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Skateboarding Like a Pro, Or Just Looking Like One

Dude, Tony Hawk wants to skateboard with you — virtually, that is. With the new Tony Hawk Helmet-Cam digital camera strapped on, weekend athletes can record their own daring trips down the road or on the piste, and then intercut the images with stock video of the professional skateboarder's daredevil feats that is included with the product.

The \$100 helmet camera, now shipping from Digital Blue (playdigitalblue.com), records up to 40 minutes of imagery and sound on its 32-megabyte flash memory card. To cut down on file size, the movies are recorded at half the frame rate of regular TV, making them a little jerkier than, say, watching the Tour de France.

To make sure the camera is shooting a rider's path rather than the sky, a laser beam points to what the lens is about to record, and then automatically shuts off once the camera starts running. Now, a rocket-speed trip down the street can be relived endlessly, and even shared with the boardless. **ERIC A. TAUB**