

CobraCrane UltraLite 1UL

CCUL1UL
Installation Guide
2016



CobraCrane UltraLite 1UL Installation Guide

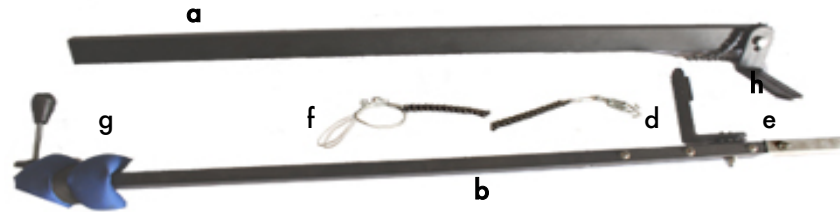
The CobraCrane UltraLite 1 should include:

- 1 Camera Tip tube**
- 1 Tripod Base tube**
- 1 Middle Tube**
- 1 cable chain system (both 8 and 12 foot)**

CobraCrane1 UL Installation Guide



The CobraCrane UltraLite should include:



- (a) 4 foot Aluminum tube Chassis
- (b) 4 foot Aluminum tube Camera tube
- (c) not shown 4 foot Extension (cc112 only)
- (d) Tripod bracket
- (e) Thumb screws, installed
- (f) Wire rope w/ chain
- (g) Weight bolt Handle
- (h) Camera bracket
- (i) Ankle weight

Setup instructions



- (1) **Step 1- Mount your Release Plate onto the CobraCrane - Figure 1**
The CobraCrane requires the release plate from your tripod head to mount the crane to your tripod. The tripod bracket (1d) has multiple locations where most quick mount plates can be attached. Mount your plate in any two of the holes in the tripod bracket. Whenever possible use as many of the larger 3/8" holes. This simply assures a better connection between the release plate and the CobraCrane. When replacing make sure the release is mounted so that the crane will slide onto your tripod with the thumb screw holes on the top.



Step 2 - Connect Tubes - Figure 2, 3, 4

There are three 4 foot tubes. Remove all thumb screws (1e) from the holes of the extension adapter. Do not remove the round head screws.

Slide the extension onto the adapter. Install the thumb screws.



- (3) Slide the Camera tube onto the middle chassis. Re install the thumb screws. If the holes do not immediately line up, you can loosen the round head bolts. Once they are loosened, you can line up the holes and then tighten all the thumb screws first, then tighten the round head screws, making sure the two tube ends come together square. Securely tighten both round heads and thumb screws now. Do not over-tighten.



(4)

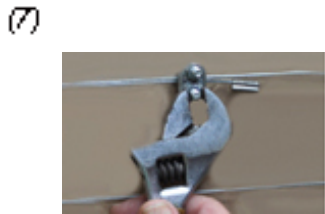


Step 3 - Attach Chain Cable assembly - Figure 5, 6, 7

Position the Tripod Bracket in upside down "L" as shown in figure 5, and the camera bracket in "L" position like figure 6.

Attach chain so that the middle of the chain goes around the sprocket on both brackets.

When tightening the cable. Open the turnbuckles most of the way. Do not let them come apart. When the chain is on the sprocket, tighten the cable at the cable clamp first, then use the turnbuckle to do micro adjustment.



To loosen, tighten or reposition the wire clamp, loosen the clamp, pull the wire cable, then retighten the screw.



Step 4 - Mount on Tripod - Figure 8

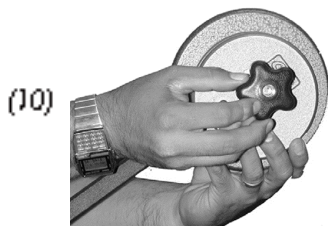
From behind the tripod, slowly slide the release plate into head. Tighten.



Step 5 - Mount Camera - Figure 9

Mount your camera to the camera bracket (1h) with the provided 1/4" camera screw. You can mount the camera in the other holes if you like. You can also position the camera 90° off center to get a portrait orientation. When you do this you can set the camera bracket and chain so the camera bracket is tilted when the tripod bracket is. This way you do not have to hold the tilt forward the whole time you are shooting

Set this end of the crane onto a nearby chair or table.



