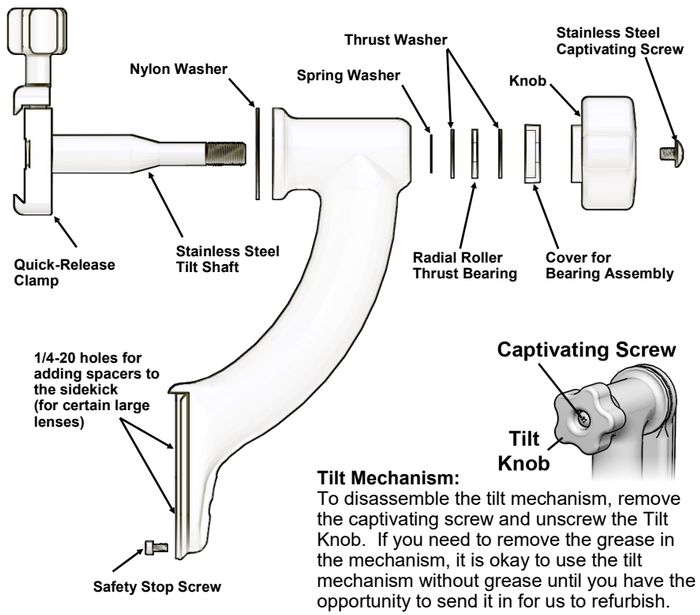
MAINTENANCE & TROUBLESHOOTING:

The Sidekick has been designed and constructed to handle many maintenance free years in the field.
There should be no need for any routine maintenance.

If your Sidekick has been exposed to a large amount of salt water, sand or grit it can be easily disassembled and rinsed. If you need to disassemble the tilt mechanism refer to the drawing to the right



IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUR SIDEKICK:

Few things are likely to go wrong with the Sidekick. However, if the Sidekick is in need of repair, we ask that you return the Sidekick to us for inspection and service. (International customers should contact the dealer who sold you the Sidekick).

If you need a Sidekick for a trip or shoot while yours is being repaired, let us know and we can send you one on loan. If the Sidekick is faulty, we will fix it free of cost. If the problem arises from extreme use, abuse or accident, we will repair the Sidekick for a reasonable fee.

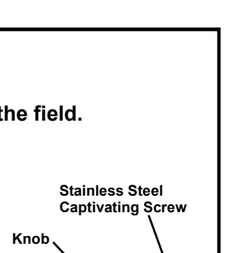
EMERGENCY REPAIRS:

We discourage you from disassembling this unit without direct instruction from us. Any damage to the sidekick resulting from disassembly will not be covered by warranty. In special cases It may not feasible to send the unit in for repair and you may wish to attempt to fix a problem yourself. If you choose this route however you do so at your own risk. Field repairs should be followed up with a proper repair from us as soon as possible.

Tilt Mechanism:
To disassemble the tilt mechanism, remove the captivating screw and unscrew the Tilt Knob. If you need to remove the grease in the mechanism, it is okay to use the tilt mechanism without grease until you have the opportunity to send it in for us to refurbish.

USEFUL ACCESSORIES:

Sidekick Flash Bracket - F-6:
We offer a convenient telephoto flash bracket that attaches directly to the lens plate and makes telephoto flash a breeze. The bracket uses a quick-release attachment, so it is very fast and easy to install. It also breaks-down and folds for easy storage. Refer to our product catalog or website for details



F-6 Flash Bracket

Tripod Levelers:
Unless the top of the tripod is level, the horizon does not stay true as you pan. This is not a problem for most users who leave the rotation collar of their lens loose. Others would like a quick way to level the tripod, especially when shooting panoramic images. We recommend the Gitzo Tripod Leveler for use with compatible Systematic Gitzo tripods (series 3, 4, or 5).

Wimberley Sidekick Pouch - PO-120:
The Wimberley Sidekick Pouch fits the Sidekick. Custom manufactured by LensCoat, the soft neoprene protects the Sidekick from scratches during traveling and in the field. A pull cord closure allows for quick and easy access. Flattens for easy storage. The stress areas are reinforced with cordura nylon.

Sidekick Pouch

Thank You! Your observations and suggestions are welcome. We will continue to refine the Sidekick and instructions in response to customer feedback.

