

WH-200 Operating Instructions

IMPORTANT! ATTENTION! PLEASE READ!

DO NOT ADJUST ANY OF THE SCREWS IN THE PAN BASE OF THIS PRODUCT

Any substantial adjustment of these screws may cause your Head to malfunction! The large 3/8"-16 screw that runs through the center of the pan base, as well as the 3 other small screws, have nothing to do with the attachment or detachment of the Head to/from a tripod or other support mount.

Please refer to the mounting instructions for information on removing your WH-200 from a tripod or monopod.

The center screw adjusts fine tension of the panning movement, and has been individually pre-set to a level we feel is optimal for field use. It should not need further adjustment. *If you feel you need to make minor adjustments warranted by your specific circumstances, please contact us and we will furnish you with a 7/32 hex key. (Please see page 3 for a more detailed explanation.)* The other screws fasten the pan spool to the Head casting to form the pan base.

Overview:

The Wimberley Head Version II is unlike any other tripod head on the market. Setting up this Head is not difficult, but **it is important to read these instructions** because certain mistakes and misunderstandings are common, and it is different from the original Wimberley Head. The Version II has a panning mechanism (patents pending) that involves more parts than the original Wimberley Head, and it is precisely assembled and fine tuned by experts in our shop. Therefore, we do not recommend disassembling the unit. Should a problem with performance arise, the product should be returned to Wimberley, Inc. for inspection, cleaning or maintenance. **Please contact us if you think there is cause to take apart your Head, as disassembling this product will void your warranty coverage.**

The moving parts of the Head perform three functions, allowing you to 1) sweep the lens horizontally (pan), 2) tilt the lens vertically, and 3) adjust the height of the platform upon which the lens is mounted (fig. 2).

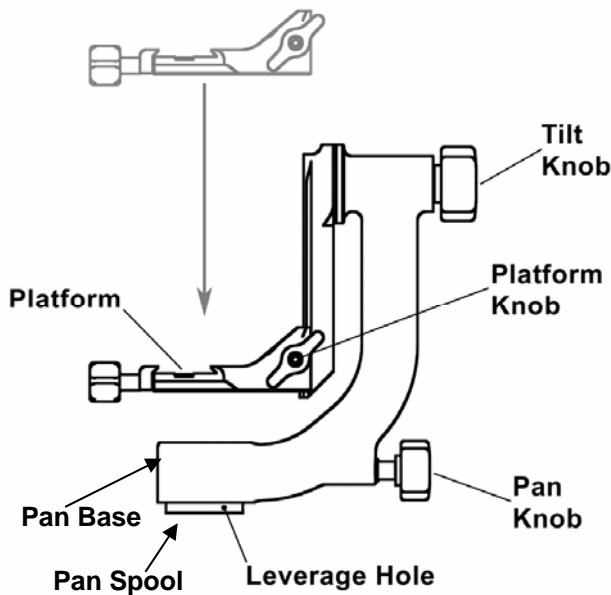


Figure 1

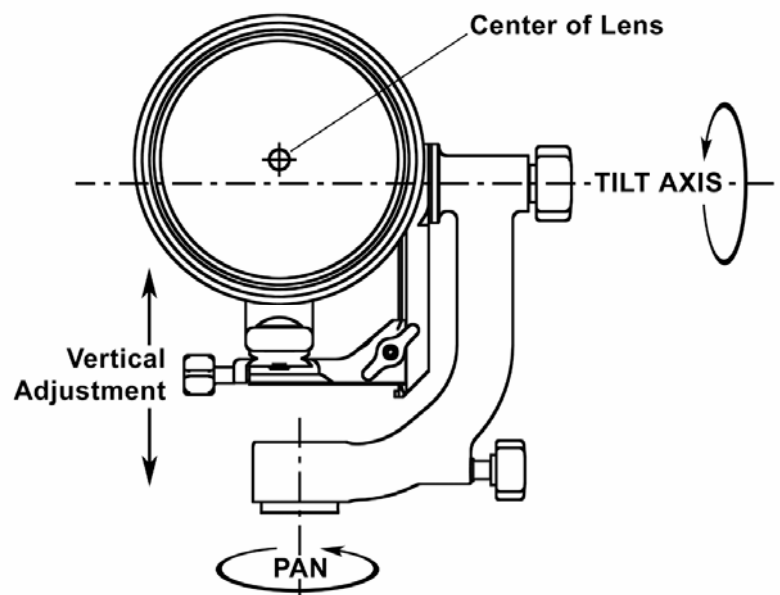


Figure 2

Setting Up: Mounting to and Removal from a Tripod

The Wimberley Head comes with its platform detached so that it is more compact for shipping. To attach the platform to the Head, **loosen the platform wing knob** (do not tighten it without it being mounted on the swing arm), and **slide the platform onto the swinging arm of the Head** (Fig. 1). **Slide the platform all the way down until it hits the stop at the bottom; then tighten the platform knob firmly.** You will be adjusting the height of the platform later.

