

ProAm USA

Camera Supports for Creative Filmmaking

TAURUS JR™



ProAmUSA.com - 1-864-845-1144 - sales@proamusa.com

IMPORTANT - Crane Safety

READ BEFORE BEGINNING OPERATION OF CRANE

The Camera Crane, also known as a Boom or Jib, can be a very effective tool for video production. However, it must always be operated in a safe and cautious manner. Before bringing the crane into a live, production setting, familiarize yourself with its operation and features.

Securely mount the crane to a stable support. The tripod or stand should be stable and not at risk of collapsing due to the weight of the crane with camera and sufficient counterweight attached. Be sure the support is rated by the manufacturer to hold up to this amount of weight. Once mounted to a stable support, the crane will be front heavy. Allow the front of the crane to rest on the floor or ground.

The tripod or stand must be in a vertical position or it may not be able to support the crane properly. If you attach the crane to a tripod head, the head's tilt joint must be securely locked so that it does not come loose and fall forward or backward during use.

Attach the camera before attaching counterweight. The camera must not exceed the weight limit of the crane.

Determine the appropriate counterweight necessary to balance the camera. The correct amount of weight will bring the crane with camera mounted into a perfectly horizontal position. Always use counterweights or the crane will not be balanced properly and will lead to hazardous operating conditions. Failure of the system due to insufficient or excess counterweight may lead to harm of equipment, operator, crew and/or bystanders.

Use common barbell style plate weights with 1" interior diameter. Add the counterweight one plate at a time until the correct amount is attached. Place heavier plates first and lighter plates last.

Once the crane is properly balanced, it will be heavy, but pan and tilt effortlessly. If you have to assert a great amount of force to move the crane in any way, it is not properly setup. Continuing to operate it this way can result in injury and/or damage to equipment.

Never push or pull the crane so that the tripod or stand support moves out of its upright, vertical position. Doing so could bring the entire system out of balance.

Never leave the crane system unattended. Always maintain control of its movements.

Do not operate the crane in a crowded area where people may stray into the path of the crane's movements or beneath the crane. (see Fig.1) Always be observant and aware of your surroundings. Allow plenty of room for the crane to move so that it does not strike people or objects in its path. We recommend cordoning off the area of operation with brightly colored cones and/or easily visible caution tape. (Fig. 2)

The bolts on the crane can be periodically tightened if friction is lost. They can also be tightened to increase friction if a desired position is sought to remain still.

Figure 1: Be aware of your surroundings.

