

# epoch tripod kit

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PROFESSIONAL



Thank you for your purchase of the Epoch Tripod. The Epoch is an incredibly stable tripod which is excellent for many types of photography and videography. It excels especially well when making long exposures and working in adverse conditions, due to its incredible stability. Its 4-way head is designed for controlled precision when composing your work.

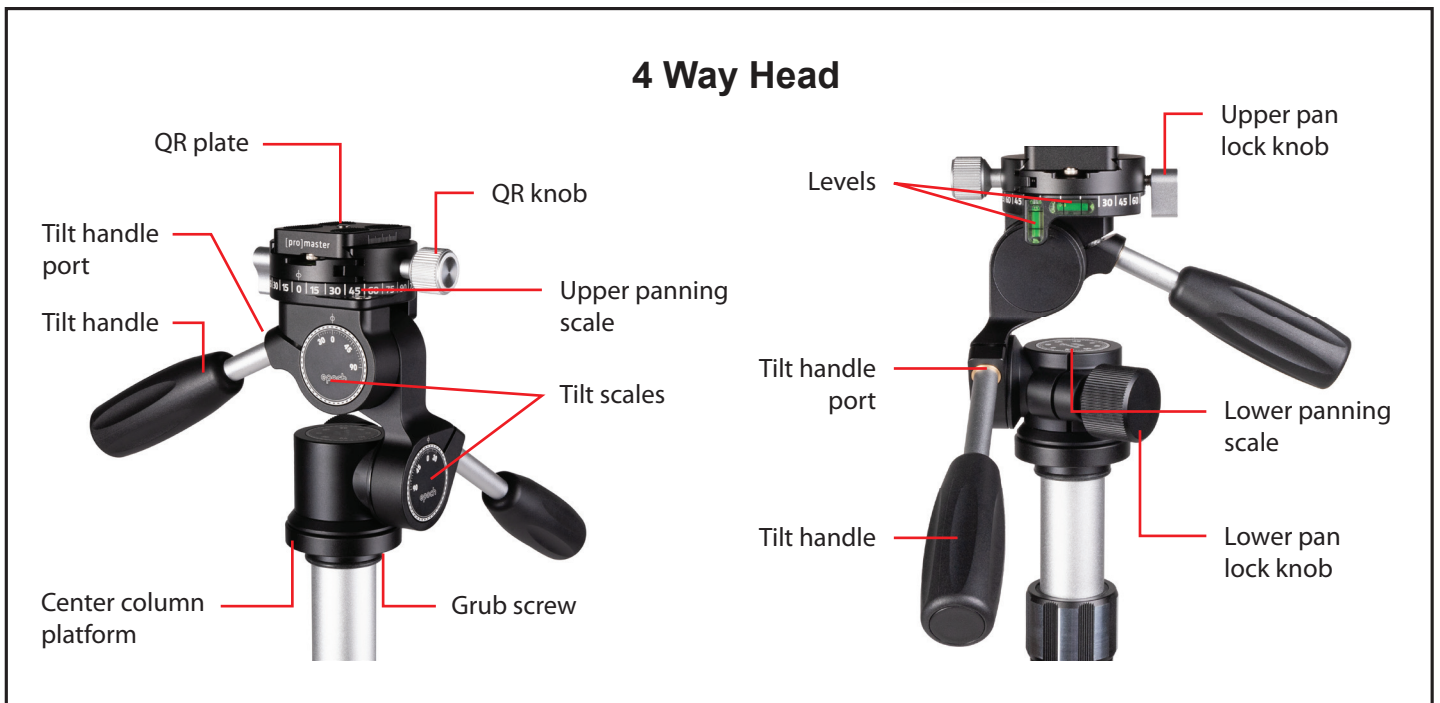
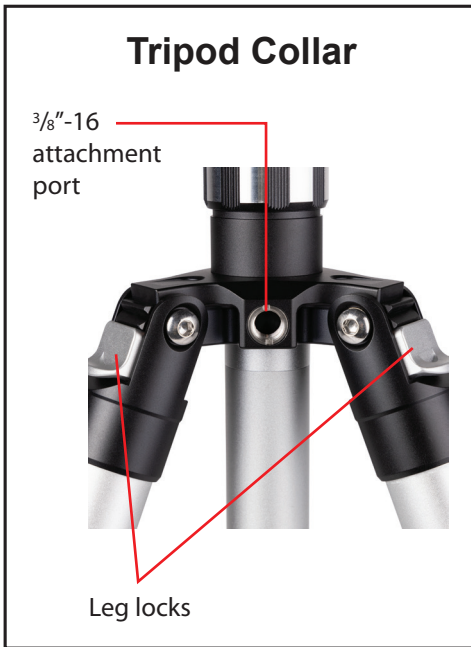
Please read through this instruction guide thoroughly, even if you have operated other types of tripods before. The Epoch's controls may be different.

