

# MicroFilmmaker Magazine

Equipment, Book, Training, & Software Reviews



## Equipment Review: *Redrock microMattebox*

Company: Redrock Micro  
 Website: <http://www.redrockmicro.com>  
 Type: Mattebox  
 MSRP: \$635  
 Expected Release: Available Now  
 Sample Footage: [Click Here](#)  
 Review Date: December 1, 2008  
 Reviewed By: A.J. Wedding

**Final Score: 9.5**

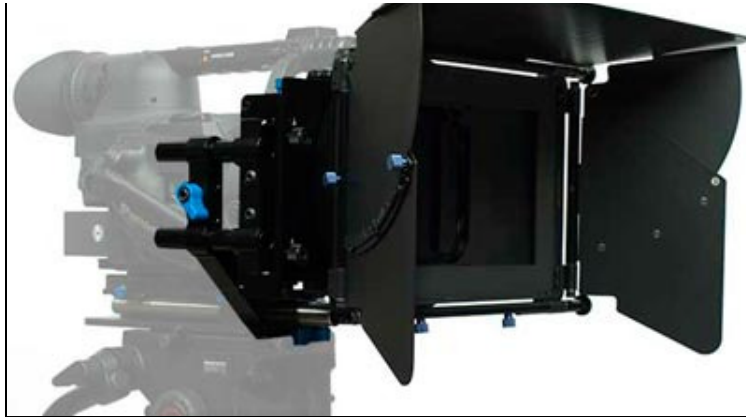
A mattebox is basically an expensive sunshade that can hold glass filters in front of a lens. There are a variety of brands, in a wide variety of quality, at prices that vary from \$300 to \$5000. The rule has always been that if you want a high quality mattebox, you have to pay the price. As usual, Redrock is changing that maxim.



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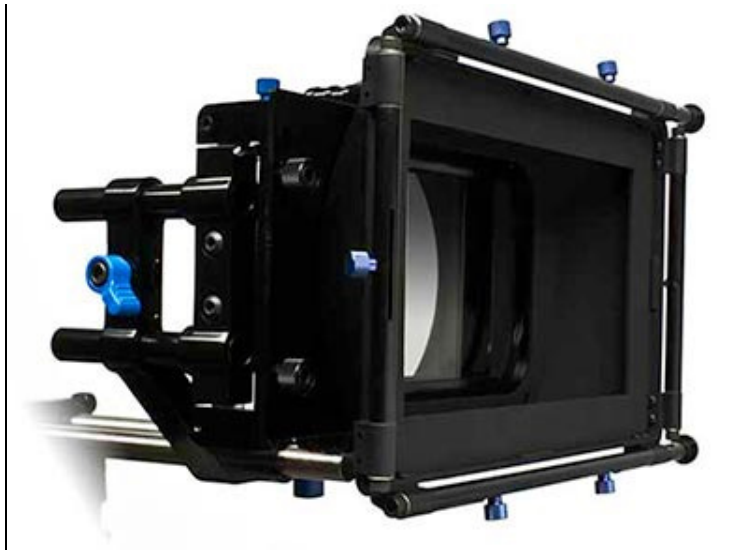


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*French flag and adjustable side flags are made of high impact ABS plastic.*

The microMattebox has arrived to give microbudget filmmakers a high quality, versatile, and easy to use mattebox at a fraction of the price of any competitor with similar features...and it is gorgeous! Moving away from it's practical uses, a good looking mattebox makes your camera look more professional. Nancy Screiber, the D.P. of the award winning film November said that she put the biggest mattebox that would fit on a Panasonic DVX100 while making the film, so that the actors wouldn't think it was a low-class production. Kiefer Sutherland accidentally coined the phrase "The Keifer Test" when he remarked that he needed a big mattebox to act. We are fairly certain that the microMattebox would pass the Kiefer Test with flying colors.



*The microMattebox comes with your choice of blue, red, or gray accents.*

### Ease Of Use

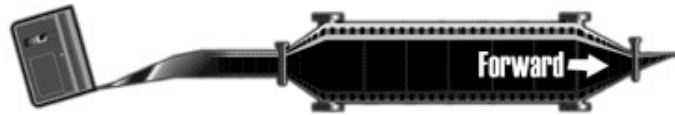
With all the comforts of a much more expensive mattebox, the microMattebox is very easy to use. Inserting and rotating the filter trays can be a pain with any mattebox, but Redrock has come up with a great system that is fully adjustable for the filter position.

Hollywood Camera Work's complete cinematography training helped filmmaker John Moylan win the Adobe/MFM Spec Trailer Contest.