To mount the Head to a tripod: firmly tighten the lower (pan) knob. This allows you to **screw the Head onto the 3/8" stud on top of your tripod.** **Seat the Head snugly onto the tripod by turning it clockwise on the mounting stud.** *Use the leverage hole to achieve a tighter attachment if desired*.* If your tripod has a smaller 1/4" mounting stud,

you will need to install a brass reducer bushing *into the mounting hole of the Head* before mounting it to the tripod. You can order this bushing through us (BS-100, \$3).

If enough force is used, the Head will rotate slightly on its pan base when the panning knob is tightened all the way. THIS IS NORMAL AND WILL NOT AFFECT PRODUCT PERFORMANCE. Routinely forcing the Head to rotate when the panning knob is tightened may cause premature wear on the panning base, thus this practice is not encouraged. **The lower pan knob should tighten enough to keep the Head from turning on its own, but it will not completely “lock down”.**

***Leverage Hole in the Pan Spool: (See Fig. 1)** For a tighter attachment, you can insert the long arm of a 5/32 hex key (or a metal rod of similar size and strength, such as a blunted concrete nail) into the small leverage hole on the side of the aluminum pan spool of the Head. *Most Arca-Swiss style quick-release plates come with a 5/32 hex key for their fasteners.* This will give you leverage to tighten the Head further. This hole is not threaded or keyed to fit a hex key, thus the hex key will not loosen anything internally in the panning base, and it will not turn anything inside the hole.

Use the leverage hole* for removing the Head if it is stuck on the tripod. Unscrew your Head counter-clockwise to remove it from the tripod while pushing the hex key inserted into the leverage hole away from you (counter-clockwise). Contact us if you have trouble removing your Head after trying this method.

Attaching Your Lens to the Wimberley Head:

Every lens that you plan to use on the Wimberley Head requires that an Arca-Swiss style quick release plate be attached to its tripod collar foot (or if recommended, a replacement foot with an Arca-Swiss style dove-tail groove). This is a precision gimbal-style instrument, and it is very important to be able to achieve optimal balance with each lens/camera body combination used on the Head, so you will need to make sure that the quick-release lens plates you use are the correct length for *each* lens you use. See our recommended plate chart in our product brochure or on our website.

We offer a full line of Wimberley quick-release plates that are specifically designed with lengths that will give you the ability to achieve optimal balance and performance with our Head, as well as the ability to attach our flash bracket system. **If you use plates manufactured by Arca-Swiss, Kirk Enterprises or Really Right Stuff, you will need to make sure that they are the proper length and proportion to what we recommend.** Compare the plate length and profile to the recommended plate for your lens in our product catalog or on our web site.

Make sure that the Head’s platform is level, and tighten the tilt knob of the Wimberley Head swing arm so that the Head is stable while you are loading your lens. Open the jaws of the quick-release clamp wide enough so that the jaws clear the entire width of the quick-release plate attached to the foot of your lens (if your lens does not have a quick release plate attached, you can purchase one from us). **While supporting your lens, insert the quick-release plate on your lens into the jaws of the quick-release clamp and tighten the clamp.** If you loosen the quick-release clamp slightly, you can slide the lens forward or backward to adjust the balance of the lens (see “Balancing Your Lens” below), just use caution, supporting your lens as you make adjustments. **Re-tighten the clamp firmly after each adjustment.**

Balancing Your Lens:

You must balance your lens with camera body attached. Once you mount your lens, attach your camera body and then make sure the Head’s platform is secured at its lowest position. Stand behind the lens/camera setup and grab the camera body as if you are going to take a picture. **Loosen the tilt (upper) knob of the Wimberley Head SLOWLY, and stand ready to catch the lens or camera body should one end or the other rapidly tilt down.** If the lens end pitches forward (tilts downward) you will need to slide the lens toward you. If the lens pitches backwards (tilts upward), you will need to slide the lens away from you. Adjust the position of the lens in small increments until it does not pitch forward or backward. **SAFETY NOTE: Re-tighten the clamp after each adjustment, no matter how small. Use the two safety stop screws provided with your Wimberley lens plate to prevent the lens/camera combo from sliding out of the clamp when loosened.**

Now that you’ve properly adjusted the forward-backward position of the lens, you must also adjust the vertical position of the lens. **Loosen the platform wing knob and adjust the vertical position of the platform so that the center of the lens is slightly above the tilt axis of the Head (fig. 2, previous page).** Loosen the tilt knob and tilt the lens about 30 degrees toward the sky. **When you let go of the lens, if it wants to keep going up in the direction that you’ve tilted it, you need to lower the position of the lens by adjusting the position of the platform. If the lens wants to return to a level position, you need to raise the position of the lens.**

The goal is to perfectly balance the lens so that it stays pointed in any position even when the Head is completely loose. Fine tune the vertical and forward-backward position of the lens until you’ve achieved perfect balance.

