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PROFESSIONAL



KEY GRIP

video tripod kit

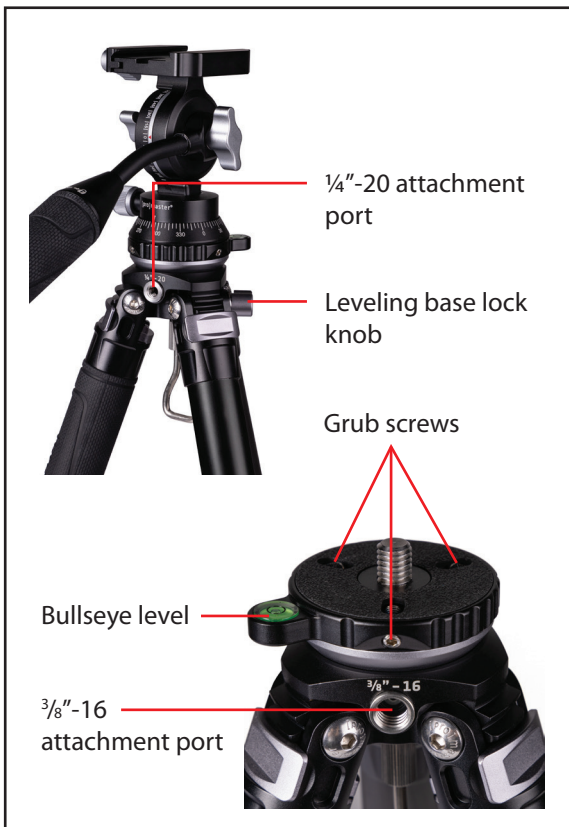


Congratulations on your purchase of the ProMaster Key Grip Video Tripod kit! You obviously have excellent taste.

Please read these instructions thoroughly to ensure proper operation of your new tripod kit, even if you have used other tripods before. With proper use and care, the Key Grip will provide many years of service.

Be sure to refer to the main parts diagram as well as each of the figures throughout the pages as you read. When a specific part of the Key Grip is referred to in **red**, you will find it shown on the main parts diagram and/or in the referenced figure.

Parts Diagram:



INITIAL SETUP

When you first unbox the Key Grip Tripod, it will be stored in its padded fabric case. This bag provides a great way to store and transport the tripod, and its interior pouch is a convenient place for keeping accessories. Upon removing the tripod from the bag, you will find the **control handle** and **quick release plate (QR plate)** attached to the **video head**. These items will be discussed later in this manual.

After removing the tripod from its bag, begin by unfolding the tripod's legs one at a time. Take ahold of each leg and pull it away from the tripod's center until it stops. With all three legs set to their first and most basic angle position, the Key Grip will stand on its own.

Next, we want to make sure that the **grub screws** are properly tightened so the **video head** is securely attached. Unscrew the **handle end cap** from the head's **control handle**, and you will find a set of hex keys stored within the handle. Two **4mm hex keys** can be used for multiple functions discussed later in this manual; the smaller **2.5mm hex key** is used for **grub screw** adjustment. Notice three small, silver-colored bolts on the black exterior section of the **leveling base**. These are known as a **grub screws** and they prevent the head from detaching by placing force against its base. Use the **2.5mm hex key** to ensure that the screws are tight. If they are loose, first take ahold of the **video head** and make sure its **pan lock knob** is tight. Now rotate the head against the **leveling base** in a clockwise direction to ensure it is tight. Finally, tighten the **grub screws**.



Adjusting a grub screw.

