

## Gimbal Head Operating Instructions

**PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE USING THIS PRODUCT!**

**Congratulations on your purchase of the world's premier gimbal tripod head.** Wimberley, Inc. pioneered the gimbal head design for long lens photography and our Wimberley Head Version II has set the industry standard. This product has been copied by many, but none exceed our quality of build and customer support. The Wimberley Head Version II is extremely robust, and it surpasses the stiffness of any other tripod head on the market today, providing the user with an extremely solid support. The result is a higher ratio of sharper images. Good luck in the field, and feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns about your Wimberley gear.

### WARNING / Avertissement / Advertencia / Warnung / Waarschuwing / 警告 !!

- **The large screw and three small screws in the pan base should not be adjusted or removed.** The three smaller screws fasten the pan spool to the Head casting. Unscrewing them will negatively affect the performance of your Head and disassembling the Head will void warranty coverage.
- **Any substantial adjustment of the larger, center pan base screw may cause your Wimberley Head to malfunction. This screw is NOT for mounting or removal of the Head. See Page 3 for more information on the use of this screw.**
- **See mounting instructions on Page 2 for information on mounting and removing your WH-200.** The Head screws onto to a standard 3/8"-16 tripod stud. **You may need to use the leverage hole in the spool to tighten or remove the Head (p. 2).**

Setting up this Head is not difficult, but it is important to read these instructions because certain mistakes and misunderstandings are common, and *this model is different from the original Wimberley Head.*

- **The Version II has a patented panning and tilt mechanism.** The redesigned Head involves many more parts than the original Wimberley Head, and it is precisely assembled and fine tuned by experts in our shop. Our assembly is proprietary. Therefore, **self-repair is not practical for this unit for most issues.** Please contact us immediately if you think there is cause to take your Head apart, or if you have difficulty removing it from a tripod (see p. 2). We will be glad to guide you if self-repair is an option.
- **Disassembling this product will void your warranty coverage.** Should a problem with performance arise, the product should be returned to Wimberley, Inc. for inspection, cleaning or repair (see Warranty information, p. 4).

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) for balance adjustment.

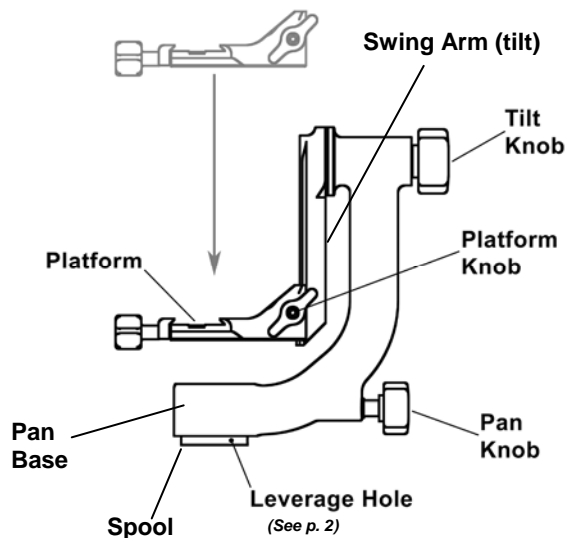


Figure 1

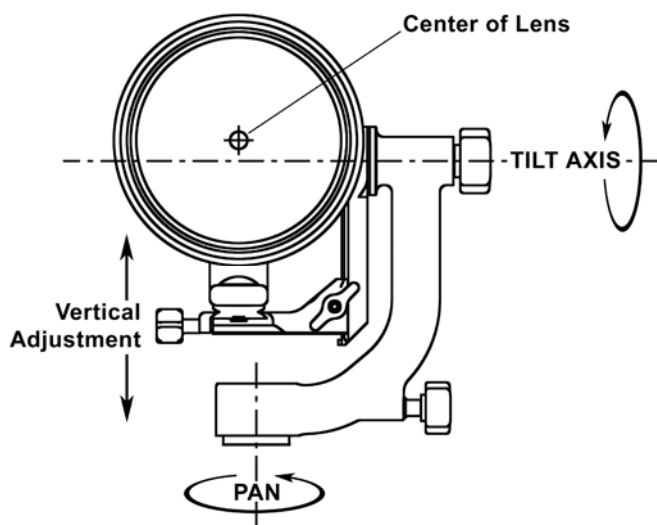


Figure 2

### Set up, Mounting and Removal:

The Wimberley Head comes with a detached lens support platform to make it more compact for shipping. You may attach the platform either before or after mounting the Head on your tripod. **To attach the platform to the Head:**

- **Loosen the wing knob on the platform (avoid tightening the wing knob if it is not mounted on the swing arm), and slide the platform onto the swinging arm of the Head (see 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.