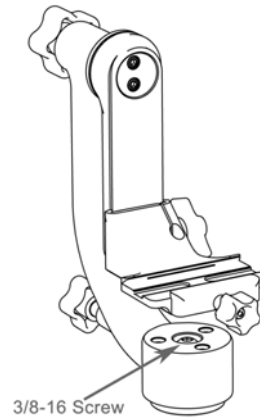
Once you have done this a few times, it gets much easier to do and will take very little time to achieve as you get more practiced. Once you are able to let go of the camera/lens combo in any position with the tilt and pan knobs loose and it stays in that balanced position without moving at all, you may want to mark the exact position of your lens plate within the clamp and your platform position on the tilt arm with a permanent ink marker or tape for faster set up in the field.

The Head is now ready to use. Simply loosen the pan and tilt knobs about a quarter turn and start shooting. If you have done everything properly, the lens should be very easy to point, should stay pointed, and should not tend to flop or creep. As you become more familiar with the Head you will probably be better able to make fine adjustments in the balance of your setup. You can shoot with the knobs loose, or lock-in on a target by tightening the knobs. If things don't feel right, please contact us.

FINE TENSION ADJUSTMENT OF YOUR PAN BASE:

A 7/32 Hex Key fits the 3/8-16 Screw on the top of the pan base of your Wimberley Head II (See Figure). This screw applies pre-tension to the pan base (so there is no slop in the mechanism), and adjusts the minimum drag for the pan base. **You should not have to use this adjustment on a regular basis.**

The minimum drag is the amount of resistance in the pan mechanism when the Head is un-tightened. **We have set the minimum drag for your head to a level that we feel is optimal for field use. You should not need to adjust the screw unless you experience an undesirable change in the Head's minimum drag as the Head wears in.**



Useful Add-Ons:

Wimberley Head Version II Flash Bracket: We offer a flash bracket (**Part # F-9, \$196**) that attaches directly to the Wimberley Head Version II and makes telephoto flash a breeze. The bracket uses a quick-release attachment so it is very fast and easy to install. It also folds for easy storage. Refer to our product catalog or web site for details. This requires the use of an off-camera shoe cord or adapter recommended by your camera manufacturer.

Mount Your Camera Body on the WH-200: Yes, you can mount your camera body on the Wimberley Head when shooting with a wide-angle or non-collared lens! You will not be able to achieve the free-floating gimbal balance in this situation, but you will be able to put tension on the swing arm to position the camera at a variety of angles, and you will be able to track moving subjects with fluid panning motion. You will also be able to lock the panning base and swing arm for steady scenic shots or macro work to make the WH-200 your primary Head in the field.

Pair a camera body plate, either our **P-5 Camera Body Plate (\$52)** (horizontal orientation only), or a camera L-Bracket (horizontal and vertical orientation) from Kirk Enterprises or Really Right Stuff, **with our M-8 Perpendicular plate (\$85)** (see figure below). Tighten the pan base and tilt arm on the Head. Slide the M-8 Perpendicular Plate into the clamp on the platform of the Head and tighten in center position. Mount the camera/lens combo with the camera body plate or L-bracket attached to the M-8 and you're ready to shoot!



P-5 Plate (under camera) & M-8 Perpendicular Plate

Other alternatives: 1. Attach an Arca-Swiss style lens plate to the bottom of your camera so that the plate is parallel with the lens barrel. This allows you to attach the camera directly to the quick release of the Head. This works okay, but you may experience some twist, and you are limited to horizontal format pictures. 2. Carry a small ball head, attach a quick-release plate to the bottom of it, and attach the ball head directly to the clamp on the Wimberley Head. This eliminates the need to adjust the legs of the tripod to level the horizon or to remove the Wimberley Head, but it is a pain to have to carry an extra head with you. 3. Use a small beanbag with the Head; you can set the beanbag on the Head itself, or on top of your big lens while it is still attached to the Head.

