

Holding the Steady will feel awkward at first. Don't worry you will gain endurance and coordination rapidly as you practice with it. Practice replacing the sled in the docking bracket now:

- Bow from the waist and put the center post in the bracket with the stage resting on the docking yoke.
- Put the safety lock back in the docking yoke to secure the sled.
- Jiggle a little to slide the arm post out of the gimbal mounting hole and step back.
- Rest. Stretch.

When you don't have time to dock and undock, you can relieve some muscle tension by holding the rig close to your body on either side or clasping the camcorder close to your chest. You can even sit down.



The arm tension is adjusted for the heaviest camcorder it can hold so it does not bottom out when you put the camcorder and sled on the arm for the first time. Now adjust the arm for the weight of your camcorder:

Arm Adjustments

Weight capacity

- No tools are required to adjust the arm strength.
- With the vest on, attach the arm and undock the rig.
- Very important: Adjust the fore arm section first.
- Make sure it properly carries the load.
- Adjusting the upper arm section first.
- The arm must be angled up for the adjustment knob to turn.
- The section being adjusted must be held at a slightly upwards angle for the adjustment knob to turn.
- Move the arm to the middle of its booming (up and down range) and let go. (If it stays where it is, you are probably close to the right adjustment.)
- If the camcorder rises, press down on the articulating arm until it is horizontal and turn the weight adjustment knob counter-clockwise a few turns.
- Let the camcorder go again. If it falls, increase the tension by making the arm horizontal and turning the weight adjustment knob clockwise.
- If the camcorder rises, loosen the tension again.
- Keep making small adjustments until the camcorder does not rise or fall when you let go of it in the middle of its booming range. Remember, the weight adjustment knob turns freely when the articulating arm is horizontal.



Position the arm:

- Move the camcorder to your left so the arm crosses your body.
- Adjust the arc of the arm so the rig feels comfortable to you. Keep the camcorder close to your body.



- Place the fingers of your left hand on the center post just below the gimbal. All five fingers should be LIGHTLY in contact with the post. This hand will point the camcorder and do pans and tilts.
- Place the fingers of your right hand on the gimbal, a little more firmly.

Move your torso to feel how your body controls the Steady:

- Lean your shoulders back and hips forward. Feel the camcorder try to move back. Lean forward from the hips. Feel the camcorder try to move forward.
- Hold your shoulders still and move your hips from side-to-side. Note how the Steady moves with the tilt of your hips.
- Try to position your body so the camcorder stays in place with only light fingertip control from your hands.



Position your hands:

The right hand fine tunes the position of the Steady, moving it side-to-side or closer to or farther from your body. The right hand will also boom the arm up and down. Remember, use your fingertips.

If the Steady is properly adjusted, no more force will be needed.

Clenching the center post or gimbal will counteract the Steady's "float".

Light fingertip control is the key to a steady camcorder and smooth moves.



Practice moving around in the Steady and get used to the way it feels:

-Walk around. Pay attention to the way your movements and posture affect the Steady. Relax your muscles and control the steady with your body position and a light, finger-tip touch. Leave the monitor off for now. Don't worry about "making shots".

As the Steady gets farther away from your body, you must lean back a bit more and use your arm reach to keep that light balanced touch. If you lean forward the Steady will try to move away from you, requiring a firmer grip and tiring your back muscles more quickly.

-Swing the arm around to find its range of motion. Note how to avoid hitting your leg with the battery.

-Practice gentle boom moves with your right hand. Find the lowest and highest positions the camcorder can reach. These are the stops. The Steady does not function at these extremes. The ideal place to work is near the center of the Steady's range.

-Put the Steady on the grip stand and take a break. Stretch and relax.

Note: Normal Steady position is close to the body.



The following practice exercises are designed with two purposes: To get you familiar with moving in the Steady, and to help you begin to develop operating skills.

These exercises may seem very different to you than heroic and complex "Steady shots" like following waiting or running actors across open or bumpy terrain. But it is important to note that having a lot of action in the frame can hide important operating mistakes. These exercises will teach you good habits and skill from the start.

Prepare for the exercises. You will need a space where you can walk in a straight line for 15 to 25 feet.

- Put up a 2 x 2 foot tape cross on the wall, placing the crossing tape lines horizontal and vertical.

- Make a straight tape line on the floor perpendicular to the wall. The line should start about three feet from the wall and run for 15 to 25 feet.