#### MOUNTING THE WH-200 TO A TRIPOD:

**1. Firmly tighten the lower (pan) knob, then position the Head with the spool mounting hole directly over the threaded tripod mounting stud.** It is important to keep the Head completely straight (vertical) over the stud to keep the spool threads from stripping or

cross-threading. You may also want to record your product serial number before attaching your Head (*see registration card*).

**2. Screw the Head clockwise onto the stud of your tripod mounting platform.** Your tripod stud height from top of the platform can vary, generally between 0.25" & 0.35" (thread reveal varies from between 2.5 to 5.5 threads). **If your tripod has a smaller 1/4" mounting stud,** check to see if it is a reversible stud with a 3/8"-16 threaded section on the other end. If so, reverse the stud and use the 3/8" end of the stud. If the 1/4" stud is not reversible, you will need to use a reducer bushing to mount the Head to the tripod. You can order a robust brass bushing through us. We do not recommend installing the bushing on the inside of the Head. Contact us for instructions on installing the bushing. Blue Loctite (non-permanent adhesive) can be used to secure the bushing to the threads of the tripod stud.

**3. Seat the base of the spool snugly onto the tripod platform.** There should be no space between the bottom spool of the Head and the tripod mounting plate. Loosen the pan base knob slightly and rotate the Head to check the security of the mount. The spool should not loosen when you turn the Head counterclockwise and the Head should not wobble. *Use the leverage hole to achieve a tighter attachment if desired (see below).* For use, the upright can be positioned on either the left or the right side depending on your personal preference.

**The tilt and pan knobs should tighten with enough friction to keep the Head from moving on its own. The pan base and swing arm should not move easily when the knobs are fully tightened.** If significant force is applied, the Head will slip slightly on the spool when the panning knob is tightened all the way. **THIS IS NORMAL AND DOES NOT AFFECT PRODUCT PERFORMANCE.** When using the Head, you can put a small amount of friction on both the pan and tilt to hold the position of your lens and rotate it as needed. This is not going to damage your Head. Only a single turn or two of the pan and tilt knobs should allow you to loosen and tighten the mechanisms for fluid motion or static shots. Avoid unscrewing any of the knobs on the Head all the way.

**Removing the Head:** Remove your lens and other accessories from the Head, then firmly tighten the pan and tilt knobs. Turn the Head counterclockwise. It should loosen easily from the platform during the first rotation. If the Head has been on the tripod for awhile, more force may be necessary to remove it. Push down on the top of the pan base with your right hand and pull down on the upright with the left hand while turning the unit in a counterclockwise direction. If the Head does not lock down, or just spins, and the pan knob is tightened all the way, check the tightness of the tripod stud underneath the mounting platform. If the Head is stuck, try using the leverage hole for removal (see below).

**USING THE LEVERAGE HOLE:** The spool of the Head should be flush with the tripod platform surface. **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 or small screwdriver) into the small leverage hole on the side of the spool (see Fig. 1).** (Most Arca-Swiss style quick-release plates come with a 5/32 hex key for their fasteners.) This will allow you to use leverage to tighten or loosen the Head further. **NOTE:** This side hole is not threaded or keyed to fit a hex key specifically, thus the hex key will not loosen anything internally in the panning base, and it will not turn anything inside the hole.

**To TIGHTEN:** Push the hex key (or other leverage tool) clockwise with the palm of your hand until there is significant resistance.

**To REMOVE:** insert the leverage tool (hex key or blunted concrete nail) into the small hole located on the side of the pan base spool. Push the tool counterclockwise, or tap it with a mallet, to loosen the spool. *Contact us if you still have trouble removing your Head after trying these methods.*

**If the Head is not locking down, remove it from the tripod and try remounting it.** It must be screwed all the way onto the stud in a clockwise direction. Rotation of the Head counterclockwise with the pan knob tightened may cause the Head to loosen, especially if your rig is thrown over your shoulder in the field. Before transport in this manner, we recommend positioning the upright of your Head such that the weight of the gear will tighten the Head to the tripod (move clockwise) and not loosen it. Contact us immediately if you are having a problem and we will assist you.