Be sure to refer to the main parts diagram as well as each of the figures throughout the pages as you read.

With proper operation and care, the Epoch will last for many years.



# Parts Diagram:



# INITIAL SETUP

When you first unbox the Epoch it will be stored in its fabric bag. This is a great way to store and transport the tripod. It is also a good place to keep the tripod's tools. Upon removing the Epoch you will find the **4-way head** attached to the tripod but without its **tilt handles** installed. Look into the small, zippered pouch on the outside of the tripod bag and locate both handles. These should be installed into the head by threading them into the head's **tilt handle ports**. Either handle will work in either port. Most often the longer handle is installed in the tilt port which controls the camera's forward and backward tilt motion.

*Note, the Epoch's bag is designed to hold it with the **tilt handles** installed. Simply loosen the handles and set the head's angle positions to the lowest angles and slide the tripod into the bag feet first.*

Now open 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 3 legs set to their first and most basic angle position, the Epoch will stand on its own.

Next, check to ensure the head is securely attached to the tripod. Sometimes it can become loose after manufacturing and during shipping. Firmly hold onto the **center column**. Loosen the **column lock** by turning it to the right  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn. Raise the **center column** by pulling it upward. Tighten the **column lock** by turning it the opposite way. Now look at the underside of the **center column platform**. You will see one small, silver-colored bolt known as a **grub screw**. Open the tool kit and remove the smallest hex wrench. Use it to ensure the **grub screw** is tight. If it is loose, first take ahold of the **4-way head** and make sure its **lower pan lock knob** is tight. Now rotate the head against the **center column platform** in a clockwise direction to ensure it is tight. Finally, tighten the **grub screw**.

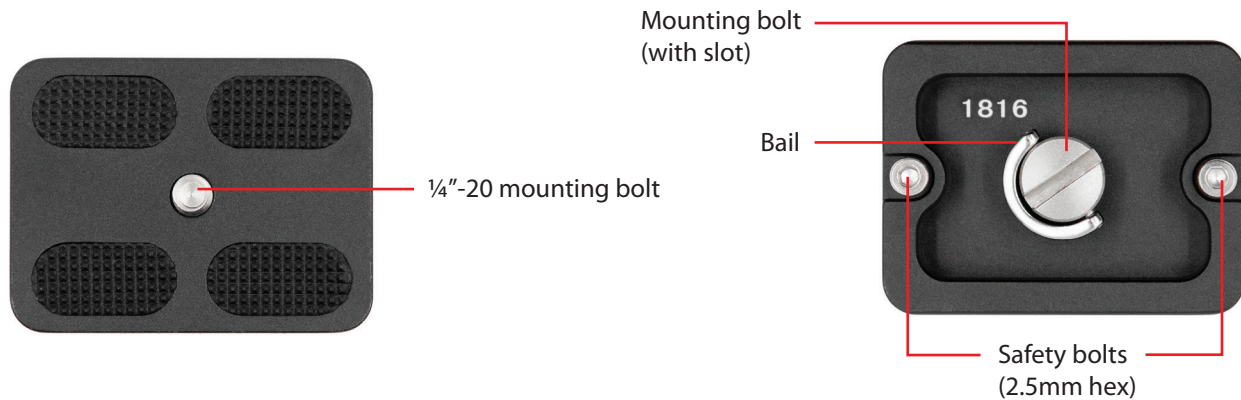


Grub screw  
(under center  
column)

## ATTACHING YOUR CAMERA (USING THE QUICK RELEASE PLATE)

Loosen the **QR knob** on the **4-way head** and remove the **QR plate**. Connect the **QR plate** to your camera by threading its **mounting bolt** into the tripod connection port located in the bottom of your camera (or lens). Use the **bail** on the **mounting bolt** to tighten the **QR plate** to your camera properly. You can alternatively use a flat head screwdriver or coin to tighten the **mounting bolt**. Now place the **QR plate** (with your camera attached) into the top of the **4-way head** and tighten the **QR knob** to hold it in place.