Practice exercises



EXERCISE 1: Walking the line

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In this exercise, you will learn to move the camcorder smoothly along a straight line.

- Get into the rig. Leave the monitor off. Position the arm across your body and the camcorder on your left side.
- Stand at one end of the tape line on the floor with the center post directly over the line.
- Walk forward. Look down to see that you are keeping the center post over the tape line. If you have trouble getting it there, adjust the arm or your distance from the line.

Don't forget:
FINGERTIPS on the center post and gimbal.

- Go back the other way. Lean slightly forward as you walk forward to get a smooth start. Try walking with your knees slightly bent. Go back and forth until you feel comfortable with this. Don't worry if there is some bounce in the camcorder as you walk. It will steady as you improve.



EXERCISE 2:
Over the shoulder

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In this exercise, you will learn to shoot with the camcorder pointing back over your shoulder.

This is useful if you are walking in front of your subject.

- Walk the tape line on the floor with the camcorder shooting back over your left shoulder. Shooting this way lets you see where you're going.
 - Keep the center post over the tape line as in the previous exercise.
- Do this several times until you are comfortable with it.

This is the end of basic exercises Section

**START THE VIDEO AND WATCH IT ALL CAREFULLY
BEFORE YOU ATTEMPT TO DO THEM.**



ACCESSORIES

Low Mode

Now includes the monitor support for low mode use.

Is made from two different parts, first the Low mode arch for cameras from 0 to 27cm=10,6inches max. height, the arch also comes with a sliding micro positioning plate. Then you have the "Low mode monitor mount", to set the monitor into a comfortable position for the low mode use.

Min Load Capacity 0kg/0Lbs

Max Load Capacity 12,5kg/27,5lb

Low mode kit weight 1,5kg/ 3,5Lbs

LOW MODE MONITOR MOUNT

An LCD Monitor can easily be attached to the sliding plate using a 1/4" screw. You may also attach a CRT Monitor to the adjustable quick release plate.

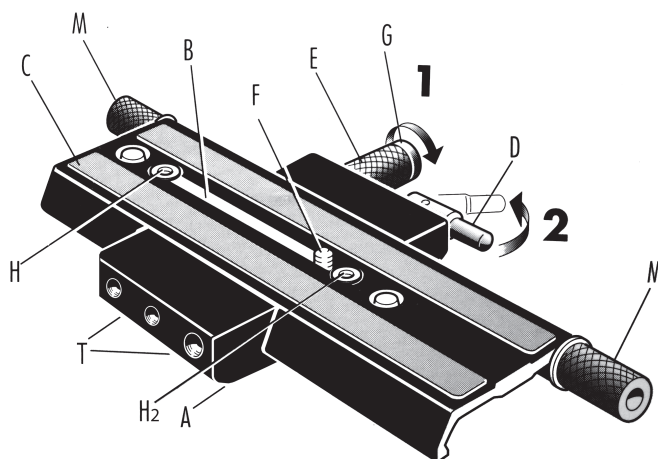
MICROMETRIC SLIDING PLATE

A sliding micro positioning plate with a fine worm drive specially designed for Basson steady Systems, that require fine adjustments.

KEY FEATURES

- * Adjustment range 95mm, obtained by means of a screw mechanism
- * Quick release mechanism for instant adjustment prior to fine tuning
- * Has both 1/4" and 3/8" female threads to ensure a stable 90 degree cross position
- * The sliding plate also has both 1/4" and 3/8" male attachments for different camcorder fitting.
- * Anodized aluminum
- * Ready to mount Low mode monitor mount using a 1/4" screw.

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To Mount the low mode monitor support use a 1/4" screw provided with this accessory, attach it to the 1/4" female thread "T" located on the middle of the side of the down plate.

To mount the low mode arch firstly move the sliding plate "C" to one of the sides, by first releasing the locking knob "E" which loosens the plate. Next rotate button "D" as shown in the figure whilst simultaneously sliding out the plate "C". Then the low mode arch comes with a 3/8" bolt, to mount the arch remove the rubber cap "H2" and use this hole on the slit "B" to place the 3/8" bolt provided with the low mode arch, secure this bolt using the it's nut.

Now slide back the plate "C" to the center and you may begin doing the balance.

Low Mode Operating

For low mode, the sled is flipped upside down, the monitor is also attached to the low mode monitor mount accessory, and the camera is mounted at the low mode arch accessory. No special low mode bracket is required for any camera.