*Note, the **grub screws** are typically only used when removing the **video head** or when attaching a different type of head to this tripod. Never operate the tripods or head unless the **grub screws** are tight.*

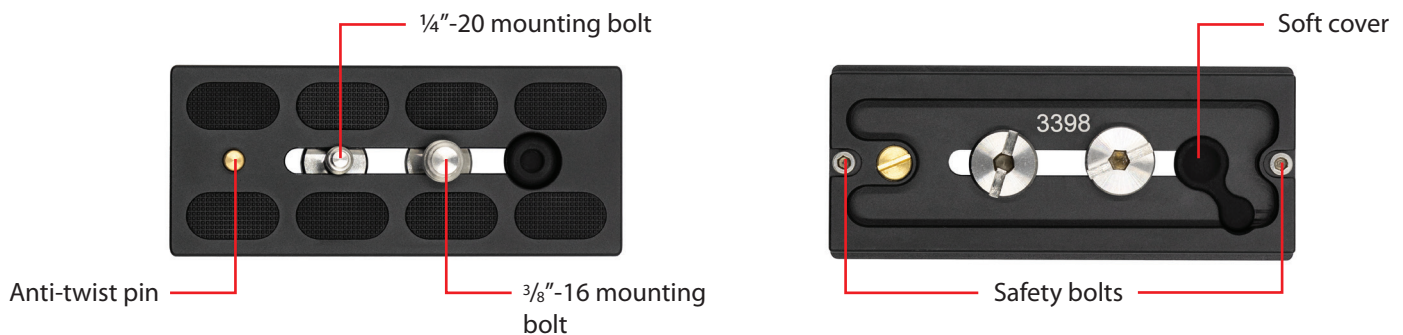
ATTACHING YOUR CAMERA (USING THE QUICK RELEASE PLATE)

Loosen the **QR knob** on the **video head** and remove the **QR plate**. In most cases you will be using the **1/4"-20 mounting bolt**; however, the larger **3/8"-16 mounting bolt** may be necessary with some gear. Professional lenses and cameras often have two mounting holes, for which you can use both the **1/4"-20 bolt** and **3/8"-16 bolts** simultaneously. If you prefer to remove one of the mounting bolts, remove the **soft cover** from the bottom of the **QR plate**, slide the bolt out, and replace the **soft cover**. When mounting any camera or lens, slide the bolt(s) within the slot in the **QR plate** to achieve the best positioning. The plate should be mounted parallel to the direction of your lens. Use one of the **4mm**

hex keys stored in the control handle to tighten the mounting bolts. These bolts can also be tightened with a flathead screwdriver. Now place the QR plate (with your camera attached) into the top of the video head and tighten the QR knob to hold it in place. When mounting your camera to the head, slide the QR plate back and forth within the QR platform to find the best balance point before fully tightening the QR knob. Note the location of the plate using the numbered scale on the QR platform for future, repeatable mounting in the same place. Notice that the QR knob is repositionable—you can pull outward on it, rotate it to a new position, and let go of it. This will change the phase position of the knob without loosening or tightening it. This repositionable feature allows you to set the QR knob to the most convenient resting place.

The QR plate's anti-twist pin is designed for an anti-twist hole found in the bottom of some cameras and lens mounting rings. If your camera or lens does not have this hole, the spring-loaded pin will retract on its own as the QR plate is installed. If preferred, you can remove the pin by unscrewing it from the bottom of the QR plate with a flathead screwdriver.

On the bottom side of the QR plate you will notice two protruding safety bolts. These prevent the QR plate and your camera from sliding off the top of the video head if the QR knob is loosened accidentally. The safety bolts can be removed if you choose using the 2.5mm hex key stored in the control handle. Removing the bolts will allow the QR plate to slide into the top of the video head more easily, but will eliminate the safety feature. We do not recommend removing the safety bolts from the QR plate.



REMOVING AND MOUNTING THE HEAD

You may choose to remove the included video head and install a different type of head. Or you may wish to mount the Key Grip video head to a different tripod, monopod, or grip item.

Locate the 2.5mm hex key stored within the Key Grip's control handle. Use the hex key to loosen the grub screws found on the rim of the leveling base. Ensure that both the pan lock knob on the head and the leveling base lock knob are tight. Take ahold of the video head with one hand and the tripod's soft leg grip with your other hand. While holding the tripod steady, turn the video head counterclockwise to loosen it from the leveling base. Continue turning the head until it is fully released from the tripod.

You can now mount a different head to the 3/8"-16 connection on the leveling base. Once the head is installed, be sure to re-tighten the grub screws to secure it in place.