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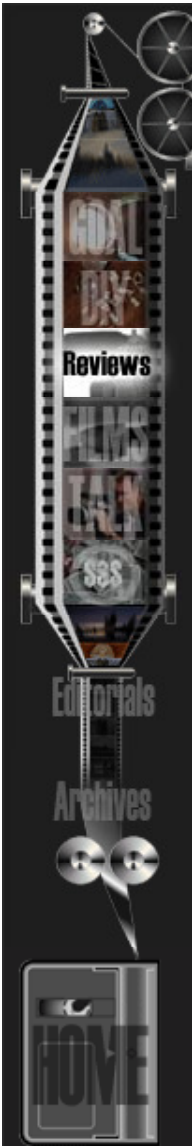
*The layout of the pelican case allows for accessories and 4 filters.*



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## Equipment Review: *microMattebox*, Pg. 2

### Depth Of Options

The microMattebox is compatible with any camera system, and has rod support brackets for both 15mm and 19mm (for the RED or other large format cameras). It has standard 4X4 and 4X5.65 filter trays, which are infinitely stackable to meet your needs, and can rotate a full 360 degrees. One of the upgrades from the original concept is the swing-away arm, that allows easy access to the lens. It's all metal construction (with the exception of the lens shade and lens adapter, which are high impact ABS plastic to keep the weight down.) The microMattebox also comes with your choice of red, blue, or grey accents, and comes in three separate bundles.



*Position screws allow for 360 degree filter tray adjustment.*

### Performance

The most exciting and useful thing about this mattebox is the swing-away arm. It is unheard of in this price range, and a welcome addition, as it allows for quick lens changes and lens cleaning. The interchangeable mattes are very easy to apply, as are the neoprene donuts. The donuts were the only red flag to me when I assembled the mattebox, but it turns out that they work like a charm.

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"Overall, Cinescore is a winner... It's a must-have tool that can take your final product way beyond where the same amount of money can take you in a music library!"

**8.0/10**

-John Howard  
Microfilmmaker Magazine

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*The microMattebox is compatible with both 15mm and 19mm rod supports.*

Having done a successful test of the microMattebox on the HVX200 with Nikon lenses, I decided to try it out on the Red One. It definitely passes the "Kiefer Test" but there are a few issues. The mattebox is incompatible with the Red 18-50mm lens, and many Angenieux zooms as well as Cooke S4s. The inner diameter of the mattebox just isn't large enough. Plus, many of those lenses actually require 6X6 filters. Keep that in mind when deciding on your mattebox. I guess if you are having these problems on these more expensive cameras, you can afford the larger Arri Mattebox, because those are some expensive lenses!

*product way beyond where the same amount of money can take you in a music library!*

**8.0/10**

**-John Howard**  
Microfilmmaker Magazine

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*The locking knob for the swing-away function has been upgraded after consumer suggestions.*

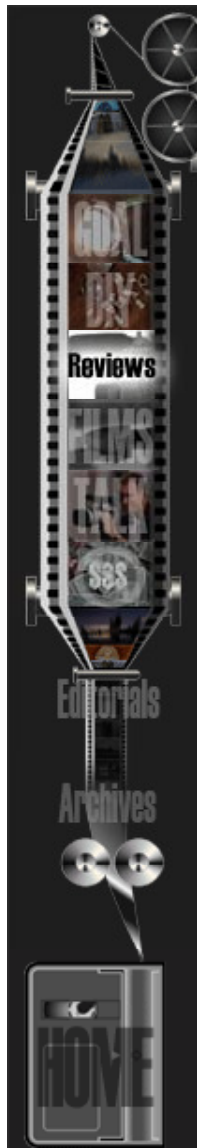


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### Value

This is a category where Redrock always flourishes. They find ways to cut costs without cutting quality, and manage to forgo the famous "film product" tax that seems to hit every piece of production gear that pros use and we drool over. The *microMattebox* is a shining example of Redrock giving microfilmmakers every dollar worth in quality products.



The design also allows for easy vertical adjustment.

### Final Comments

Considering my glowing reviews of products, I've had some people think that I work for Redrock, but this is just not the case. The truth is, most people who have used their products and reveled in the superior image quality that they help to produce will agree that they are a great company for microfilmmakers. Their online forums allow customers to help each other solve tech issues, and give constructive feedback that is addressed by Redrock in product upgrades. The *mattebox* has gone through considerable change from when it was first announced, much of those changes coming from customer feedback.

Breakdown	
Ease of Use	10.0
Depth of Options	10.0
Performance	8.0
Value	10.0
<b>Overall Score</b>	<b>9.5</b>



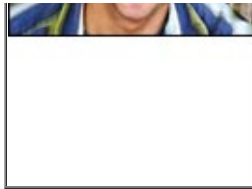
**AJ Wedding** graduated from Western Michigan University in 2000, and headed out to Los Angeles. As an actor, he has played co-starring roles on Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Drake and Josh, and most recently a TV movie, The Fall of Hyperion. As a writer/director, he

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has won awards from the East Lansing Film Festival, Houston Worldfest, and most recently sold a feature called The Disappearance of Jenna Matheson, set to release next year. He currently co-writes and co-stars in the web series Infamous, distributed by 60 Frames Entertainment.



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