed to help you determine the best mount location for your law enforcement or correctional agency. This information is based on our team's observations and feedback from subject matter experts. Some options may not be readily available from many vendors; keep in mind that other mounting options are available, but these are the most common.

Policy should specify the location(s) on the body on which cameras should or can be worn and how they will be secured to the officer. Remember that cameras can be moved or dislodged during hands-on encounters, depending on mounting attachment.

Mounting considerations

- Activation/dexterity
- Clear field of view
- Climate
- Clothing worn
- Comfort
- Ease of use
- Field of vision
- Gun/shooting side
- Functionality
- Manufacturer- recommended body placement
- Officer preference
- Recording environment (daylight/nightlight, inside/outside)
- Susceptibility to damage
- Susceptibility to loss
- Other equipment on officers

Test on officers of different types and builds (height, weight) in various situations and scenarios to assess the quality of footage that is captured.

Consider procuring extra mounts so that you have spares. Also consider whether all officers will use the same mount or whether they will be given options to choose from.



Additional resources on mounting options

- [BWCs and Mounting Considerations](#)
- [The Science Behind Where Police Should Place Their Body Cameras](#)
- [Head, Shoulders, Chest : Does Mounting Location Affect Visibility of Key Information in Police Bodyworn-Camera Footage?](#)
- [One Size Doesn't Fit All: The Deployment of Police Body-Worn Cameras to Specialty Units](#)

Mounting attachments

- Magnet
- Wing clip
- Sewn in
- MOLLE mount
- Glue
- Twist/screw
- Pocket
- Clip (wing, alligator, pocket)
- Customized attachment

Resources on camera vantage point

- [Seth Stoughton, Expert Commentary: Understanding the Practical Aspects of Interpreting Video Footage](#)
- [10 Limitations of Body Cameras](#)

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HAT/HELMET MOUNT

Often preferred for or used by:

- Mounted (horse) patrol
- SWAT

BENEFITS

- More closely captures the Officer's point of view
- Moves with the officer's attention
- Image not obstructed when weapons drawn

LIMITATIONS

- Not all officers wear helmets or hats
- May become dislodged or wires disconnected
- May not have the stability of other mounting options (jostled videos)
- Battery may need to be mounted on the body and connected via a wire to the camera
- Need to be careful with equipment when transporting helmet
- Can become dislodged or pointed in the wrong direction from regular movements, seat belts, running, etc.
- May be difficult to affix permanently

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HEAD MOUNT

Usually located on glasses and may be located on ears

Often preferred or used by patrol officers

BENEFITS:

- Records what the officer is seeing most closely
- Moves with the officer's attention
- Image not obstructed when weapons drawn

LIMITATIONS:

- Officers cannot always wear sunglasses, such as at night or indoors
- May become dislodged or wires disconnected
- May not have the stability of other mounting options (jostled videos)
- Battery may need to be mounted on the body and connected via a wire to the camera
- May be difficult to affix permanently



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SHOULDER/EPAULET/ COLLAR MOUNT

Often preferred or used by

- Patrol officers

BENEFITS:

- Typically captures events at eye level, similar to the officer's view

LIMITATIONS:

- For very tall officers, collar view may only capture the tops of people's heads
- View can be obstructed if an officer raises their arms
- Cameras can become dislodged when using a rifle or a long-range gun
- Can become pointed in the wrong direction from seat belts or normal movements

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CHEST MOUNT

Often preferred or used by

- Patrol officers

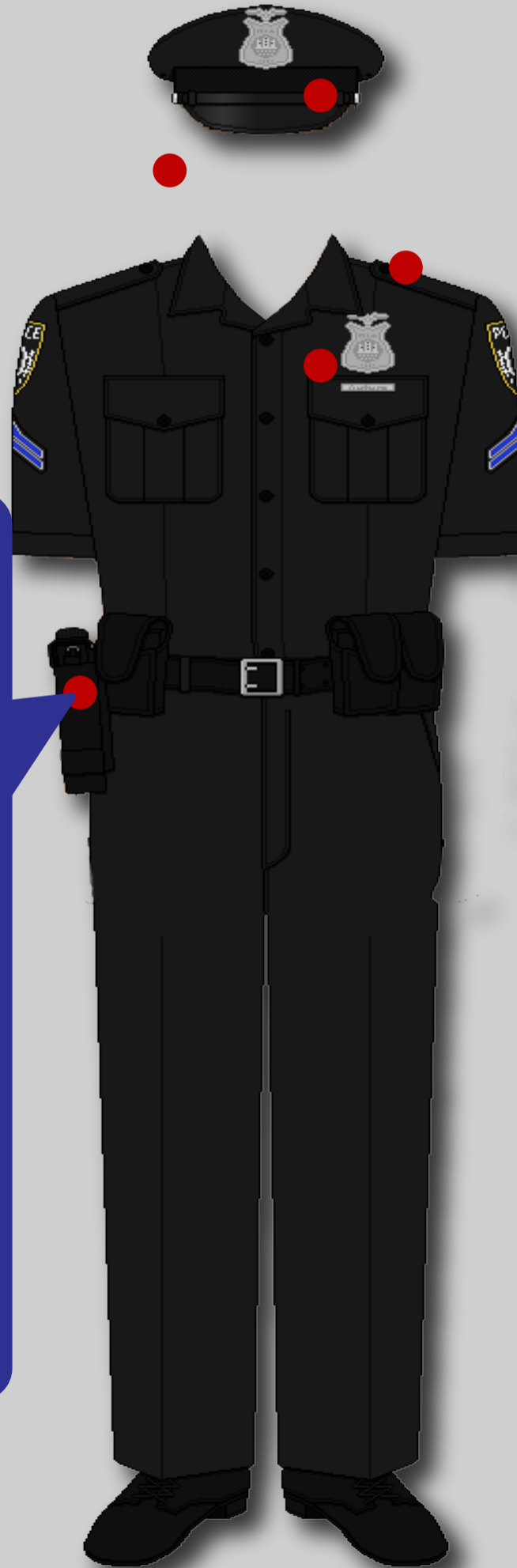
BENEFITS

- Most common type of mount
- Generally provides good view of most encounters

LIMITATIONS

- View may become obstructed when an officer pulls out a firearm or other weapon
- Rifle would be pointed in opposite direction of camera view
- View can be obscured and audio can be muffled during a hands-on encounter

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SHOOTING SIDE MOUNT

Some agencies require officers to chest mount their BWCs on the shooting side of their body to provide a clear view during shooting incidents.

BENEFITS:

- Generally allows for good view during critical incidents

LIMITATIONS:

- Camera may face away from subject depending on how officer's body is turned when drawing their firearm