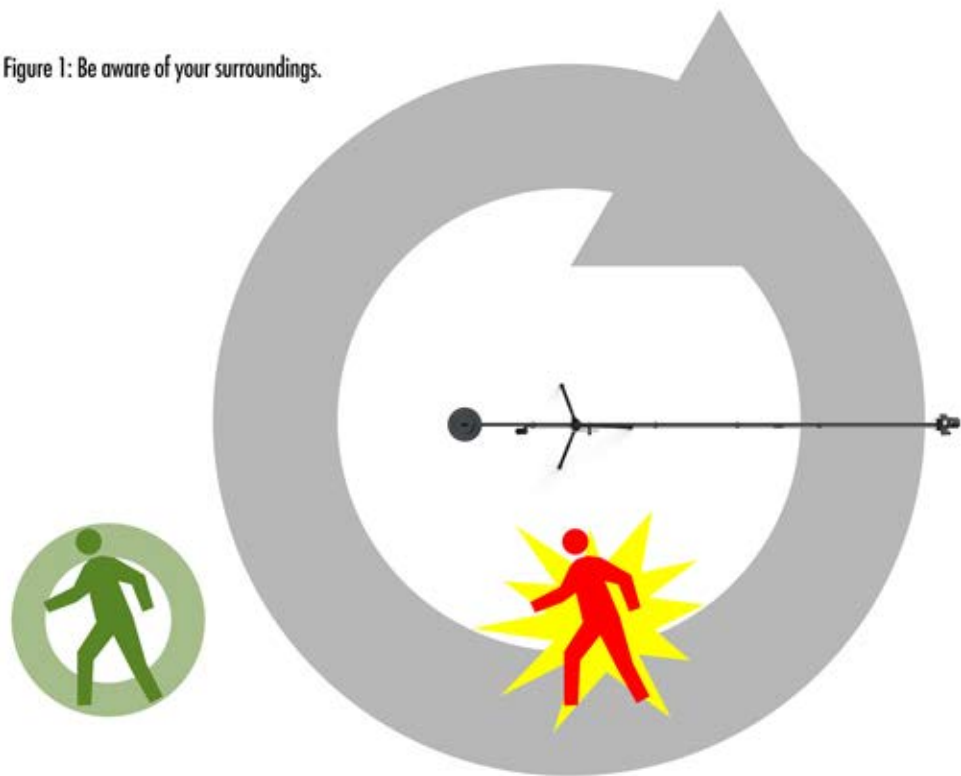


Figure 2: Mark danger zone with cones or tape to prevent others from entering the path of the crane.

Parts Inventory

The Taurus Jr. will arrive as shown below.



- A - Taurus Jr. Camera Crane
- B - Extension Plate - attach when using long body cameras
- C - Counterweight Bar
- D - Counterweight Bar Clamps (2)

Optional Items

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Items listed below are optional accessories. Ask your dealer to purchase.

Carrying/Storage Solutions



Crane Supports



LCD Monitors



Fine Tuning Weights



Dollies



See your Dealer
for a full list
of accessories!

Assembly

STEP 1 Mount to support

To attach the Taurus Jr to a tripod, simply thread on the bearing mount that is installed on your crane to the 3/8"-16 threaded screw on the top plate of the tripod legs. Turn the bearing mount in a clockwise direction until it is tight and secure.



1B Using crane stand

With the stand mount attached to the crane, set it on top of the stand's main shaft. Tighten the knob (A). To adjust the height of stand, loosen knob (B), raise shaft, and insert the pin that is attached to the knob into the selected holes of the shaft.



STEP 1 Attaching the Extension Plate

Attaching the Extension Plate is a simple process. Remove the screws from the plate and align the holes where you removed the screws from with the outer holes on the corners of the overslung camera mount. From underneath the camera mount screw in the screws until tight. The end of the screws should be flush with the top of the Extension Plate as shown below.



STEP 2 Mounting the Camera

At this point, your crane will be front heavy. Allow the front of the crane to rest in the downward position. Use the 1/4" - 20 screw provided to attach the camera to the camera mount.



Assembly

STEP 5 Mounting the counterweights

After the camera is attached, it is safe to add counterweights to bring the crane into balance. First, attach the horizontal bar that your weights will attach too.



Counterweights must be added to balance the crane. Operating the crane without counterweight is dangerous and not recommended. The necessary amount of counterweight depends on the weight of the camera and the length of the crane. Use standard plate weights with a 1" center.



Add the larger weights first followed by smaller weights. When the proper amount of counterweight has been added, the crane will rest in a horizontal position. Motion will be smooth and effortless. Once the crane is balanced, secure the weights by adding the clamps to the outside as shown above.

Braking the Pan

The Taurus Jr. gives you the ability to brake the panning action of the crane. A thumb screw is located atop the bearing mount inside the support bracket as shown below. To brake the panning, turn the screw in a clockwise position until tightened. Be sure to loosen the screw by turning it counter clockwise before attempting to pan again.



Braking the Tilt

To brake the Taurus Jr. in a tilted position locate the brake knob located on the right side of the crane and turn clockwise until tightened. Be sure to loosen the brake before attempting to tilt into a different position.



Monitor Mounting Bracket

To attach the bracket that holds your monitor, remove the wing nut from the L-side of the bracket and attach the bracket to the left side of the crane using the provided threaded screw.



Warranty

ProAm USA offers the original purchaser of this crane, a lifetime warranty against defects in material and workmanship under normal use and service. Limited to replacing or repairing, at ProAm USA's option, products or parts determined by ProAm USA to be defective. Proof of purchase required for service.