

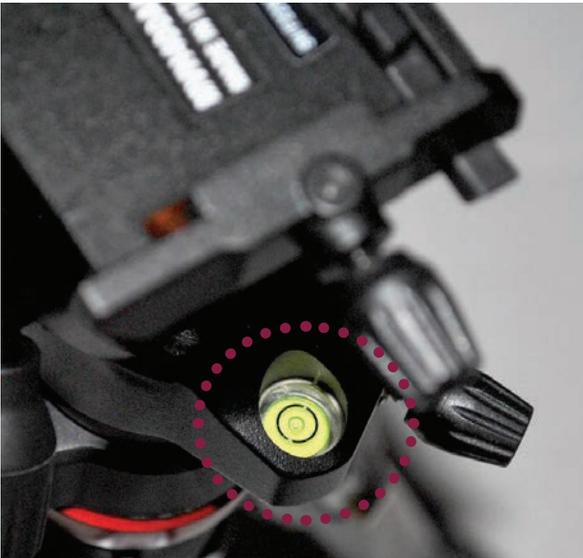
Tripod: Parts and Terminology



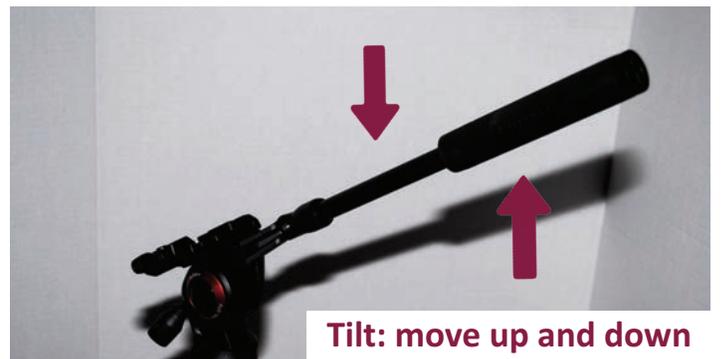
The better quality **tripods** have a **fluid head**, which helps keep shots smooth and steady.



The **tripod head** is kept in place with a **fastener**. Turn it counterclockwise to unlock it. **Level** the **tripod head** using the **bubble balance**, and then turn it clockwise to secure it in place.



Most **tripods** have a **bubble balance** located on the **tripod head**. Once the **tripod legs** are extended to the desired height, and the **tripod** is secure and steady, adjust the **tripod head** so the **bubble** is in the **bullseye**.



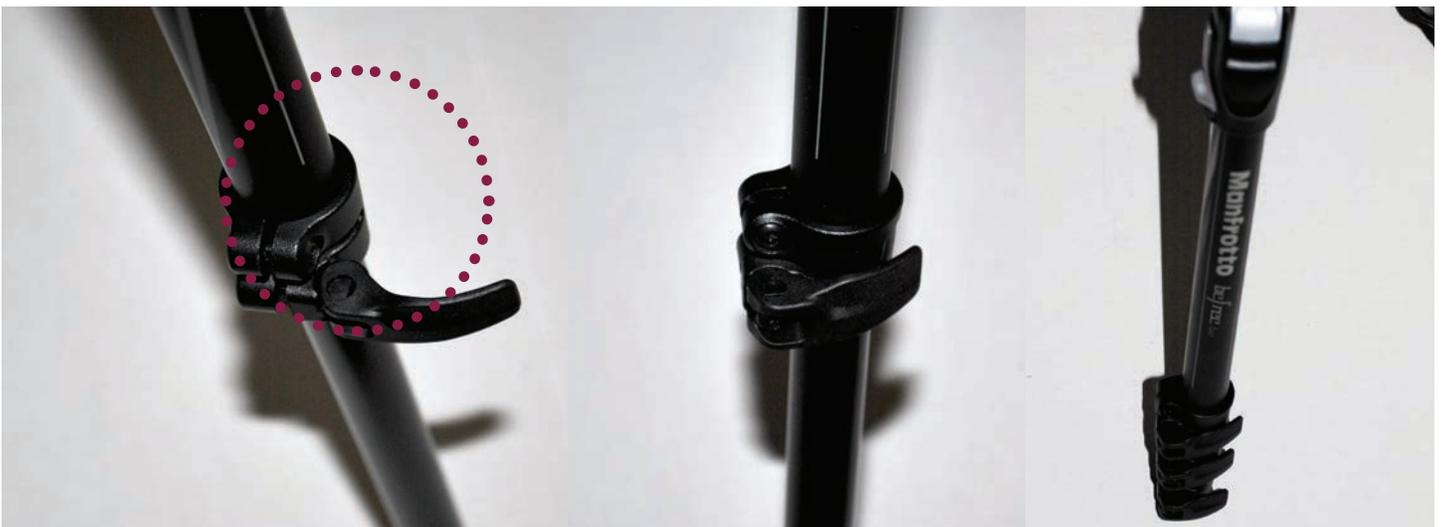
Use the **tripod handle** to pan your video recording device **side to side** or to **tilt it up and down**.



