

## DIY Video Shopping Checklist

**Tripods** – Tripods are essential for securing stable video footage. We recommend that you try to find a tripod with *65+ inches of overall height*; if you get a shorter one it can make filming tall people a bit of a hassle. You can always lower the taller tripod. Finding a tripod with a built-in or included phone mount is preferred, but you can always purchase one separately if your tripod of choice doesn't include one. If you can find a tripod with a Bluetooth remote included, that is ideal for starting and filming videos solo. If you can find a tripod with a *swivel head* or *pan head*, those features often come in handy as well, as they will allow you to mount your camera and/or phone and use the knobs and swivel bar on the tripod to pan and adjust your shot, rather than having to move the entire tripod.

### Here are some recommended tripods:

[Fugetek Bluetooth Tripod and Selfie Stick](#) – This is one of the tripods we had at ATLS and use often at conferences, as it's cheap and easy to travel with. It functions as a tripod and also a selfie stick for many different uses. It only gets up to 51" tall, but that's tall enough for most people and still works in most settings. On the flip side, it collapses down easily and is very light and travel friendly, works great for shortening and putting on a desk, and also works great for walking and filming like you could with a selfie stick. It includes a phone mount and a Bluetooth remote so you can start your recordings remotely, while you're already in place and ready to shoot. Overall, this is a great little Bluetooth tripod to have for traveling or for your desk, all for under \$25.

[MFW Bluetooth Selfie Stick and Tripod](#) – I've never used this one, but it looks like a competitor to the Fugetek and gets a little bit taller at 59", as opposed to 51" for the Fugetek. The tradeoff is that this looks more like a selfie stick that functions as a tripod as well, as opposed to the other way around for the Fugetek. But it markets itself as being a steady tripod, gets a little bit taller, and includes a phone mount and Bluetooth remote as well.

[Regetek 70" Monopod Tripod](#) – Sturdy and tall standard tripod for a great deal. Goes up to 70" to make sure tall people look good on camera and has a sturdy base with gripping rubber feet. Much sturdier overall and especially preferred if you're planning on using a DSLR or prosumer video camera. Includes a nice carrying case, a phone mount, and a pan head with tilt bar. Does not include a Bluetooth remote, but you can purchase one of those separately.

[UBeesize Mini Mobile Bluetooth Tripod](#) – Mini mobile tripod (10") for use on a table or desk. Includes Bluetooth remote and phone mount.

**Lights** – If you're filming outside on a sunny day, you most likely won't need any lights (just make sure there's no glare or any light on your face, or that the sunlight isn't washing out your shot). However, if it's a gloomy day or you're in a shadowy area or you're filming inside, you will most likely need some LED lights to brighten up your shot, warm up the image, and ensure you don't have

any shadows on your face.

**Here are some recommended light sources:**

[Neewer Ring Light Kit with Tripod](#) – This is the kit we showed off and filmed the interviews with at ATLS. Awesome lighting kit for the price (on sale right now for only \$80) with a powerful yet dimmable LED ring light going around the mount, where you can easily mount a phone or DSLR camera. It also includes a nice and sturdy 61” tripod with phone mount, Bluetooth remote, swivel head, and carrying case, so you can get your lighting kit and tripod all in one.

[UBeesize Mini Selfie Ring Light with Tripod](#) – A smaller, cheaper desktop version of the Neewer Kit above, including phone mount, phone holder, and Bluetooth remote.

[Samtian LED Lighting Kit with Tripods](#) – A set of two high-powered dimmable LED lights with full-size tripods with swivel heads.

[Emart Table Top LED Lighting Kit](#) – A set of two high-powered dimmable table top LED lights with mini tripods – great for filming at your desk.

[Mini Selfie Ring Light](#) – Clips right onto your smartphone around the camera – cheap, portable, and easy, but not very powerful.

**Microphones** – If you’re just going to be sitting and filming at your desk, you may be able to get away with your phone’s built-in microphone. But if you plan on filming outside, at a conference or in another public space, you will definitely need to connect an external microphone. In most cases, we recommend using mobile lavalier mics like we used at ATLS, but it all depends on what you’re trying to accomplish.

**Mics to consider:**

[PowerDeWise Mobile Lavalier Lapel Microphone](#) – Plugs directly into your smartphone headphone jack (will need Apple headphone adaptor if you have a newer iPhone) and clips right onto your shirt or lapel. Best for picking up a voice directly, especially in a public/loud space. This one is specifically designed to work with smartphones and while it is only 59”, it includes a 79” extension cord as well as a carrying case.

[Maono Lavalier Lapel Microphone](#) – Same function as the one above, but this one works with both smartphones as well as DSLR and video cameras – so if you plan to film with anything other than a smartphone, you will need this one. At 236”, it is super long and no extension cord is needed.

[Movo Omni-Directional Microphone](#) – Plugs in via your headphone jack just like the lavalier mics, but rather than sit with the person, the high-powered directional mic sits with the phone and picks up the sound from whatever direction it is facing. It pretty much functions as an upgrade to your phone’s built-in microphone and works well for recording multiple people, as long as the setting isn’t too noisy.