USING THE VIDEO HEAD

Your Key Grip Video Tripod Kit includes a precision machined aluminum **video head**. It is a 2-way head, meaning there is control for the tilt adjustment and separate control for the panning motion. An extendable **control handle** with a soft, comfortable grip helps achieve smooth panning and tilting motions. The **QR platform** can also be set up in various orientations for front-to-back **QR plate** mounting or side-to-side. Each of these are explained below.

Using the Control Handle

The Key Grip **control handle** is extendable. To unlock the handle in order to extend it, hold the grip and twist to the left. Then, pull back to bring the handle to its full extension, and twist to the right to lock it in place. Reverse this procedure to return the handle to its standard length.

To adjust the handle's angle, loosen the **handle release knob** approximately 1 full turn. Reposition the **control handle** to a comfortable angle, hold it in place and tighten the **handle release knob** to secure its position. Two facing stainless steel rosettes prevent the handle from slipping out of position during use.



Pan and Tilt Adjustments

The Key Grip **video head** has an independent base panning control with a laser-engraved scale for precise rotational movements. Loosen the **pan lock knob** and you can rotate the entire head 360° around its base.

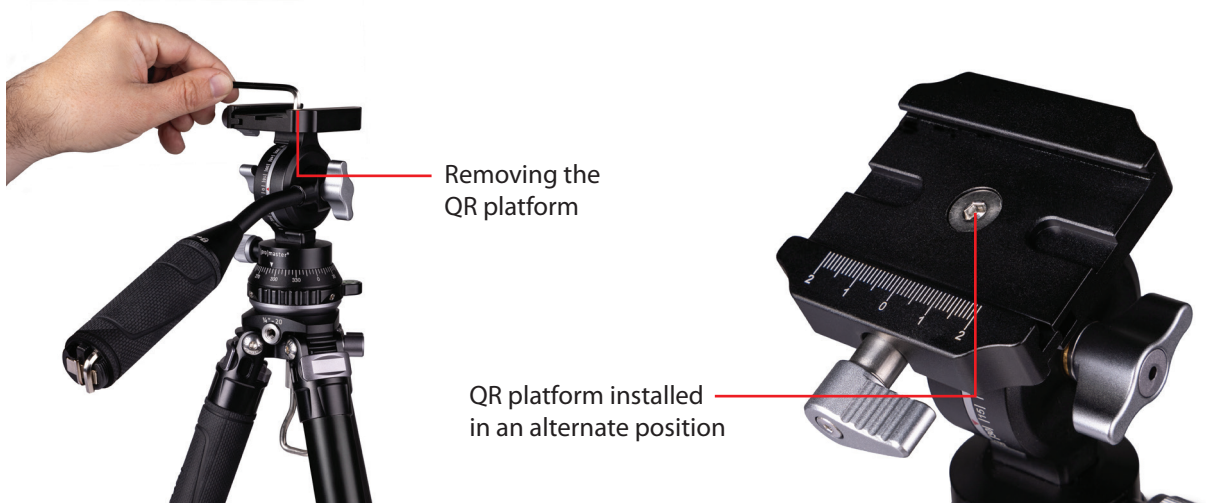
*Please note, the **pan lock knob** is indeed a lock and does not offer any type of tension adjustment. This head uses static drag for panning. Do not attempt to apply tension using the pan lock knob or you may damage the mechanism. This knob should only be set to a locked or unlocked position but nothing in between.*

The **tilt adjustment knob** controls the tension of the head's tilt adjustment. When this knob is fully tightened it will lock the tilt axis, thereby holding it in a fixed position. When loosened, the head can be tilted up to 90° forward and 60° backward. (The head features an etched scale with degree markings to aid in making precise, repeatable movements.) The **tilt adjustment knob** allows for some tension control. This means that you can adjust the knob between its fully tightened and fully

loosened positions to apply varying amounts of tension. Doing this will slow down the movement of your camera and can help achieve smoother motions. Greater tension can be beneficial when working with heavier camera rigs.