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 sell tripod levelers that solve this problem and are sturdy enough to support any size lens. We recommend the **Gitzo G5120 Tripod Leveler**. This is the updated version of the discontinued G1321, and is the most elegant solution for those who have a Systematic Gitzo tripod (Studex series 3, 4, or 5 - model

1325 and up, excluding the 1326). The Systematic Gitzo tripods have an interchangeable center column, video bowl, or mounting plate that can be easily replaced with this leveling base. It also gives you some additional height.

Maintenance & Product Warranty:

The powder-coat finish on the Wimberley Head Version II is a bit more coarse and matte than the finish of the original Wimberley Head. We chose a slightly rougher finish with the hope that it will be easier to grip in wet conditions or when using gloves. **The best way to clean the finish is to use plain water and a soft cloth to remove any stuck on mud or dirt.** Be careful not to immerse the Head in water, just spot clean if necessary. Use a vacuum cleaner, not an air compressor, to remove dirt from the screw holes in the top of the pan base. Then use a micro bristle brush to gently dislodge any dirt that might be stuck, vacuuming out the loose dirt. It's best to not remove any of the pan base screws unless absolutely necessary as it may significantly affect the functionality of the product. *Try to prevent dirt or grit from getting down into the threaded parts of these holes.*

There should be almost no need for routine maintenance or disassembly of the Head.

It is constructed primarily of cast aluminum and stainless steel. The two radial roller thrust bearing assemblies are not stainless steel (They require the extra hardness of a non-stainless alloy). However, they are very durable and are protected from oxidation by a coating of grease.

We do not suggest disassembling the Head unless you experience a drop in the performance of the tilt mechanism. If you are mechanically inclined and think you need to disassemble and clean the internal parts of the Head tilt mechanism, please contact us for instruction as all parts of this product are not meant to be disassembled.

It is not necessary to remove the pan knob or the three small screws on the top of the pan base in order to clean the pan mechanism. Doing so will reduce the semi-captive nature of the pan knob and could cause you to loose the two small washers hidden in that part of the mechanism. Disassembling all of the internal workings of the Head will void warranty coverage.

3 Year Warranty (USA) / 3 Year Limited Warranty (outside USA)

Few things are likely to go wrong with the Wimberley Head Version II. If the Head is in need of repair, you may order parts (we require that you send us a digital photograph of the part to be repaired), or return the Head for service. If the Head is faulty, we will fix it free of cost. If the problem arises from extreme use, abuse or accident, we will repair the Head for a reasonable fee. **Please contact us for instructions prior to sending us your equipment.**

Register your product on our website. The small white serial number sticker down in the groove under the pan spool should NOT be removed. This will assist us in repairing your Head should a problem arise.

USA 3-Year Warranty: All products manufactured by Wimberley and sold directly through Wimberley, Inc., or through an authorized Wimberley Dealer, to a customer who resides in the USA are covered by a 3-Year Warranty. **Our warranty covers manufacturing defects and product malfunction during normal use.** The customer is required to provide proof of purchase (with the original purchase date of the product listed) for warranty verification. **Wimberley requires the customer to email a digital photograph clearly showing the product damage or defect to info@tripodhead.com.** This is to assist Wimberley, Inc. in determining the appropriate course of action to resolve the Warranty issue.

If a Wimberley product is received new in a damaged or defective condition right out of the box by a customer, the customer should contact Wimberley, Inc. directly for an exact exchange of the product. Proof of original purchase through an authorized Wimberley Dealer will be required for warranty coverage verification.

International 3-Year Limited Warranty: All products manufactured by Wimberley and sold directly through Wimberley, Inc., or through an authorized Wimberley Dealer, to a customer who resides outside the USA are covered by a 3-Year Limited Warranty. **Our warranty covers manufacturing defects and product malfunction during normal use.** In the event that the original Dealer is no longer in business or no longer an authorized Wimberley re-seller, the customer should contact another authorized Dealer, or Wimberley, Inc. directly, for Warranty claims. Warranty limitation: After 365 days from original date of purchase, shipping charges are not covered for any warranty claim service or parts. The customer is required to provide proof of purchase (with the original purchase date of the product listed) for warranty verification. **Wimberley requests that the customer or Dealer email a digital photograph of the product clearly showing the defect to info@tripodhead.com to assist Wimberley, Inc. in determining the appropriate course of action to resolve the Warranty issue.**

If a Wimberley product is received new in a damaged or defective condition right out of the box by a customer, the customer should contact the Dealer where purchase was made, or Wimberley, Inc. directly, for an exact exchange of the product. Proof of original purchase through an authorized Wimberley Dealer will be required for warranty coverage verification.

Thank You:

Your observations and suggestions are welcome. We will continue to refine the Head and these instructions in response to customer feedback. We wish you the best of luck using your new Wimberley Head.

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