Step 6- Mount Weights - Figure 10

Add the weights to the rear bolt, (1c) until the camera raises up off the table. Push the sliding weight (1i) until the CobraCrane is perfectly balanced. Use the washer and starnut to hold weights safely. Run the star knob against the weights to lock them on. Finally, replace the weight handle (1g) on the bolt, so you can boom the crane with the handle.

CobraCrane 1 UltraLite Trouble Shooting

The CobraCrane mounted okay the last time, now it will not fit.

Rotate the tripod mounting bracket one half a revolution. The holes at the end of the crane should be on the top of the bars when horizontal.

The Camera no longer matches the same tilt angle as my tripod head.

Loosen up the turnbuckle just a few turns. Realign by locking head and rotating at the camera end. You will be physically rotating the camera bracket with your hand. The pulley slips easily if it is not tight. When the camera and head are "in sync", start tightening the turnbuckle a little, plucking the wire like a guitar string while tightening. Do not over tighten. The sound of the wire should not be too low or too high (about the same as a guitars lowest string). If it keeps slipping it is too loose.

I changed battery or microphone and now the crane moves down on its own.

Add some small weights to the weight stack on the back or pull the weight belt back towards the weight bracket. Whenever you add anything (or remove an accessory) you are changing the weight of the camera, thus the counterweight must be changed. Keep a supply of 1.25, 2.5 and 5lb weights or purchase one of our CobraCrane Weight Bags. This will allow you to be able to balance your crane wherever you are. You never want to be out on a shoot and not have the right amount of weight. We always keep the weight bag around so we can always add some rocks, or bolts or anything else. This way we always prepared for big and small batteries and anything else thrown our way.



Optional CobraCrane Weight bag

My Craned shots do not look impressive or dramatic.

Utilize foreground objects to your advantage. Place the Crane in the middle of an open area without any foreground objects in view of the camera lens. Props or people need to be close to you. It also helps to have depth in your scene with foreground, middle ground, and background items. Study classic films for more ideas.

Note: RELEASE PLATE MUST BE SECURE. When using the stock 501 or 503 sliding plate, this big crane relies on that little release plate for the connection. We like to add a 3/8" bolt to the bottom of your 501 or 503 fluid head. When inserted, this forces the release plate up and pins it against the angled holders on the 501 or 503 fluid head. This adds additional support. We always use this extra bolt. We do not want the crane to slip out of the fluid head and ruin our cameras. Be careful.

Have more questions? Contact us directly at info@steadytracker.com or call our cel at 949 510-7249. See the last page for more contact information.

Using the CobraCrane

Still shooting - Photos

For shooting still photos, we recommend you purchase a remote monitor and shutter controller for your camera. Most CobraCrane dealers also offer remote controls for focus and shutter release. We offer a 6 or 12 foot extension cable for those purchasing wired remote controls. An optional monitor is an excellent method for remote framing of your stills before releasing the shutter. Without the remote, you will have to press your shutter button manually, which may be a challenge when the camera is at the high end of the crane's arc, plus it will cause the crane to move. Either way, Change from viewfinder to Live View so you can see the image either on your camera's LCD or on the optional external monitor. Once the desired framing is set, simply press the shutter release on the remote control to expose.

Shooting video

There are three basic moves of the CobraCrane when shooting video with your camera. These moves done in combination will meet virtually any shooting requirement. The moves are Boom, Swing and Tilt. A boom is when you change the elevation of the camera. This is done to offer shots that show vertical up and down movement. A swing, which happens when you move the crane left to right or right to left, is done to show a panoramic landscape or following talent as they move by the crane. Finally a tilt is done to tilt the camera relative to the boom.



Booming

To boom the crane, stand behind or to the side and simply lift the weight bar to lower the camera. Lower the weight bar to increase the height of the camera. If your tripod's tilt is locked or you hold the tilt handle stationary while booming, the camera will remain framed on the subject depending on how far away from the focal point the camera is. To keep exactly framed, hold the tilt handle and make minor adjustments as you are booming the crane. This move will allow you to show talent from various height perspectives. With the tilt free, so that the camera tilts with the boom, you can boom the crane and camera moves with the boom.

