











UP-FRONT OPTIONS

10 STANDOUT MATTE BOX AND ACCESSORY PICKS FOR YOUR CAMCORDER.

	ITEM/ CONTACT	COMPANY	MSRP	WHAT IT IS & WHAT IT DOES
	Zwing Away	sZacuto	\$395	Hinged matte box mount. The Zwing Away attaches to matte box rails to allow the matte box to swing out of the way when not needed. This was one of those cool products at NAB 2009 that our editors just couldn't resist, and neither should you. It works with any matte box and any 15mm rail.
	www.zacuto.com			
	Mini Baseplate	Zacuto	\$430	Compact mount. Those folks at Zacuto never stop amazing us with their innovations. Solidly built and worth the price tag, the original Zacuto baseplate supports matte boxes and, with options, supports about anything else you'd want on the rear of your camera. The Mini Baseplate, designed for DSLRs as well as small and mid-sized camcorders, is far more suitable for smaller cameras than the original, larger plate, and we applaud Zacuto on recognizing the needs of this market segment.
	www.zacuto.com			
	4x4 Two-Stage Matte Box	Petroff	\$1,399 (kit)	A two-stage setup. I profess a personal preference for the Petroff matte boxes. The combination aluminum and hard-plastic construction is lightweight and can be used without rails. (Although I would never use a matte box without rails, it can be done.) Add a stage or remove a stage or even reconfigure the flags. The Petroff requires no tools. Also available as a 4.5"x5" and 5"x5". Zacuto has even produced a "universal donut" that can fit any camera's lens.
	www.petroff.ws			
	Wide-Angle Matte Box	Genus	\$795	Lightweight with two stages. The Genus matte box might be priced lower than competitors, but it is nonetheless a complete and sturdy option. One stage is permanently fixed, while the second rotates. Genus is currently offering a trade-in program for users migrating from its earlier product to this new wide-angle version.
	www.genustech.tv			
	805-RED	Chrosziel	TBA	RED-ready solution. Just announced at NAB 2009, the 840-R2 is part of a series of products designed for the RED One, the 805-RED was re-engineered from earlier Chrosziel products. It features a swing-away design for easy lens changes and two-stage rotating filters with support for filters up to 5"x5". Options include flags, side wings and baseplate.
	www.chrosziel.com			
	450-02	Chrosziel	From \$1,649	Two-stage matte box designed specifically for smaller cameras such as HVX200, HPX150/170 or EX1. Choose mount and kit appropriate for your camera and add the filters of your choice. Chrosziel is an industry standard, and this newly introduced product has just the right weight, balance and mounting capabilities for the new generation of small cameras.
	www.chrosziel.com			
	MB Series	Cavision	From \$699	One-stage option for your camera model. Cavision has long produced economical products that are durable and highly configurable. Add a mounting system or a follow focus. Accepts 4"x4" or 4"x5.65" filters. Includes rail system. A great buy.
	www.cavision.com			
	Wide-Angle Clamp-On Kit	Century (Schneider Optics)	From \$1,695	Clamp-on two-stage matte box. Designed for smaller cameras, this one has been around for a while and is tried and true. Includes two adapters to fit just about any lens diameter. Suitable for smaller DV/HDV/HD cameras.
	www.schneideroptics.com/century			
	FM600	Formatt	\$349	Two-stage filter holder. Here's a bargain product for those needing the light-control and filter-holding capabilities of a matte box but don't want to spend a fortune. Features one fixed and one rotating stage. It's not a Petroff or Chrosziel, but it costs more than \$1,000 less and will do the job. Formatt also produces a great line of glass filters.
	www.formatt.co.uk			
	MMB-1	ARRI	\$3,500 (includes follow focus)	Designed for Sony PMW-EX3 but works with any mid-size HD camera. While also available as just a matte box, we include this kit as an example of a fully decked-out rig. Follow-focus attachments are available from all of the higher-end manufacturers. ARRI matte box products range from units for smaller cameras all the way to large production 35mm (and greater) film cams.
	www.arri.com			