### Attaching Your Lens to the Wimberley Head:

**Every lens that you plan to use on the Wimberley Head requires an Arca-Swiss style quick-release (QR) plate. Your Wimberley Head 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.** Thus you will need to make sure that the QR 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. If your lens does not have an Arca-Swiss style QR plate attached, you can purchase one from us. We offer a full line of Wimberley QR 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. The QR plate attaches to the bottom of lens foot on the rotating tripod collar so that it can be mounted into the QR clamp on the lens support platform. (Specific lenses require a "replacement foot" adapter plate that has an Arca-Swiss style dove-tail groove). **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.

- **Tighten the tilt knob of the Wimberley Head swing arm** - make sure that the Head's platform is level so that the Head is stable while you are loading your lens. Mount the recommended Arca-Swiss style QR lens plate to your lens foot.
- **Open the jaws of the QR clamp** wide enough so that the jaws clear the entire width of the QR plate attached to the foot of your lens.
- While supporting your lens, **insert the QR plate on your lens into the jaws of the clamp and tighten the clamp securely.** Make sure the QR plate is seated properly and captive in the QR clamp jaws.
- If you loosen the clamp knob slightly, you can carefully **slide the lens forward or backward in small increments to adjust the balance of the lens/camera combination** (*see "Balancing Your Lens" below*).
- **WARNING: use caution - support your lens as you make adjustments! Re-tighten the clamp knob firmly after each adjustment!**

### Balancing Your Lens:

**You must balance each lens with a camera body attached.** Mount your lens, attach your camera body and securely position the Head's platform 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. WARNING! 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 backward in the clamp toward you.**

- If the lens pitches backwards (tilts upward), you will need to slide the lens forward 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.

Once you have properly adjusted the forward-backward position of the lens, you may need to adjust the vertical position of the lens (especially smaller telephoto lenses than a 600 f/4 or 400 f/2.8):

- **Loosen the platform wing knob and adjust the vertical position of the platform (with the lens/camera combo attached) so that the center of the lens is slightly above the tilt axis of the Head (Fig. 2).**
- **Loosen the tilt knob and tilt the front of 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.

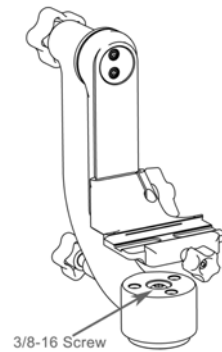
**TIP:** Once you are able to let go of the camera/lens combo in any position with the tilt and pan knobs loose and it stays in a balanced position without moving at all, you may want to mark the exact position of your lens plate within the clamp, and your platform position on the tilt arm, with a permanent 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. You should not need to loosen the knobs more than a few turns to unlock the Head. If things don't feel right, please contact us. Knob screws are captive and should not loosen or come off on their own.

**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 right). 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. Contact us if you have concerns.**



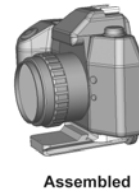
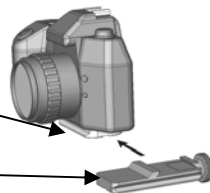
**Useful Accessories:**

**Wimberley Head Version II Flash Bracket:** We offer a convenient telephoto flash bracket (**Wimberley Head Version II Flash Bracket - F-9**) that attaches directly to the Wimberley Head Version II swing arm 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 (requires the use of an off-camera shoe cord or flash mounting adapter recommended by your camera manufacturer).

**Mount Your Camera Body on the WH-200:** 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 tripod head in the field.

Pair a camera body plate, [either our **P-5 Camera Body Plate (horizontal orientation only)**, or a camera L-Bracket (*horizontal and vertical orientation*) from Kirk Enterprises, Really Right Stuff or Novoflex], **with our M-8 Perpendicular plate** (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 body plate or L-bracket to the M-8 and you're ready to shoot!

**Wimberley P-5 Camera Plate (under camera) paired with the Wimberley 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 clamp on 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 Tripod Leveler for use with compatible Systematic Gitzo tripods (Studex series 3, 4, or 5). It also gives you some additional height and mounting security.

