

▶ Ready to Fly (Estes Oracle)

▶ Pros:

- Easy and quick start-up
- Mostly pre-assembled
- Relatively affordable
- No file conversion required



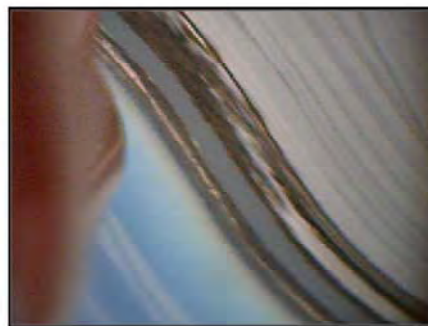
Video Rocketry

▶ Cons:

- 30 second (or so) time limit
 - No audio
 - Must download video after each flight
 - 10-15 FPS performance limit
 - Requires computer and software
 - Fixed angle of view (straight down)
 - Poor fast motion performance
- example of motion blur >>



Screen Capture



Bottom Line:

If you want to get in the game at an affordable price point, are not picky about quality and want to see video in a few hours after opening the package - then this may be the option for you. The new Astrovision may offer better quality when it is released this fall.

1899 ASTROVISION™ \$74.99
 Take fantastic digital movies from liftoff to landing! Switch modes and take digital photos from over 300 feet high. Save the movies and photos to your laptop or PC with the included software and USB cable. (Engines not included - sold separately)
SPECS:
Length: 19 in. (48.3 cm); **Dia.:** 1.35 in. (34.3 mm)
WT: 3.4 oz. (96 g); **Recovery:** 12 in. (30 cm) Parachute
Fins: Plastic molded
Max. Altitude: 300 ft. (91 m)
Camera: 640 X 480 pixels, 72 dpi
 Requires Windows-based computer with CD-ROM and USB port. Uses one AAA alkaline battery - sold separately.

There's a new kit in town (this fall)

▶ Downlink (Boostervision)

▶ Pros:

- Better quality (380 TV lines)
- Audio available
- 30 FPS
- Good motion performance (shutter speed)
- Extended recording time (limited by tape)
- Record multiple flights
- Flexible build options (up or sideways)
- Good results with D and E motors



Rocketry

▶ Cons:

- Typically more expensive than RTF
- "Some assembly required"
- Difficult operation with one person
- Range limited by x-mitter power
- Separate receiver and recorder needed
- Must invest in upgraded antenna
- Must convert file from source for computer use (e-mail)



Screen Capture



A cloud of cellulose wadding as it ejects

Bottom Line:

If you want better video quality with audio, have a little more money, and don't mind the extra work of mounting the camera into your favorite rocket and building the receiving system, then a "down link" system provides a high performance to price ratio.

Everything Else

Pros:

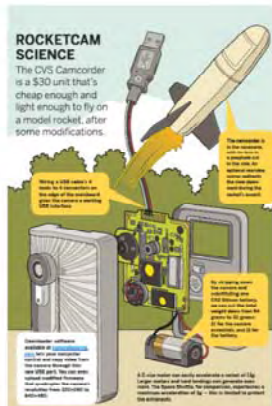
- Best quality potential
- Flexible build options (up, down, sideways, both)
- Audio available
- Extended recording time (depending on device)
- Record multiple flights
- Can be REALLY inexpensive



Rocketry

Cons:

- Can be REALLY expensive
- Quality will vary depending on system
- Hacking a system may yeild dissapointing results
- Assembly can be challenging and time consuming
- Downlink can suffer from interference



Bottom Line:

Whether you want to take the time to craft a custom video system by hacking a \$30 CVS video camcorder, or want to pack an HD system inside an HPR, you are only limited by your imagination and pocketbook

