

# REVIEWS

## INNOVATION

### » INNOVV K1 VIDEO SYSTEM

Motorcyclists are documenting rides on video, whether to obtain objective legal evidence or share their latest explorations with friends. In response, the aftermarket is heating up with more choices, including helmet cams, integrated communication cameras, rearview cams and more. Innovv's K1 system differentiates itself with "set it and forget it" HD operation, discrete permanent mounting and a low price.

The K1 kit includes a DVR control module with integrated 2.7-inch LCD display, 2-megapixel CMOS front and rear HD cameras, a GPS unit, a remote control button with LED indicator, harnesses for connection to onboard 12VDC power and audio-video equipment, various brackets, and adhesive type mounts and pads.

The front and rear facing cameras are packaged in separate aluminum housings each measuring a near-square 1.4 x 1.2 x 1.2 inches, with multiple 1/4-20 mounting holes for ease of placement. Plenty of cable and clear lens protector caps are included. The GPS module measures 1.3 x 2 inches and attaches via adhesive. The remote control button is 1.1 inches in diameter and also attaches via adhesive.

Wiring the various components together is straightforward, as everything is clearly labeled. The DVR has marked inputs on its left side for the front and rear camera inputs, the GPS, and input power, where the corresponding cables plug right in. You need to supply your own microSD card, keeping in mind that the two cameras generate 189MB per minute of data, so high write and transfer speeds are mandatory. We used Samsung's 64GB EVO+ Class 10 SDXC card with no issue, available for under \$30 online.

An included G-Sensor can be set to



The K1 video recording system by Innovv includes two cameras, one for front mount (left) and one for rear (right). The DVR control module is not waterproof and must be mounted in a weather-protected part of the bike, which may be inconvenient.

automatically activate and lock files for evidence in an accident. A parking mode can be set to keep recording for 30 minutes after the bike shuts off using the DVR's internal 1100mAh battery, for verification of tampering or theft.

Once the motorcycle starts, the K1 starts recording. The rider doesn't have to remember to turn anything on, shut anything off, or otherwise do anything at all.

The video quality from the two cameras is good, encompassing 140-degree, wide-angle coverage front and back. (Youtube is full of such footage in both day and night modes, for interested readers.) The remote control button allows the rider to protect files from overwriting, or to stop and start recording. The LED in the middle of the remote control button continually glows a faint red to indicate "OK" status.

Pulling data from the microSD card is easy via the included Registrator View app (which works on Windows PCs,) and from there it's only minutes away from being broadcast to the world, saved on other media, or otherwise utilized as necessary. Indeed, for \$265.00 MSRP, the K1 represents an absolutely amazing value in terms of all the hardware that's included in the kit, as well as overall usefulness for dash cam type monitoring, casual ride recording, and even teaching applications.

The only fly in the ointment is that the DVR control module is

not waterproof. Since everything is controlled by this electronic brain, not having it in a constantly accessible and visible location is a major ergonomic hassle. In our install, the 2.7-inch LCD screen was hidden under the seat. A shame, since it provides a variety of useful views (camera 1, camera 2, or split-screen) when mounted outside, in the rider's field of view. Instead, we relied mainly on the audible alerts to learn system status, which isn't always effective, depending on ambient noise conditions.

Further, on three occasions over our six-month testing regimen, the DVR overheated and froze—not surprising, since it lives under the seat with virtually no ventilation, surrounded by other heat-generating components. This may or may not be addressed on other brands and models of motorcycles, but it's obviously not ideal.

Hopefully the next generation K1 offers higher resolution cameras and a waterproof DVR controller that can be mounted on the dash or handlebars like a conventional GPS. Not only would this vastly improve ergonomics, usability and reliability, it could also be set to display the rear camera, giving the rider a continuous view of traffic behind. These minor improvements would substantially increase the value proposition of this already excellent product for motorcyclists.

—Moshe K. Levy

●●●● InnovvTech Co., [innov.com](http://innov.com)