Wimberley, Inc.
1750 Broadway St
Charlottesville, VA
22902 USA
Phone: 1-434-529-8385
Toll Free: 1-888-665-2746 (USA & Canada)
www.tripodhead.com info@tripodhead.com

Made in USA

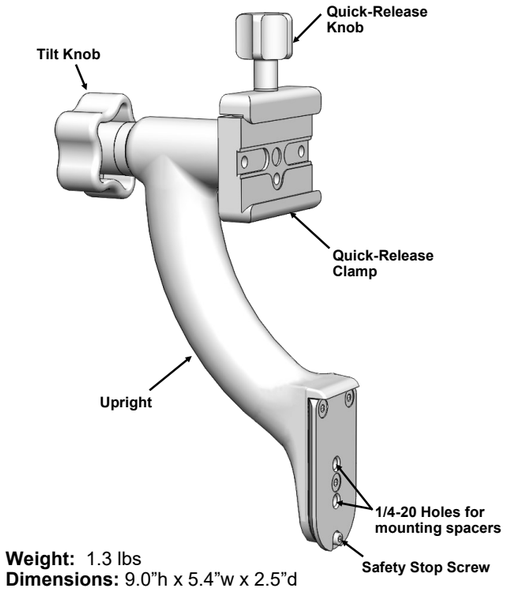
Revised 180430

INSTRUCTIONS: Wimberley Sidekick (SK-100)

wimberley

It is important to read these instructions.

Setting up the sidekick is not difficult, but reading these instructions will allow you to get the most out of the product.

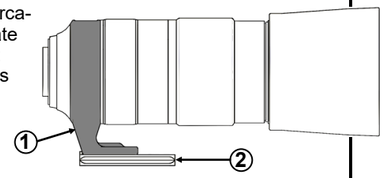


Weight: 1.3 lbs
Dimensions: 9.0”h x 5.4”w x 2.5”d

Lens Prerequisites

① Your lens must have a rotation collar.

② Your lens must have an Arca-Swiss style quick-release plate or a Lens Replacement Foot with an integrated Arca-Swiss style dovetail.



Ballhead Prerequisites - *See Compatibility list at www.tripodhead.com/faqs-ballhead-recommendation.cfm*

③ Your ball head must be able to hold the weight of your lens without creeping or slipping.

④ Your ball head must have an Arca-Swiss style quick-release clamp (e.g. Arca-Swiss, Kirk, Really Right Stuff, Markins, Acratech, Foba, Studio-ball, Promediagear)

⑤ Your ball head must have a panning base with a separate knob that can be locked independently of the ball and socket joint.

SETTING UP THE SIDEKICK

MOUNTING THE SIDEKICK ON A BALL HEAD:

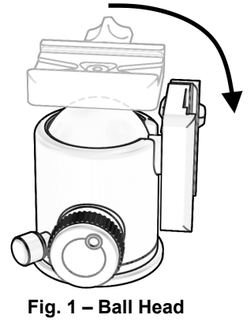


Fig. 1 – Ball Head

Step 1: Drop the ball stem & quick-release clamp into the side notch in the rim of the ball head “cup”. See *Fig. 1.*

Step 2: Align the clamp so that the clamp slot is vertical

Step 3: Set the quick-release clamp into place by locking down the ball using the appropriate knob on the ball head.

Step 4: Open the QR clamp The sidekick has an integrated top stop and an optional lower safety Stop screw. These prevent accidental sliding out of the quick release. If you use the lower stop you must open the jaws of the quick-release clamp wide enough to load your lens from the side (instead of sliding it in). See *Fig 2 and 3*

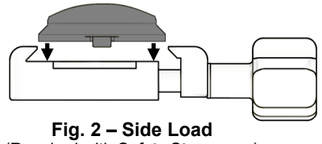


Fig. 2 – Side Load
(Required with Safety Stop screw)

Step 5: Attaching the Sidekick Position the flat side of the Sidekick mounting base against the clamp face (the stop at the top of the Sidekick’s mounting base should seat flush against the top of the clamp) **Clamp it securely**.