[Zoom H1N Portable Digital Audio Recorder](#) – Portable digital audio recorder with built-in mixer for high-quality recordings of anything and everything, similar to our H4N we showed off and used at ATLS. Easy to set up directionally on a tripod or use handheld. This bundle even includes a lavalier mic that works with mobile as well as DSLR and video cameras. Has a great built-in mic or you can plug other mics and audio recording devices into it and use it as a mixer. Handy device to have on hand for all kinds of recordings, and can work well for recording audio for videos, especially with multiple people on camera. However, the audio will be recorded separately from the video and you'd need to match the Zoom audio up to your video in your video editing software.

[Blue Snowball USB Microphone](#) – Versatile and high-powered 360° microphone that plugs directly into your computer (but does not work with smartphones). Also works well with the Mevo camera discussed below. Great for recording higher quality audio for videos directly into your computer, as well as video meetings, webinars, podcasts, video chat interviews, roundtables, and more.

[Rode Microphones](#) – This Rode Procaster XLR bundle is the version we showed off at ATLS and it's a superb microphone for podcasts, webinars, computer video recordings, etc., but it may not be the best choice of Rode microphone for most of the ATLS attendees since most people can't use XLR input. If you're looking to record or input audio directly into your computer, you will want the [Rode NTUSB microphone](#), which is versatile, studio-quality, and includes a mini tripod and full-size boom arm great for recording or outputting audio right from your desk (podcasts, webinars, video meetings and recordings). Another option there is the [USB version of the Procaster](#). If you want to plug directly into your phone or a DSLR camera to record audio for a video, you'll want something like the [Rode VideoMic Boom Kit](#), which includes a high-powered directional mic on a tripod with a boom arm, so you can plug your microphone into your phone or camera, place the directional mic behind or above the camera out of shot, and then capture higher quality audio for your video without having to mic anyone up. This is perhaps the best directional mic of the ones previewed here, and great for picking up multiple people and all kinds of events.

### **Other Devices, Accessories and Software:**

[CamKix Mobile Bluetooth Remote](#) – If the tripod you get doesn't already include one, get one of these in order to start filming remotely.

[Vastar Smartphone Tripod Mount and Adapter](#) – If the tripod you get doesn't already include one, get one of these in order to mount your phone to your tripod.

[SoundPEATS Wireless Earbud Bluetooth Headphones](#) – Connect these to your smartphone for audio playback and sound check. Bluetooth so you don't have to plug them into your headphone jack, which will probably be occupied with a mic.

[Movo Headphone Jack Extension Cable](#) – A 20-ft. extension cable for your mobile lavalier mics – more than enough length to stand at a distance from the camera.

[UGreen Headphone Jack Splitter Cable](#) – A splitter cable so you can plug two lavalier mics into one input – necessary if you want to have two people mic'd up on camera like we did during the ATLS interviews.

[DJI Osmo Mobile 2 Smartphone Gimbal Stabilizer](#) – A gimbal designed for capturing stable footage on the go. Even while moving, it captures steady footage while easily zooming and panning. It can also screw right into most tripods and function as your phone mount, so you can easily attach it to the tripod for stationary filming and take it off the tripod while filming on the go. This package includes a mobile lavalier mic and a mini selfie ring light!

[Mevo Live Event/Livestream Camera with Mini Tripod](#) – The Mevo camera is a minimal, sleek, wide frame camera that can inconspicuously sit at the back of a room while you control what's being filmed right from your smartphone. It has a very wide shot and can capture a whole wide room, but also has a powerful zoom. After syncing it to your phone, you can see what's being filmed right on your phone, with the ability to cut to different shots, pan, zoom, and essentially play director. You can record while also live-streaming to any social media or video platform at the same time. This is great for inconspicuously recording or live-streaming conference sessions and panels, video blogs or other videos at your desk, roundtables, interviews, and so much more. [This bundle here](#) includes a full-size tripod, a carrying case, and the Mevo Boost, which is an attachment that provides 10+ hours of additional battery life. The only downside is the Mevo's built-in mic isn't very good, so you will most likely need to connect an external USB mic like the Blue Snowball or Rode NTUSB.

[iMovie](#) – Free and user-friendly video software that comes stocked on all Macs. Easy to learn and use to quickly produce your videos. If you don't have a Mac, [here's an article](#) listing some of the best free video editing software (for PC) of 2019.

[Vimeo](#) - Once the videos are filmed and produced, you want to host them on *something better than YouTube*. We like Vimeo but Wistia is also popular. Both offer more customization as to colors, text, design, links, embedding, creating channels, portfolios, etc. YouTube will also work but with less customization; the upside to less customization is lots more traffic on YouTube so your views might be higher. Why not upload to both? And make sure to share your video(s) on your website, on your social media pages, in your email marketing, and in a news release if possible.