This is the **pan lock knob**, and it secures the side-to-side movement of the **tripod head**.



This is the **tilt lock knob**, and it secures the up-and-down movement of the **tripod head**.



These are the **tripod legs**. Most **tripod legs** extend like a telescope. Adjust the **tripod legs** to various heights by unlocking and locking the **quick-release fasteners**.



The **tripod legs** can also be **angled and spread** for **stabilization**. They can be adjusted for various situations.



Always make sure that the **tripod hinges and legs** are **secure and locked in place** before starting to video tape. Not doing so can cause the **tripod** to fall and damage the recording device. This tripod has a **(silver) side lock** to unlock the **hinges**, so the **tripod legs** can be spread apart to the desired angles.



The **tripod's** height can also be adjusted by sliding the **center pole** up and down. This **center pole** is adjusted by unlocking the **fastener** located at the base of the **tripod legs**. Turn the **fastener** counterclockwise to unlock the **center pole**, and clockwise to lock it to the desired height.



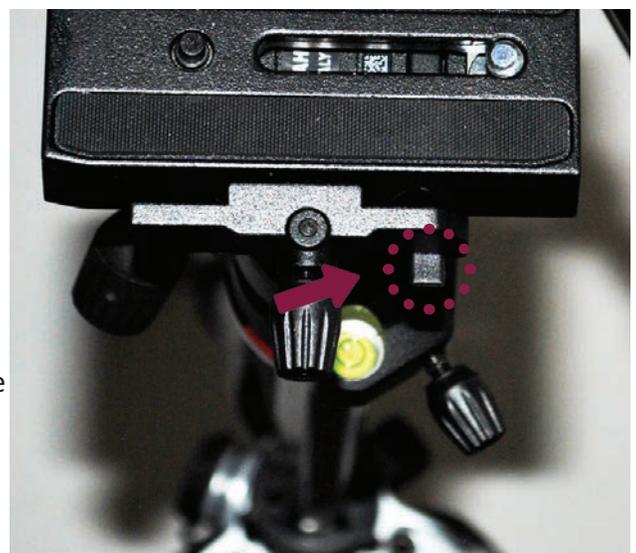
Camera Plate with adjustable screw

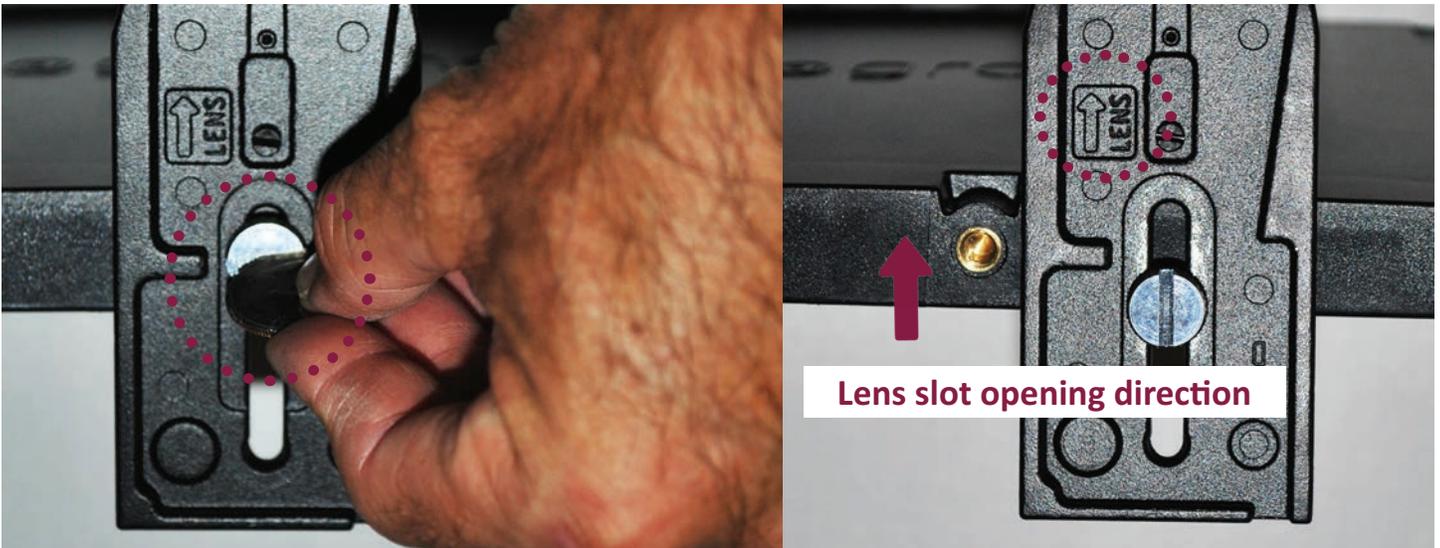
These are tripod head adapters. Smaller tripods usually offer only one camera plate for attaching the camera, tablet, or phone video cage to the tripod head. The most common camera plate is the quick-release plate with a fixed screw. The other type of camera plate has an adjustable screw position that allows for better camera balance.

Push this **pin** inward and hold it with a finger while inserting, while sliding and adjusting, or while removing the **adjustable camera plate**. Once the plate is in the desired position, release the pin and tighten the knob that secures the **camera plate** to the **tripod head**. Make sure to hold on to the device that is connected to the **camera plate** while adjusting its position on the **tripod head**.