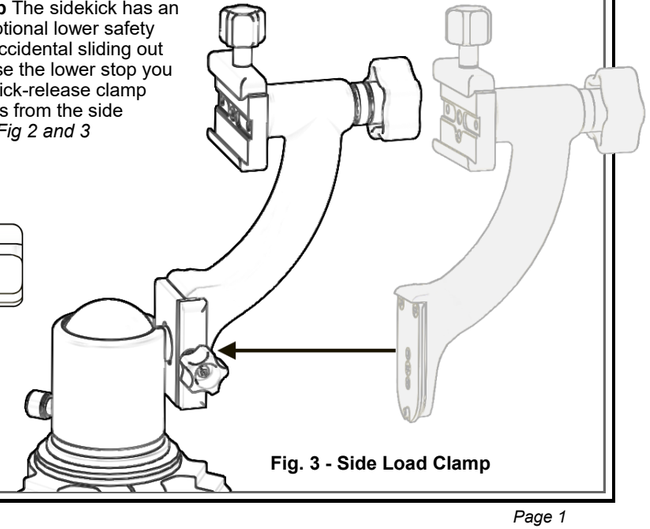


Fig. 3 - Side Load Clamp

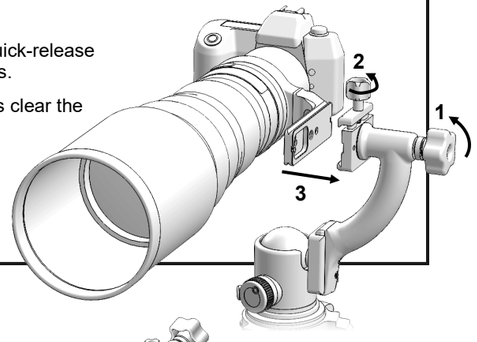
ATTACHING YOUR LENS TO THE SIDEKICK: *See our website for a tutorial video.*

Prerequisite: In order to attach your lens to the Sidekick, it must be fitted with an Arca-Swiss style quick-release plate or foot.

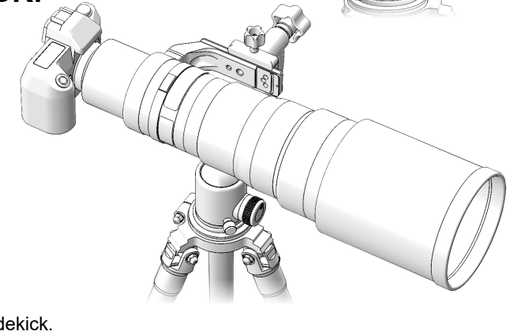
Step 1: **Tighten the tilt knob of the Sidekick** - make sure that the Sidekick's Quick-release clamp is level so that the Sidekick is stable while you are loading your lens.

Step 2: **Open the jaws of the quick-release clamp** wide enough so that the jaws clear the entire width of the QR plate attached to the foot of your lens.

Step 3: While supporting your lens, **insert the quick-release plate on your lens into the jaws of the clamp and tighten the clamp securely**. Make sure the quick-release plate is seated properly and captive in the clamp jaws before letting go of the lens.



BALANCING YOUR LENS ON THE SIDEKICK:

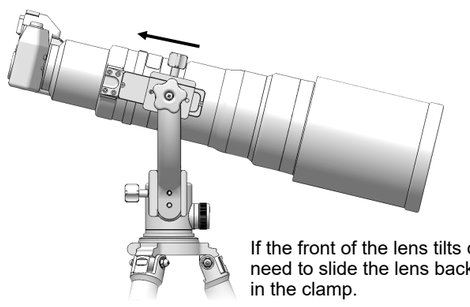


STEP 1: Preparing to Balance:

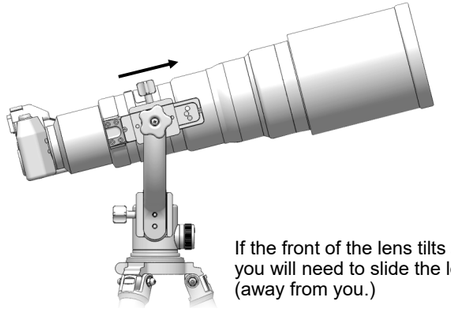
Tighten the Sidekick's tilt knob. Mount your lens (with camera body attached). Stand behind the lens/camera setup and grab the camera body as if you are going to take a picture.

STEP 2: Balance the Horizontal Position of the Lens:

Hold camera body with a relaxed grip and loosen the tilt knob of the Sidekick.
Adjust the horizontal position of the lens forward or backwards depending on how the lens tips (see figures below). You will notice that the lens will want to tilt forward or backward. Don't forget to re-tighten the clamp after each adjustment.



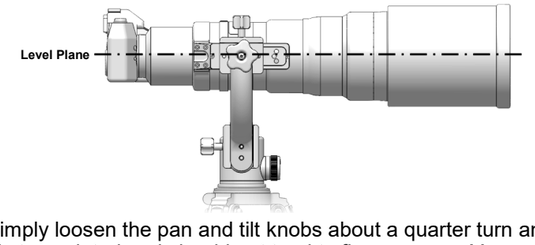
If the front of the lens tilts downward you will need to slide the lens backward (toward you) in the clamp.