On the bottom side of the **QR plate** you will notice two protruding **safety bolts**. These prevent the **QR plate** and camera from accidentally sliding off the top of the **4-way head** if the **QR knob** is loosened. The **safety bolts** can be removed if you choose. Removing the bolts will allow the **QR plate** to slide into the top of the **4-way head** more easily, but it will eliminate the safety feature. We do not recommend you remove the **safety bolts** from the **QR plate**.



## REMOVING AND MOUNTING THE HEAD

You may choose to remove the included **4-way head** and install a different type of head. Or you may wish to mount the Epoch **4-way head** to a different tripod or grip item.

Begin by raising the **center column**. Hold the column firmly. Loosen the **column lock**, lift up on the **center column**, and retighten the **column lock**. Locate the smallest hex wrench included with the Epoch. Use the small hex wrench to loosen the **grub screw** found on the underside of the **center column platform**. Ensure the **lower pan lock knob** on the head is tight. Take ahold of the **4-way head** with one hand and the upper section of the **center column** with your other hand. Turn these two parts to loosen them from each other. Continue turning the head until it is fully released from the **center column**.

Once the **4-way head** is removed you will notice a special bolt in the middle of the **center column platform**. This **double-sided platform screw** can be reversed so a different head with a smaller 1/4"-20 mounting port can be installed. To reverse it, first locate the small hex wrench included with this kit. Use the hex wrench to loosen the **grub screw** which can be accessed from the top of the **center column platform**. Please note this is NOT the same grub screw which is accessed from the bottom side of the column platform and used to hold the head in place. After loosening this screw from the top, take ahold of the **center column platform** and rotate it counterclockwise to remove it from the center column. When you remove the **center column platform** the **double-sided platform screw** will come out with it. Reverse the **double-sided platform screw** and reinstall everything in reverse order. Finish by tightening the top-access **grub screw**. Now you can use a different head.



# OPERATING THE 4-WAY HEAD

Your Epoch tripod includes a precision **4-way head**. It has two tilt motions (front to back & side to side) as well as two panning motions (base panning & top panning). Each of these is explained below. This head also uses **safety bolts** on the bottom of its **QR plate** to prevent it from sliding off accidentally. This safety feature is explained in more detail the “Attaching Your Camera” section of this manual.

**Panning:** The Epoch has the ability to pan at the base of the head and at the top of the head. Both have a full 360° range of movement. Engraved scales can be found at both panning locations to help with the amount of movement as well as repeatability. Panning at the base moves the entire head, including the camera with any tilt adjustments in a circular motion. Panning at the top of the head rotates the camera independently of any tilts applied below it. To pan your camera from the base of the head simply loosen the **lower pan lock knob** and rotate the head to your desired position. Tighten the **lower pan lock knob** when finished. To pan your camera at the top of the head loosen the **upper pan lock knob** and rotate the camera to your desired position. Tighten the **upper pan lock knob** when finished. Notice the **upper pan lock 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 for the panning movement. This repositionable feature allows you to set the **upper pan lock knob** to the most convenient resting place.

*Note, when creating a series of photos for panoramic stitching, the upper panning motion is recommended.*

**Tilting:** The Epoch has two tilting motions, front to back, and side to side. Each of these tilts has a range from -30 to +90 degrees and convenient scales on the head allow for precise repeatable adjustments. The front to back tilt allows you to point your camera down or up. The side to side tilt lets you control your horizon line or go fully vertical. To apply a tilt in any direction loosen the appropriate **tilt handle**, move the head to your desired position and retighten the **tilt handle**. Only loosen one **tilt handle** at a time.