Some Boom moves to practice.

Boom from high to low. Station the crane so that the camera is in a high position.

Slowly raise the weight bar as you hold the tilt handle stationary. This will allow you to keep the talent in frame.

Boom from low to high. Station the crane so that the camera is in a low position.

Slowly lower the weight bar as you hold the tilt handle stationary. This will allow you to keep the talent in frame.

Boom from high to low. Station the crane so that the camera is in a high position.

Loosen drag on tilt to least drag, so that it tilts with the boom movement. Raise weight bar slowly, allowing you to see talent head to toe.

Boom from low to high. Station the crane so that the camera is in a low position.

Loosen drag on tilt to least drag, so that it tilts with the boom movement. Lower weight bar slowly, allowing you to see talent toe to head.

Boom with low perspective

Station the crane so that the camera is in a low position

Showing how big someone is
slowly, keeping camera tilted up

Position camera very close to talents legs, Tilt camera, pointing up lower the weight bar

Station the crane so that the camera is in a high position.

See a coin, pick it up

Set camera angle for almost straight ahead,

Tilt camera down framing coin in center of camera

Slowly raise the weight bar, keeping the coin in center of the frame

Swinging

A Swing move is used to get a Panoramic shot, ideal for an opening or title sequence. Also used to follow talent as they go by. Swinging the CobraCrane is very simple. Loosen the Panning drag on your tripod, and then simply move the weight bar left to right, or right to left. Here are some swinging moves to practice:



Panoramic Swing	Station Crane so that the arms are parallel to the ground
Swing right to left	(or left to right). Initially point camera all the way to end of the image
Dogs point of view	Boom the camera low. Tilt camera up. Now perform swing move
Periscope	Boom the camera high. Tilt camera down, slowly swing crane

NOTE: Be careful of hitting the tripod with the weights or end of crane. Practice!!

Slider Move

Set camera out of frame to the left or right of the subject. Lock tripod head tilt, loosen pan. Very slowly swing the crane bringing subject into frame and then continue until subject drops back out of frame. Slow and steady. Practice this shot shooting names on signs.

Tilting: Dynamic Tilting



Tilting the camera relative to the Boom offers some interesting shots. Usually used in combination with other moves, Tilting can also be used on its own. Loosen the tilt drag on your tripod head. To tilt the camera, hold the weight bar in one hand and tilt the Pan/tilt handle on the tripod with the other hand. This allows you to change the tilt without changing the boom.



like a face, then Slowly tilt down, showing the rest of the body

Shoot from above Station the crane so that the arms are parallel to the ground. While holding the weight bar, push the pan/tilt handle up, this will tilt the camera down. This move allows you to shoot something

Tilt up from below Station the crane so that the camera is low to ground pointing forward. While holding the weight bar, push the pan/tilt handle down. This will tilt the camera up. This move allows you to shoot something like a shoe, then slowly tilt up, showing the rest of the body. Ideal for showing how big something is, like a tree.

Tilting straight down Position crane about 45 degree angle. Point camera down. This allows you to get shots from above. For example, looking in the moon roof of a car. Showing food or products from above shooting straight down. This is one of the best methods to get the top down shot of a wedding cake.

Tilting: Static Tilting Used to keep camera pointed at the subject (or in any angle), while booming the crane. Lock down the Tilt Drag control by tightening down the tilt drag control of the Tripod. Now Boom. While the drag is locked down, the camera will stay pointed in the same direction, throughout the arc of the Boom.



Practice makes perfect. Use a combination of these moves to create beautiful cinematic content of your own. Watch cool movies and TV shows to see how some of the experts do these moves and then adjust to your liking.

Have fun – and be creative.

The SteadyTracker Company Orange County, California

www.CobraCrane.com

The SteadyTracker is shipped from the factory in the most appropriate packaging available. Please inspect the contents of the package and make sure to call or email us directly if there is any shipping damage or missing components. We can be reached at 949-510-7249. Our email is info@steadytracker.com. Please store all original containers. The SteadyTracker Company will not take responsibility for any products shipped to us without original shipping material. Please make sure to keep the packaging safe for future use.

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