Changing the Direction of the QR Platform

In its default setup, your camera mounts to the head in a front-to-back sliding direction. This can be changed to a side-to-side direction, which is particularly useful for mounting a camera with an L-bracket or cage attached. With the **QR plate** removed from the head, notice the large, silver bolt in the top center of the **QR platform**. Remove this bolt using one of the **4mm hex keys** stored in the **control handle** and lift the **QR platform** away from the head. You can reposition the platform in any one of 4 positions at 90° intervals. Replace and tighten the bolt to re-fasten the **QR platform** to the head.



ADJUSTING THE LEG ANGLES

The Key Grip has three working angles for its legs: 22°, 50°, and 80°. Each leg angle can be adjusted independently. Most of the time you will set all three legs to the same angle. However, in some cases (such as uneven ground) you may choose to set the legs at different angles to achieve the best overall stability.

When the Key Grip's legs are in a closed position, meaning they are pushed together, you can simply pull on each leg until it stops at leg angle position #1 (22°). This is the most common and most used position for the tripod.

To adjust a leg angle beyond the first position, take a hold of it near its top. Pull out on the **leg angle lock** until it is completely open. Lift the leg up until it stops. This is the leg's widest leg angle, position #3 (80°). You can keep the leg at this angle or continue pushing it in until the leg clicks into its next angle #2 (50°). Again, you can stop here or continue on to the first position (22°).

Anytime you want to use a smaller leg angle (and are moving to it from a wider leg angle), simply push in on the leg. When you want to open a leg to a wider angle, pull out the **leg angle lock** first.

*Note: Before pulling the **leg angle lock** out, you will find it easier to push in on the leg, just slightly, to relieve pressure on the **leg angle lock**.*



*Note: The bolts located at the leg angle joints may become loose over time. To tighten them, use both **4mm hex keys** to tighten the bolts by turning them in opposite directions at the same time.*



EXTENDING AND COLLAPSING THE LEGS

The Key Grip Tripod has 4 sections per leg. This means you have 3 extendable leg sections and one fixed section which is connected to the **tripod collar**. All of the legs are keyed, meaning they will not rotate relative to each other. This feature allows you to open or collapse the leg sections in any order. For the best stability we recommend opening and using the leg sections from biggest (largest diameter) to littlest (smallest diameter). In other words, extend the largest sections first and proceed in descending order.

Wrap your hand around one of the **leg locks** and twist it in a clockwise direction. This will unlock it. $\frac{1}{4}$ turn is all that is necessary to open each **leg lock**. Do not rotate the lock any further; if you rotate a **leg lock** too far, it may become unintentionally disassembled. Once the **leg lock** is opened, pull on the leg section(s) below to extend that section to the desired length. Then, turn the leg lock in the opposite direction to tighten it and hold the section in place. You do not need to apply very much force due to the design of these locks. Please be sure not to overtighten the **leg locks** or you may have difficulty opening them later.

As you practice extending the legs you will notice that when the leg is collapsed you can take ahold of just one **leg lock** with your fingers, or as many as all 3 **leg locks** with your entire hand at once. By taking ahold of all 3 **leg locks** at once and rotating them to an unlocked position, you can quickly open your tripod for use at full height.

You do not need to extend a section all the way until it stops before tightening a **leg lock**. You can choose to stop the leg anywhere along its length of travel and then tighten the **leg lock** to hold it there.

USING THE LEVELING BASE

The Key Grip features a 55mm **leveling base** built into the **tripod collar**. This makes it easy to fine-tune your camera rig's level adjustment without having to manipulate the **leg locks** after the tripod has been set up. The **leveling base** offers 15 degrees of adjustment.

To use the leveling base, first grasp either the **control handle** or your **camera**. Then, unlock the **leveling base** by turning the **leveling base lock knob** counterclockwise. With the base unlocked, you can now adjust your camera's position either by holding and tilting the camera itself or with the **control handle**. A **bullseye level** attached to the leveling base provides a convenient method for achieving a level setup. You can also use gridlines or other leveling aids available in your camera's viewfinder or display. Once your equipment has been leveled, lock the adjustment in place by tightening the **leveling base lock knob**.