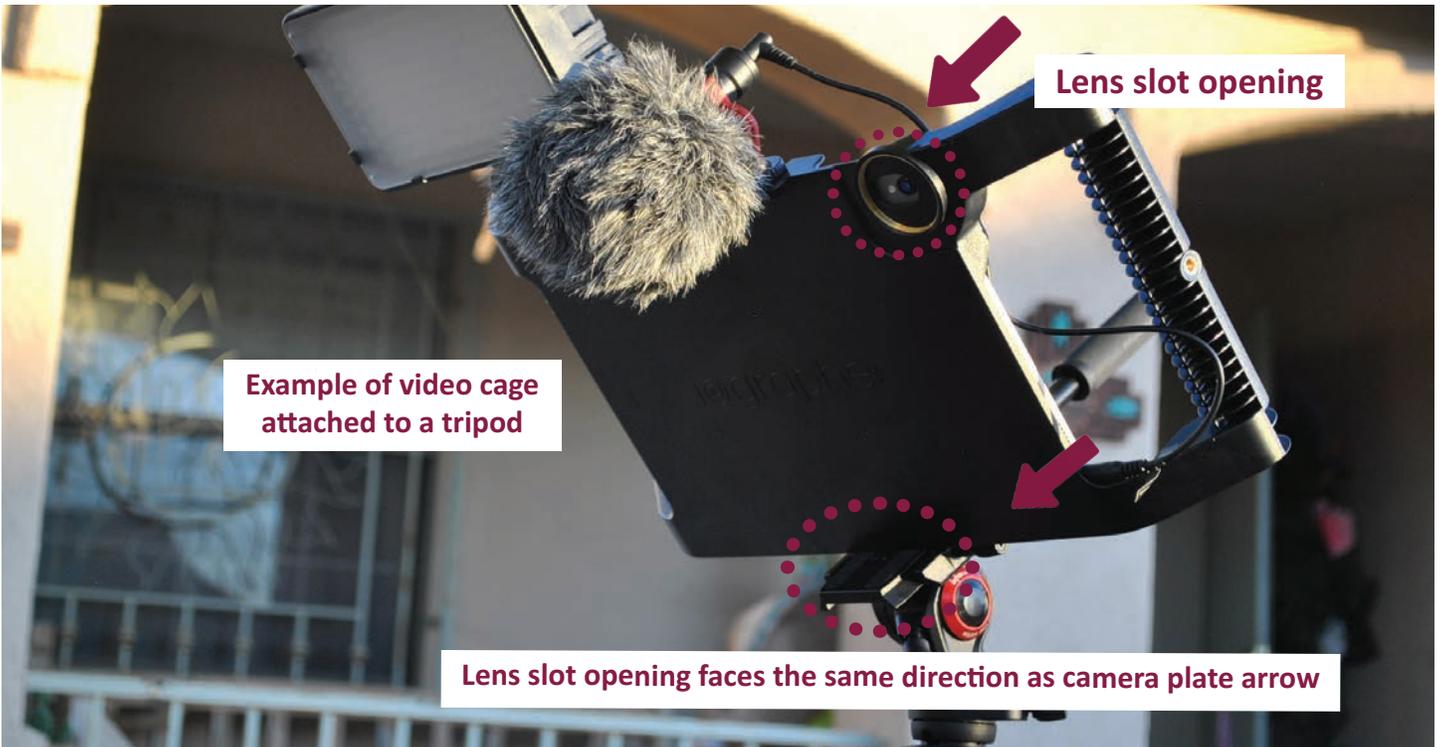


Knob secures the plate to the tripod head





Both plates can be attached to a phone or tablet using a **video cage**, or they can be attached directly to a video camera. The **camera plate** slides into the **tripod head** in one direction. Before threading the camera plate bolt into a device or video cage, make sure the **lens arrow on the plate** (as shown above) is facing in the same direction as the **camera lens** or in the same direction as the **lens slot** on the **video cage**.



A **video cage** is a plastic or metal casing that holds a **smartphone or tablet**, as well as other accessories for improved video production. If the plate is attached backwards the lens will face towards the operator, rather than towards the subject. Use a quarter or flat screwdriver to thread the bolt into a **video camera or video cage**. Make a few turns of the bolt to secure it in place (but don't tighten it completely), and then slide the plate along the **video camera or video cage** and find a balance point. Once this is done, tighten it and secure it to the **video camera or video cage**. Now one of these devices can be inserted into the **tripod head** with the **camera plate** on.

Lens slot opening



Camera plate arrow underneath plate faces this way



Camera plate without device attached

This is an example of a **smartphone video cage**. The same method described in the tablet set-up applies to the smartphone set-up. The lens slot opening should face in the same direction as the **camera lens arrow** indicated on the **camera plate** (as shown in the previous page and above). The **camera plate** slides into the **tripod head** in the same direction as the **camera plate arrow**.



The **smartphone** screen should face the **camera operator**.

Art Ruiloba

Video Production Specialist

Department of Innovative Media Research and Extension

aruiloba@nmsu.edu



Be Bold. Shape the Future.
New Mexico State University

aces.nmsu.edu/mediasupport