*Note: If you need to move your camera beyond the 30 degree limitation of a tilt, you can use the head in reverse to gain 90 degrees in that direction. Simply loosen the upper pan lock knob, rotate your camera the opposite direction, and tighten the upper pan lock knob. You will also need to reposition the tripod accordingly.*

# ADJUSTING THE LEG ANGLES

The Epoch tripod has 3 working angles for the legs: 20°, 50°, & 80°. Each leg angle can be adjusted independently. Most of the time you will set all 3 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 Epoch's legs are in a closed position, meaning they are pushed together, you can simply pull on each leg until it stops at its first position (20°). 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. Push downward on the **leg angle lock** until it opens. Lift out the leg until it stops. This is the leg's widest angle position (80°). You can keep the leg at this angle or continue pushing inward until the leg clicks to its next angle (50°). Again, you can stop here or continue pushing inward to the first angle (20°).

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 open the **leg angle lock** first.

*Note, before pushing the **leg angle lock** down to open it, you will find it easier to push in on the leg, just slightly, to relieve pressure on the **leg angle lock**.*



Leg angle locks





# EXTENDING AND COLLAPSING THE LEGS

The Epoch tripod has 3 sections per leg. This means you have 2 extendable sections and 1 fixed section, which is attached 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 it is recommended you open and use 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 left direction (oriented with the tripod upright and facing you). This will unlock it.  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn is all that is necessary to unlock each of them. Do not rotate the **leg lock** any further. If you rotate a lock too far, it may become unintentionally disassembled. Once a **leg lock** is unlocked, pull on the leg section(s) below it to extend that leg to the desired length. Then twist the **leg lock** in the opposite direction to tighten it and hold the leg in place. You do not need to apply very much force due to the special design of these locks. Be sure not to overtighten the **leg locks** or you may have a difficult time opening them later.

As you practice extending the legs you will notice when a leg is collapsed you can take hold of just one **leg lock** with your fingers, or both of them (on the same leg) together. By taking hold of both at once and rotating them to an unlocked position you can more quickly open the tripod for use at full height.

You do not need to extend a leg 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. This means each leg has an incredibly wide range of positioning for length.

# USING THE CENTER COLUMN

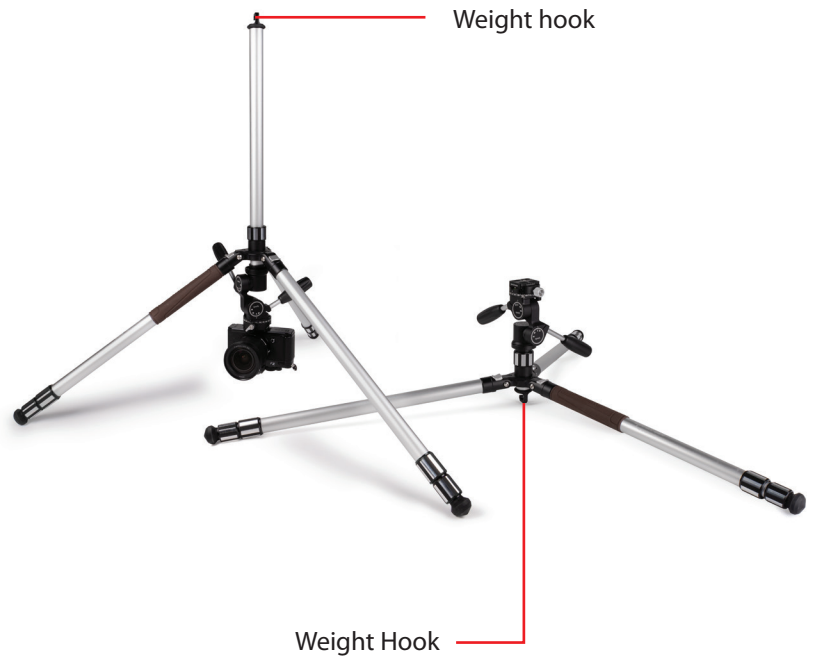
The Epoch includes a versatile **center column**. It can be used to achieve greater camera height or reversed for low-level work. It is a two piece column with a weight hook.

To extend or lower the **center column**, firmly hold onto it and loosen the **column lock** by turning it to the right  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn. Raise or lower the column to your desired position and tighten the **column lock** by turning it the opposite direction.