If the front of the lens tilts upward, you will need to slide the lens forward (away from you.)

PROPER HORIZONTAL BALANCE:

Adjust the position of the lens in small increments until there is no tendency for it to tip.



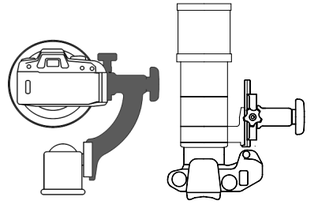
The Sidekick is now ready to use. Simply loosen the pan and tilt knobs about a quarter turn and start shooting. The lens should be very easy to point, should stay pointed and should not tend to flop or creep. You can shoot with the knob loose for fluid motion, or lock-in on a target by tightening the knob.

If you have questions or need help setting it up, please contact us.

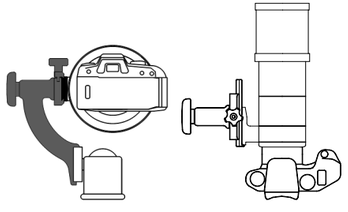
USING SMALL LENSES (OR FOR VERTICAL SHOOTING)

Smaller lenses (e.g. the 300 f/4, 70-200 2.8) are shorter and lighter compared to most pro camera bodies. In order to balance a small lens, the quick release clamp may have to be so close to the camera body that there is not enough room for your fingers.

Some solutions to this problem are using a lighter camera body or mounting the sidekick to the left side of the lens (which allows much more room because of the shape of most cameras)

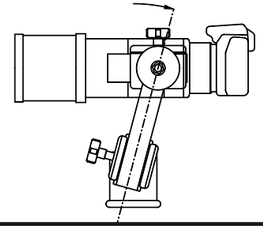


Sidekick on Right

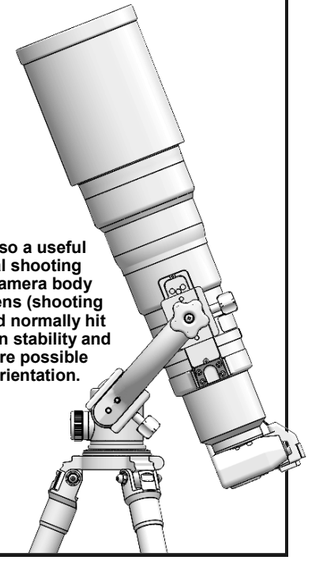


Sidekick on Left

Another option is to tilt or cantilever the sidekick towards you. This is Less ideal as the center of gravity of the lens and sidekick will not be directly over the ballhead and there will be a general loss of stability. In this orientation there is also a possibility for less than smooth panning motion from the ball head due to the off-center loading.



Cantilevering is also a useful method for vertical shooting where either the camera body (shooting up) or lens (shooting downwards) would normally hit the ballhead. Again stability and smooth panning are possible problems in this orientation.



USING LARGE LENSES

The Sidekick will carry the weight of a really big lens, but there are some special considerations needed for safe and problem-free operation. Typically, the bigger the lens, the greater is the distance from the central axis of the lens to the bottom of the tripod mounting foot. The higher the lens profile, the more the lens extends beyond the center of the ball head, which makes the load on the pan mechanism of the ball head more uneven. In extreme cases damage may occur to the ballhead pan mechanism Due to this aspect, we have found that **only a few of the really large lenses work well with just a standard QR lens plate on the Sidekick.**

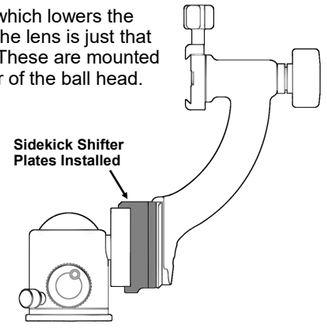
If you have a large lens that needs help balancing, we are here to help. We have an extensive list of lenses and recommended setups on our lens compatibility list. This may be found in our catalog or on our website.

www.tripodhead.com/products/lens-plates-main.cfm

In order to use one of these larger lenses, we will often recommend a replacement foot which lowers the profile of the lens. In some cases, when the tripod mounting foot is not replaceable or if the lens is just that large, we will recommend using Sidekick Shifter Plates (AP-900, AP-901, AP-902 and AP-903). These are mounted in between the ballhead and the sidekick to bring the lens more directly above the center of the ball head.

Tripod Mounting foot

Low-Profile Replacement Foot



Sidekick with Shifter Plates