Notice that just like the **QR knob**, the **leveling base lock knob** is repositionable—you can change the phase position of the knob without loosening or tightening it. This feature allows you to set the **leveling base lock knob** to the most convenient resting place.

Note: Before unlocking the **leveling base**, make sure that the **pan lock knob**, **tilt adjustment knob**, and **QR knob** on the **video head** are all fully tightened.

USING THE WEIGHT HOOK

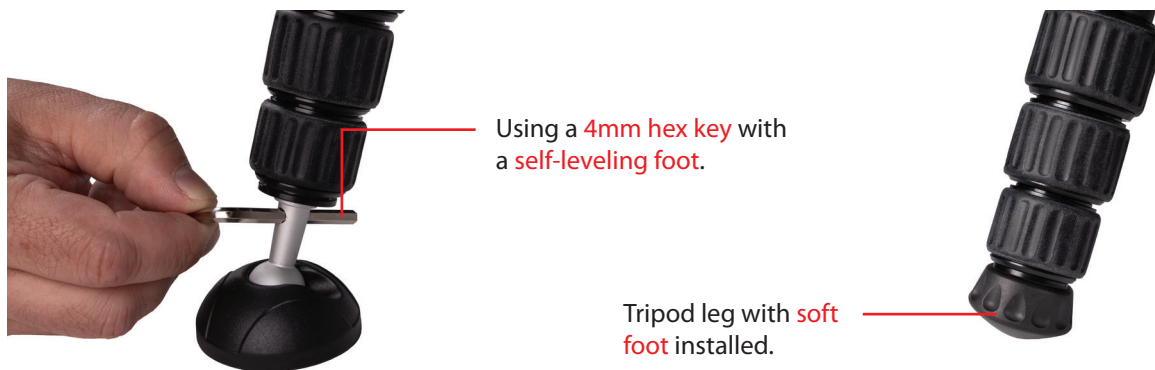
The **weight hook** is used to add stability to the tripod. This can be especially helpful for long exposures and in windy conditions. Hang some weight from the hook to add stability. Often your camera bag can be used—just be sure it is properly closed so none of your gear is at risk of falling out.

The **weight hook** comes attached to the underside of the tripod collar. It is removable, but we recommend keeping it installed and ready for use whenever needed.

INSTALLING TRIPOD FEET

The Key Grip comes with 50mm **self-leveling feet** attached to its legs. This style of foot helps achieve excellent stability while dampening vibrations (important for video work). Notches in the self-leveling feet allow them to remain flat even when the tripod's leg angles are all set to 80° for a ground-level setup. Standard **soft feet** can be a better choice on rough or uneven terrain, so we've included a set of those too. They can be found in the padded fabric case's internal accessory pouch.

Because the self-leveling feet swivel, they can be difficult to remove without a tool. A **4.5mm hex key** found within the **control handle** makes life easier. Simply insert the **hex key** through the hole in the **self-leveling foot** and use the **hex key** for leverage as you turn counterclockwise.



The **soft feet** connect to the legs of the tripod using a common $\frac{3}{8}$ "-16 thread; tools are not required to install or remove them. Each **soft foot** has a small O-ring in its threads. The O-rings help prevent the **soft feet** from becoming loose unintentionally. Because this tripod uses a common thread size and pitch, you can remove both types of included feet and replace them with other, compatible types as well.

THREADED ATTACHMENT PORTS

Two threaded stainless-steel **attachment ports** can be found in the Key Grip's **tripod collar**. These attachment ports are the most common sizes used in photo and video: one is ¼"-20 and the other is ⅜"-16. These ports are a great place to attach a grip item such as a flex arm or an articulating arm, which in turn can be used to hold and position things such as a light, microphone, or other useful device.

TIPS FOR USE

1. LEAVE ROOM FOR YOUR OWN LEGS

Unless specific terrain dictates otherwise, you should set up your tripod with one leg angled away from you and the other two legs directed to your left and to your right. This gives you room to stand and operate your camera with less chance of tripping on the tripod.

