

# MYKIT

Professional photographers reveal their top six tools of the trade they couldn't shoot without

“ I'm a travelling filmmaker with no real fixed location, this means that space and weight is a huge issue for me ”

## Aaron Fiora

Filmmaker and photographer Aaron Fiora travels all over the world so has to travel light – find out what he simply won't leave home without

**shoot cinematic style and location films for businesses and my own projects, as well as photographs.** I'm a travelling filmmaker with no real fixed location. This means that space and weight is a huge issue for me, so I need to carefully choose only essential equipment to take with me.

I shoot on a Canon 6D and use the Canon EF 16-35mm f/4L IS USM and Canon EF 24-105mm f/4L IS USM lenses for my video work. I also use these for my photography, in addition to a 'nifty fifty' – the

Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 STM – which I use a lot for photos due to its bokeh quality.

To carry these precious items, I have a Samsonite Tectonic PFT 17in backpack. It's just the right size for carry-on and can fit most of my gear, including my tripod. I absolutely love it and got it for a bargain price in the Las Vegas outlet malls about three years ago. It's very close to perfect; I just wish it had bigger drink-bottle holders and a waist strap, as carrying camera gear for a long period of time can get heavy.

I also couldn't be without my laptop. Any filmmaker or photographer needs a computer to edit. I use a Toshiba Satellite Pro, which is a few years old and due for an upgrade soon. Another item stowed away in my backpack is a GoPro Hero 3. I don't use it often but it comes in very handy for anything around water. I have a flotation device that makes it super-easy to use for surfing films or underwater shots. It's also good for time-lapse as you can set it up inconspicuously just about anywhere, and forget it! 📷

### WHAT DO I DO?



**I'M AN** Australian digital nomad with my own freelance media business. I produce films, work as a photographer and build websites for clients around the world. I'm also a trained actor and take on performing jobs when I can get them, but most of the time I make location films for businesses and some video blogs on YouTube. I occasionally use these skills to make offers to businesses in destinations that I want to visit, then come to mutually beneficial arrangements with them.

[www.recalmedia.com](http://www.recalmedia.com)

IN AARON'S BAG



**01**  
**Canon EOS 6D**  
WEB: [www.canon.co.uk](http://www.canon.co.uk)

**AS A** filmmaker this is my bread and butter! I started out on a 60D (which actually has some features I wish were on the 6D, like the tilt-flip LCD screen), but decided to upgrade for the full-frame capabilities. The 6D is an amazing camera for the price and performs really well in just about any condition. The battery life is really decent, too.

**02**  
**Canon EF 16-35mm f/4L IS USM**  
WEB: [www.canon.co.uk](http://www.canon.co.uk)

**I LOVE** wide-angle, and use it extensively in all my film work, as well as photography. I originally had the Canon EF 17-40mm f/4L IS USM, but since I shoot a lot of video, I found image stabilization to be an absolute must, unless you are doing 100 per cent tripod work. It's a beautiful lens, with super-solid build quality. In my opinion, it's the best option for full-frame Canon wide-angle video.

**03**  
**Canon EF 24-105mm f/4L IS USM**  
WEB: [www.canon.co.uk](http://www.canon.co.uk)

**SINCE** I am limited on space and weight, I needed to get a lens to pair with the 16-35mm, one which also had image stabilization for video. It was a toss-up between this and the Canon EF 24-70mm f/4L IS USM, but eventually I went for the larger-ranged option. If you could get only one lens for filming video on a full-frame Canon camera, I would suggest this one.

**04**  
**Manfrotto Compact Advanced Aluminium Tripod**  
WEB: [www.manfrotto.co.uk](http://www.manfrotto.co.uk)

**THIS** is exactly what I need in a travel tripod for the following reasons: it's light (3.1lb), folds up small (17.3in), has multiple handles for smooth video panning, and it's very fast to set up and pack back down. It was also cheap, which means I don't have to be too precious with it, I can put it in my checked luggage and worry less about it being thrown around.

**05**  
**Rode VideoMic Pro shotgun microphone**  
WEB: [www.rote.com](http://www.rote.com)

**THIS** is probably the most widely used DSLR shotgun mic for professional video blogs, and for good reason – the quality is excellent. Since I can't bring a bunch of audio equipment on the road with me, this is my favourite option for capturing good quality sound with my Canon 6D. It takes only a couple of seconds to mount into the camera hotshoe and it's ready to go – just don't forget to turn it on!

**06**  
**DJI Phantom 4 Quadcopter Drone**  
WEB: [www.dji.com](http://www.dji.com)

**THE** newest addition to my kit certainly makes travelling a bit more difficult, but it's totally worth it! The video footage from this drone is absolutely stunning and it's incredibly easy to use (it even shoots 4K and slow-motion 1080p). What I thought may just be a bit of a novelty item has very quickly become a staple piece of my kit. It's quick to set up, and has a range of camera settings so I can pair it with my 6D footage easily.