MAINTENANCE & TROUBLESHOOTING:
The Sidekick has been designed and constructed to handle many maintenance free years in the field. 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.

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.

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. Pockets for easy storage. The stress areas are reinforced with cordura nylon.

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

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.

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