

CONDENSED CONVENIENCE

TWO AUDIO ACCESSORIES THAT DEMAND LITTLE BUT DELIVER BIG.

BY CHUCK GLOMAN

K-Tek (a part of M.Klemme Technology Corp.) now offers two amazing accessories to improve your on-the-road audio and take up less space during transport.

The first, the Avalon Traveler KE-79CC, is a six-section, mini boom pole that extends to a length of 79". This lightweight, inexpensive pole (list price \$250) collapses to 20" and weighs a little more than a pound, so it should easily slide into your tripod bag or case for travel.

The KE-79CC features an XLR cable inside the aluminum pole, with the female end extending from the top and the male end at the bottom. The real test to see if the internal cable would get kinked was to allow my students to use it on several shoots.

After more than a dozen separate incidents, not one of them was able to mangle the internal wiring. (This equates to about the same type of punishment I would give it over 12 years of use.) K-Tek calls each connection a "captive collet that has maximum holding power with minimum torque." I just call it functional.

The black finish will receive its share of kicks and scratches, but



each section locks tightly. I don't know if I will ever use my grown-up boom pole again — with location work, I'm rarely further than 6' from my subject. The KE-79CC now has a permanent place in my tripod case.

K-Tek also offers a 6" softy for medium to smaller microphones (like my Sennheiser 416). Named the Fuzzy, this fabric-coated exterior covers a form-fitting, wind-resistant foam inner core. With wind gusts at 30mph, my

Sennheiser was well protected, and I didn't hear any of the wind noise. Acoustically transparent, this covering is also water repellent.

If the medium-sized Fuzzy isn't the right fit, for the same list price of \$110, you have a choice of six sizes. Over the phone, the people at M.Klemme Technology helped me get the right fit for my shotgun. Now, I never leave without having my shotgun microphone covered with a Fuzzy. **DV**

SCORE

AVALON TRAVELER KE-79CC & FUZZY



PROS: KE-79CC's XLR cable is mangle-proof, compact size; Fuzzy is acoustically transparent, various sizes. **CONS:** Limited reach; not cheap. **BOTTOM LINE:** Solid additions to your kit. **MSRP:** \$250; \$110 **CONTACT:** www.ktekboompoles.com