Traditionally, it's considered harder to operate in low mode than in high mode, but with Basson Steady System this is not true.

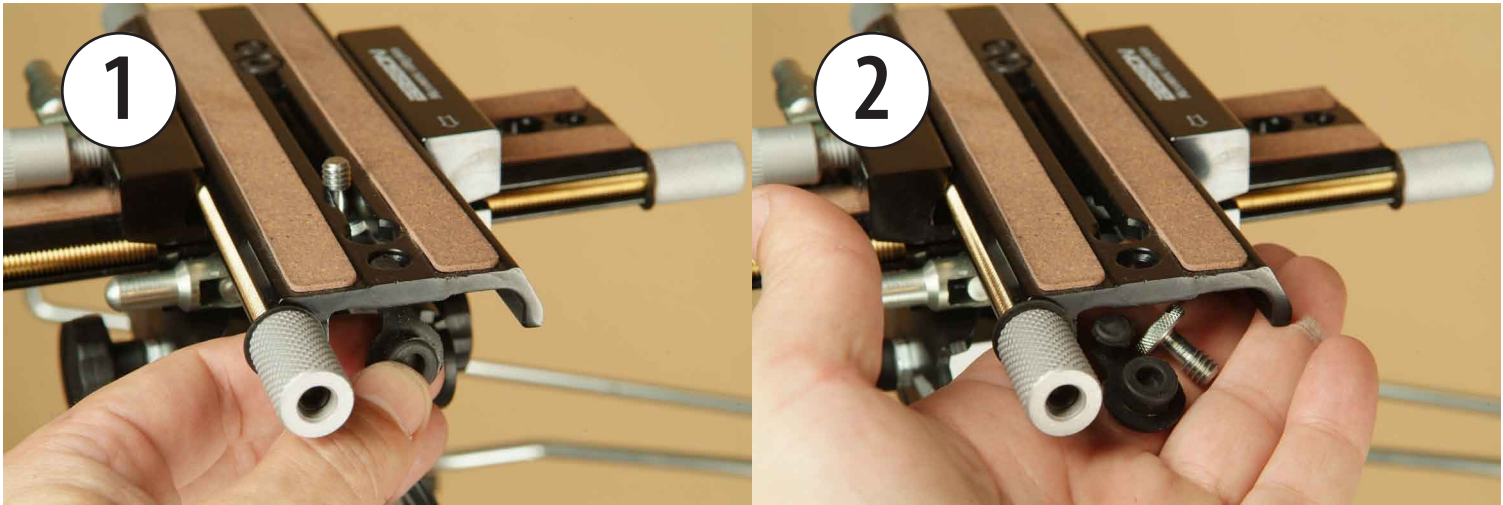
Several factors may work together to make low mode operating harder.

- The operator usually holds the sled further from his body than in high mode.
- The operator's hands are not at the same height.
- The rig may not be in dynamic balance.
- In addition, every director wants the lens height lower or higher than one can properly reach.

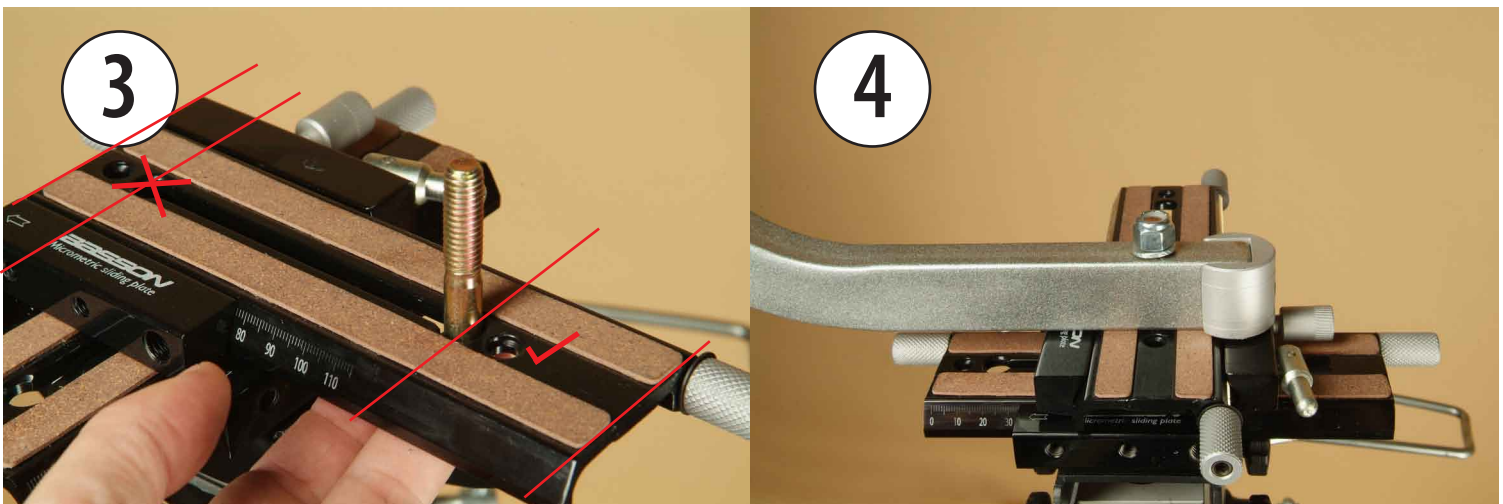
To make low mode operating easier and more precise:

- Use the tilt head to keep the post more vertical and adjust the angle of the monitor mount to make viewing the image easier.
- Use the telescoping post to set the proper lens height range and to restore the full boom range of the arm.

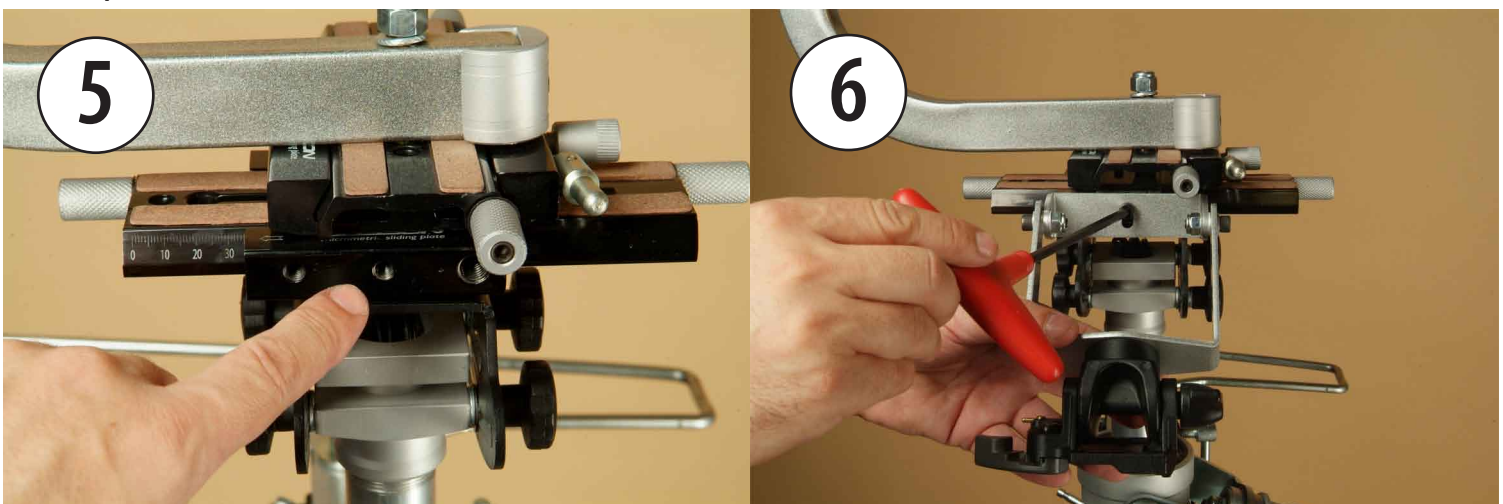
1 & 2 Remove the rubber grummet from both sides of the plate as well as the 1/4" screw.