To reverse the column, first be sure a camera is not connected to the head. Remove the **weight hook** by unscrewing it from the bottom of the **center column**. Firmly hold the **center column** and loosen the **column lock** by turning it to the right  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn. Pull the **center column** up and out of the tripod's **collar**. Now reverse the **center column** and slide it back into the collar from underneath. Tighten the **column lock** and then replace the **weight hook**.

To shorten the **center column** (usually done for ground level work with the legs spread to a wide and low position) start by noticing the **seam** between the upper portion and the lower portion of the column. Hold the upper portion of the **center column** with one hand. Take hold of the lower section

of the center column with your other hand and unscrew it at the seam. Remove the **weight hook** from the lower section and reinstall it at the seam of the short column where the lower section had previously been connected.



## USING THE WEIGHT HOOK

The **weight hook** is used to add stability to the tripod and to prevent the **center column** from accidentally being removed completely from the **tripod's collar**. This can be especially helpful for long exposures and in windy conditions. Hang some weight from the hook to add stability. Often times your camera bag can be used. Just be sure it is properly closed so none of your gear is at risk of falling out. It is important understand the weight hook also prevents the **center column** from accidentally being lifted completely out of the **tripod's collar**. This is explained in the section "Using the Center Column" in this manual.

The **weight hook** comes attached to the bottom of the **center column**. It can also be attached directly to the upper portion of the **center column** when the lower section is removed.

## USING THE LEVELS

Your Epoch tripod has 3 bubble **levels** located in the **4-way head**. Notice two line **levels** in the back of the head as well as a round, bullseye level in the top of the head. These work as compositional aids. You can use them to set your horizon line. They are especially helpful when taking a series of images for panoramic work.



# REMOVABLE FEET

All three **feet** on the Epoch are removable. These **removable feet** are connected to the legs of the tripod using a common  $\frac{3}{8}$ "-16 thread. Each foot has a small O-ring in its threads. The O-rings help prevent the **removable feet** from becoming loose unintentionally.

Because this tripod uses a common thread size and pitch, you can remove the included feet and replace them with other, compatible types.

# THREADED ACCESSORY PORT

A stainless-steel  $\frac{3}{8}$ "-16 **attachment port** can be found in the Epoch's **tripod collar**. This port uses a common  $\frac{3}{8}$ "-16 thread. It can be adapted down to a common  $\frac{1}{4}$ "-20 thread if needed (adapter sold separately). This port is a great place to attach a grip item such as a flex arm or articulating arm, which in turn can be used to hold and position things such as a light, microphone, or other helpful device.

# TIPS FOR BEST OPERATION

## 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 SCREW

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

## 3. EXTEND THE THICKEST LEG SECTIONS FIRST

When you are using the Epoch without all 3 leg sections fully extended, be sure to use the largest legs first. In other words, work your way down from the top of each leg section.

## 4. LEARN THE TWO PANNING MOVEMENT OPTIONS WELL

Understanding the difference between using the upper and lower pan movements of the 4-way head can be a great aid in composing your images. Take some time to try them both while looking through your camera's viewfinder to see the difference. Try this with some tilt applied to the camera and also with your camera in a full vertical position. If you want to create panoramic photographs with stitching software be sure to learn how to find the nodal point of your lens and use the upper panning option of the Epoch.

## 5. FOCUS ON CAREFUL COMPOSITIONS

One of the main benefits of using a 4-way head is to achieve careful and precise compositions. Ball heads are built for speed and with speed sometimes comes sloppiness. Use the Epoch as a tool, a reason, to slow down and compose more carefully. The precision of having separate controls for various movements cannot be overstated. Use each, independent movement to make small, subtle changes to your compositions. This is a great way to raise your art and your creativity to a higher level.

## PRECAUTIONS

1. The Epoch 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 Epoch to salt water.
3. Periodically check to ensure various parts of the Epoch are tight and adjusted properly, such as grub screws, the tilt handles, bolts located at the leg angle joints, and the feet.
4. Don't touch the bare metal parts of the tripod with bare skin in cold temperatures. Wear gloves. A great pair of photo gloves can be especially helpful in cold weather. Also, hold the soft, silicone leg grip when carrying the tripod.
5. Always make sure the QR plate is securely attached to your camera before mounting it to the Epoch.
6. Do not use the Epoch when lightning is in the area. Yep, that's right, don't hold a big metal stick in a lightning storm! Enough said.

## 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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