

BALLHEADS

Leofoto Ballhead Operation and Care

A tripod head is the piece of equipment most vital to composition and operating it correctly makes all the difference in the world.

Tension adjustment

What to Do

Adjusting your tripod head to the ideal amount of tension is the key to comfortable composing. The goal is for the head to provide a little bit of resistance so that you can make adjustments without bearing the brunt of the camera's weight. If set correctly, you should also be able to loosen and lock the main knob with an easy rotation.

*No tension adjustment on LH-30, LH-25

What not to do

The biggest sin is wanting to set it so that it can hold the camera firmly, but still move at the same time - these are two opposing goals and puts serious wear and tear on the ball mechanism. The ball and cup are both coated in special low-friction materials and if you do this, you'll be wearing out those materials and your head's grip will fade over time.

Using the tension adjustment knob to loosen and lock the head is the 2nd biggest sin. Modern ballheads have a geared main knob, which makes it easier for the user to firmly lock their camera in place. The main knob's locking mechanism is also designed to handle years of being tightened and loosened, whereas the tension-adjustment knob is a much smaller mechanism. If you use the smaller knob to loosen and lock the head, something is bound to go wrong.

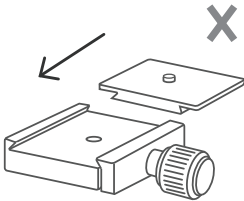


Mounting the camera in the clamp

The clamp tightening screw should always be behind the camera - at the front it is not easy to access.

What not to do

Most people assume that the camera (on its plate) should be slid into the clamp from the side, but the arca-swiss system is not designed to be used that way. Most arca-swiss clamps have a safety pin to prevent the camera plate from sliding out - conversely, this pin will make it difficult to slide the camera in. It also requires a very fine alignment of the clamp and plate at an angle you cannot see.



What to do

The plate should be inserted into the clamp from the back, at a slightly downward angle, so that the male part of the plate is successfully mounted in the corresponding female part of the clamp. Then simply rest the camera down on the clamp and tighten the screw. All this requires opening the clamp up very wide - the main reason users try to insert the clamp from the side is they are too lazy to open up the clamp properly. Don't let laziness cause serious damage to your camera.