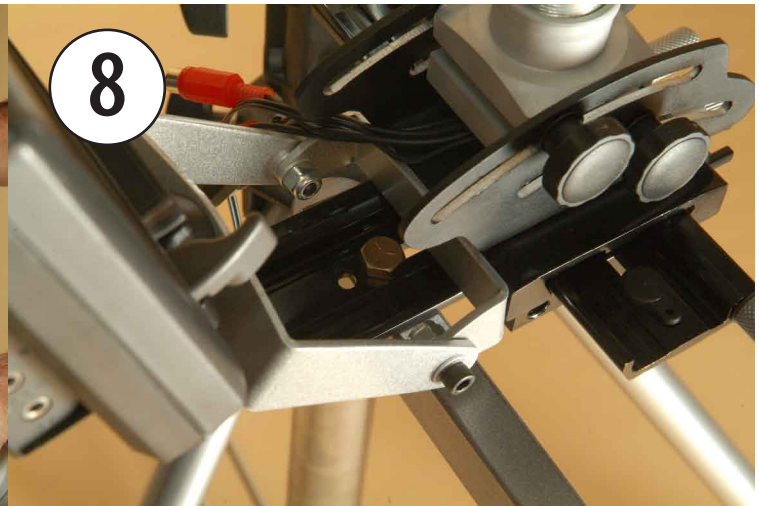
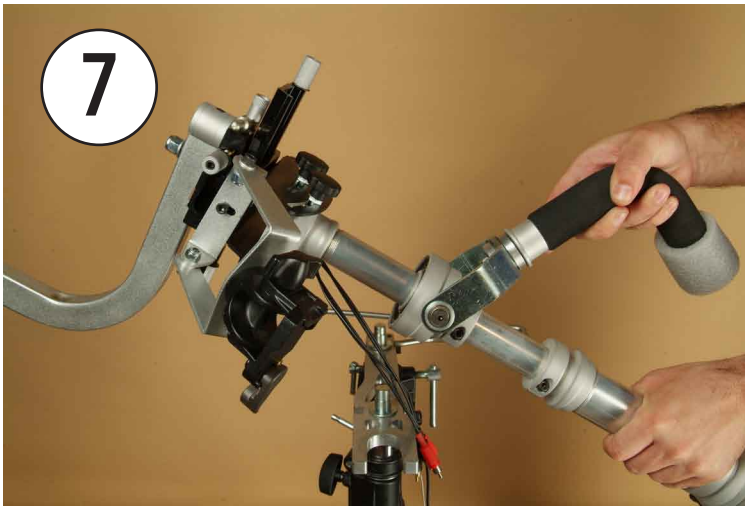


3 & 4 Now insert the bolt that comes with the arch, inside the bigger hole that is closer to the middle of the plate, then put the arch and secure this bolt firmly, see carefully to put the arch in 90 degree position respective to the plate on top.



5 & 6 the plate at the bottom has a 1/4" female thread, use this thread to attach the monitor mount to it, The monitor mount comes with a 1/4" allen bolt to hold it to this plate.





7 Now the sled is flipped upside down.

8 You can now mount your own lcd monitor to the low mode monitor mount accessory.

9 Now mount the camcorder to the low mode arch plate, if the plate is not at 90 degrees respective to the arch turn it to this position and secure firmly this plate. Connect all the wires and proceed to balance the sled.



Counterweight for Lightweight camcorders

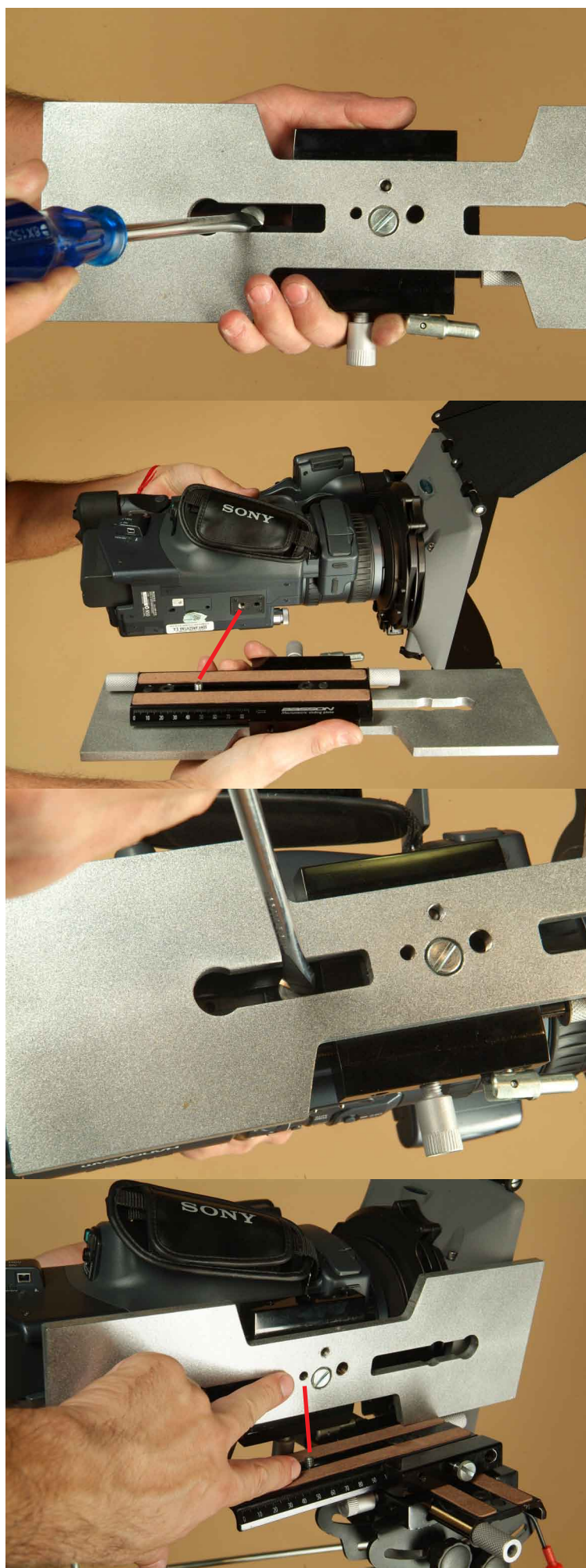
This accessory works perfect in cases of using lightweight camcorders than the minimum weight supported by your steady, it also help when needed much more weight for a better stabilization of the steady.