## Maintenance & Product Warranty:

**If you experience a drop in the performance of the Head, please contact us for instruction. DO NOT disassemble the Head! There should be almost no need for routine maintenance of internal parts. Disassembling this unit without direct instruction from Wimberley, Inc. will void your warranty coverage. Our assembly is proprietary and our internal parts are patented.**

**This product is constructed primarily of cast aluminum and stainless steel.** However, the radial roller thrust bearing assemblies are not stainless steel (they require the extra hardness of a non-stainless alloy). They are very durable and are protected from oxidation by a coating of grease. If oxidation (rust) occurs, it should not affect the performance of your Head. If you are mechanically inclined and think you need to clean the internal parts of the Head, please contact us for instruction. Not all parts of this product are meant to be disassembled.

**If the Head is exposed to moisture:** the plastic bearings may swell and cause stiffness in the tilt mechanism, which may disappear after the parts dry. If your Head is exposed to water, it is best to **let it dry out thoroughly before further use.** If problems with the function of the Head occur after it has dried out completely, please contact us immediately for assistance.

**It is not necessary to remove the panning tension adjustment 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 lose the washers hidden in that part of the mechanism.

**Routine Cleaning:** DO NOT remove any of the pan base screws. Doing so may significantly affect the functionality of the product. It is best to try to prevent dirt or grit from getting down into the threaded parts of these holes. Covering exposed screws with electrical tape may help prevent contamination if you think the Head may be exposed to sand or dirt during your shoot. Be careful not to immerse the Head in water.

- Use plain water and a soft cloth to remove any stuck-on mud or dirt. Just spot clean if necessary.
- Use a micro bristle brush to gently dislodge dirt, sand or debris that might be stuck.
- Vacuum out the loose dirt. DO NOT use canned air spray or an air compressor to remove dirt from screw holes and other crevices.

**Note on thread wear:** The threads in the base of the Wimberley Head are cut directly into the aluminum piece and then anodized. There is no steel insert in the Version II. This means that there may be a little wear apparent, especially at the beginning of the threads. We have a tremendous number of these Heads in the field, and the only time we have had to replace the component that contains these female threads has been when there has been a great deal of abuse of the threads - for example when the Head is consistently used when it is not tightened all the way down, or when only a couple of threads protrude above the top of the tripod platform (a short stud). **The Head should also be kept as straight and vertical as possible when removing it from or mounting it to the tripod stud to avoid stripping or cross threading.** As long as the threads on the tripod stud are in good shape, and the user is taking proper care in keeping the Head straight when it is mounted or removed, there should be no significant functional degradation of the threads for many, many cycles of installing and removing the Head.

## 5 Year Warranty (USA) / International 5 Year Limited Warranty (outside USA)

**Please contact us for instructions before sending us your equipment.** 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 ask that you please send us a digital illustration 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.

Register your WH-200. **A small white serial number sticker is located under the pan spool and should NOT be removed for any reason. This will assist us in identifying and repairing this Head should a problem arise.**

**USA 5-Year Warranty:** This product is manufactured by Wimberley, Inc. If sold directly through Wimberley, or an Authorized Wimberley Dealer, to a customer who resides in the USA, this Head is covered by a 5-Year Warranty. **This 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. Warranty coverage is transferable with original proof of purchase. **Wimberley requires the customer to email a digital image clearly showing the product damage and/or defect to [info@tripodhead.com](mailto:info@tripodhead.com).** This is to assist Wimberley, Inc. in determining the appropriate course of action to resolve the Warranty issue.

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

**International Limited 5-Year Warranty:** This product is manufactured by Wimberley, Inc. If sold directly through Wimberley, or an Authorized Wimberley Dealer, to a customer who resides outside of the USA, this Head is covered by a Limited 5-Year Warranty. **Our Warranty covers manufacturing defects and product malfunction during normal use.** Warranty coverage is transferable with original proof of purchase. In the event that the original Dealer is no longer in business or is no longer an authorized Wimberley re-seller, the customer should contact a local 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 image of the product clearly showing the defect to [info@tripodhead.com](mailto:info@tripodhead.com) to assist Wimberley, Inc. in determining the appropriate course of action to resolve the Warranty issue.**

**If a new Wimberley product is received in a damaged or defective condition right out of the box, the customer should contact the Dealer where purchase was made, or Wimberley, Inc. directly, for an 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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