2. PERIODICALLY CHECK THE GRUB SCREWS

The grub screws keep the head securely connected to the tripod and prevents these parts from accidentally becoming loose. Check the grub screws periodically along with the head to ensure they are connected tightly.

3. LEVEL THE TRIPOD'S COLLAR FIRST, THEN FINE-TUNE WITH THE LEVELING BASE

Notice the bullseye level connected to the leveling base. This is a valuable tool. Before setting up your tripod, bring the leveling base to its neutral position (with zero tilt) and lock it there. Use the bullseye level to help keep the tripod collar level during initial setup. Use the Key Grip's independent leg angle adjustments as well as the independently extendable legs to achieve this. It will ensure maximum stability before you mount your camera to the video head. After this stage of setup is complete with your camera properly mounted, use the leveling base for fine tuning and enjoy not having to adjust the leg locks while getting things just right!

Warning: if the tripod collar is not set up level, you risk having the tripod (and your gear) fall over.

4. EXTEND THE THICKEST LEG SECTIONS FIRST

When you are using the Key Grip without all 4 leg sections fully extended, be sure to use the largest leg sections first and avoid using the thinner leg sections unless necessary. In other words, work your way down from the top of each leg. Using the largest leg sections provides the greatest amount of stability. Extending the top sections first also keeps the rest of the unused sections at the bottom of each leg closest to the ground. This forces more of the tripod's weight into a lower position, which lowers its center of gravity.

5. USE THE PAN AND LEVELING BASE LOCKS PROPERLY

The pan lock knob should either be tightened to lock the panning motion of the video head, or fully loosened to allow free panning movement. The same is true for the leveling base lock knob. Bear in mind these knobs cannot control tension. The panning movement and leveling base use static drag only. Do not attempt to control tension with these knobs or internal mechanisms may become damaged when you attempt to rotate the head or tilt the leveling base. These knobs should only be set to a locked or unlocked position but nothing in between.

6. MAKE ADJUSTMENTS WITH YOUR GEAR IN MIND

The Key Grip provides several ways to customize its operation to best suit your rig, starting with a long QR plate which lets you balance your equipment before using the tripod. Depending on the size and weight of your equipment and the type of movements you will be making, you may prefer to use the control handle in its extended or collapsed position. Finally, adjust the tilt adjustment tension to best suit your preferences.

7. LEVEL UP & STAY INSPIRED

Producing impactful work with cameras is both an art and a science, requiring both good equipment (you chose wisely with the Key Grip!) along with knowledge and creativity. For inspiration and to learn new skills, take advantage of any classes offered by your local ProMaster retailer, or visit blog.promaster.com for informative how-to articles from a range of authors.

PRECAUTIONS

1. The Key Grip Video Tripod Kit is not water resistant. Do not submerge it or expose it to heavy rain or snow. If the tripod does get very wet, you may need to disassemble the legs to dry and clean them. Contact customer support at ProMaster for instructions about how to do this properly.
2. Never expose the Key Grip to salt water.
3. Periodically check to ensure various parts of the Key Grip are tight or adjusted properly, such as the grub screws, the control handle, the bolts located at the leg angle joints, and the feet.
4. Make sure that everything is properly locked down and secure before unlocking and adjusting the leveling base. This includes the QR knob, pan lock knob, and tilt adjustment knob.
5. Don't touch the metal parts of the tripod with bare skin in cold temperatures. Wear gloves. A great set of photo gloves can be especially helpful in cold weather.
6. Always make sure the QR plate is securely attached to your camera before mounting it to the Key Grip, and make sure that the QR knob is fully tightened before operating the head.

ONE YEAR UNCONDITIONAL WARRANTY

If for any reason, this ProMaster product fails with ONE YEAR of the date of purchase, return this product to your ProMaster dealer and it will be exchanged for you at no charge. ProMaster products are guaranteed for ONE FULL YEAR against defects in workmanship and materials. If, at any time after one year, your ProMaster product fails under normal use, we invite you to return it to ProMaster for evaluation.

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