For example if you have a Bumblebee 800 now you will be able to use camcorders from 1kgs/2,2Lbs, if you have a Blackbee you will be able to use camcorders from 2kgs/4,4 lbs, and if you have the Silverarrow 925 you will be able to use camcorders from 3,5kgs/7,7Lbs. So you can now use lightweight camcorders on your steady.

How to mount the counterweight

Use a flat screw driver to attach the 1/4" screw of the plate to the bottom of the camcorder.

Once the camcorder is attached to the counterweight, see the bottom of the counterweight and find the hole with a female thread of 1/4".



Counterweight for Lightweight camcorders

Now use the 1/4" screw of the plate on top, and with a flat screw driver secure this screw.

Put back again the plate on top in position to proceed with the balance of the sled.



Customizing Using different kind of batteries

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This new version of the post comes with detachable side panels to let our customers use different type of batteries.

Anyway the size of the thickness of the batteries are limited to the design of the post.

We tested a few 65Ahm v-mount and gold mount batteries and we also tested gold mounts of 95Ahm.

The final thickness available space depends on the socket as well as to the brand and type of battery you are willing to use.

First remove the side panels of the post using the 5/32" allen wrench.

Remove the original Lead acid gel battery.

Buy the right socket for your own type of batteries such as gold mount or v-mount.

Drill a few holes to mount the socket to the post.

Then connect the positive and negative wires that comes out of the post to the socket.





Operating safety a Steady is largely a matter of common sense. Here is a quick list of ideas about avoiding problems:

- Check the area you'll be shooting in before you shoot, without wearing the gear.
- Make sure your path is clear.
- Look for obstacles and note anything you might run into or trip over.
- Use a spotter to guide you around objects and to catch you if you fall.
- Rehearse with the spotter.
- Rehearse getting on and off cranes and other vehicles, including connecting and disconnecting carabineers and safety harnesses.
- Check knots.
- Use appropriate footwear.
- Use kneepads in rough terrain or when moving quickly. Some operators always wear kneepads.
- Avoid situations where one commonly falls like skis, skates or running in loose sand or snow.

ABOVE ALL, NEVER BE PRESSURED INTO SHOOTING WHEN YOU FEEL IT IS UNSAFE.

It is important to read the full instructions before use in order to take full advantages of the system and prevent accidental damage.

Do not exceed to maximum specified load (see specifications)

Always engage safety locks and devices where applicable on the product.

Do not use the product at temperatures less than -30 °C or more than +60°C (-22°F/ +140°F).

Dry the product after use in wet conditions.

Not recommended to use in seawater.

Do not leave the product in the sun for long periods and avoid high temperatures e.g. in a car or behind glass for hours.

Do not leave your product unattended when working where the general public could be endangered.

It is recommended that the equipment be removed from the support for transportation.

Clean with mild detergent and a soft cloth.

Remove dust and sand from all locking threads and sliding segments.

The equipment does not require regular lubrication but if required, use a standard lubricant oils or grease.

In the event on the product becoming defective, you should contact any authorized BASSON service agent.