

Rob Pleas Photography

# **GH-13r Gimbal Head**

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User's Manual



## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for purchasing the GH-13r "retrofit" Gimbal Tripod Head from Rob Pleas Photography. This model uses our new clamping mechanism instead of the simpler lock-pins, used on our original GH-13. To get the most out of your tripod head, please read this user's manual thoroughly before use.

This user's manual explains the GH-13r's functions, operation methods, and specifications. In addition, keep your camera's user's manual handy for quick reference.

## Key Features

1. Made in the USA
2. Aluminum Construction
3. Ball Bearing Operation
4. Tensioning knobs hold the lens at variable positions
5. Compact Size
6. Lightweight
7. Replaceable Components
8. Designed by a Professional Photographer
9. Supports most collared lenses (i.e. with a foot) up to and including Nikon's 500mm f/4 lens and Canon's EF 400mm f/5.6 lens.

10. Uses a low-reflective black anodized finish similar to the finish used by the military on many of its weapon systems.

## USER NOTICE

Your GH-13r Gimbal head has been designed for years of maintenance free use. Please follow the guidelines below to ensure the best performance, reliability, and durability expected from your product.

1. Do not exceed the maximum specified load capacity (see product specification chart or visit [www.robpleasphotography.com](http://www.robpleasphotography.com)).
2. Always ensure that the tensioning knobs **K** are tight enough to prevent the Gimbal frame **A** from rotating and bracket **B** from swinging before mounting or dismounting a camera lens onto the head!
3. Do not use the Gimbal head below temperatures of  $-4^{\circ}\text{F}$  or above  $+158^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  /  $70^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).
4. Always clean and dry the Gimbal head after it has been exposed to wet, dusty, sandy, or salty conditions. Your GH-13r Gimbal head is not recommended for use in salt water. Blot the head dry and wipe clean with a soft cloth.

Remove any dust, dirt, or sand from the head, bearings, and all moving parts!

5. Do not leave the Gimbal in the sun for prolonged periods and avoid high temperature exposure.

#### USER NOTICE - CONT'D

6. Do not use this product near electrical lines, power lines, or in an electrical or lightning storm.
7. Keep fingers and other body parts away from moving or rotating components of the Gimbal head.
8. Do not leave the Gimbal head unattended when working where the general public could be endangered. Keep out of the reach of children.
9. Remove camera lens and all gear from the GH-13r Gimbal head and any tripod or monopod when transporting.
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## SETUP

1. Ensure the tensioning knobs **K** are tight by turning clockwise, but **do not overtighten** as damage to the knobs and clamping mechanism may result. When tight, 'L' frame **A** and swing bracket **B** will be prevented from rotating and/or swinging.
2. Attach lower shaft **C** to the center column of your tripod and hand tighten.
3. Stand behind the Gimbal head and position the "L" frame to your right. This will put the tensioning knobs **K** on your right.
4. Attach your quick-release plate to the top of inner swing-bracket **B**. Position the quick-release plate so that the lens will be pointed away from you when attached.
5. If you do not have a quick-release plate, use the included bolt and carefully attach your lens to swing bracket **B**. Hand-tighten the bolt only.
6. With the lens securely attached to the GH-13r Gimbal, carefully attach the camera body to the lens.

## OPERATION

1. With your left hand securely holding the foot of the camera lens, turn the lower tensioning knob **K** counter-clockwise about 1/2 turn. This will allow the gimbal head to rotate left and right.
2. While still securely holding the foot of the camera lens, now turn the upper tensioning knob **K** counter-clockwise about 1/2 turn. Swing bracket **B** will now swing freely. If the camera or lens tends to "drop", the balance may need adjustment. Minimal adjustment is available.
3. To adjust the balance, simply loosen the quick-release plate and slide it forward or backwards within the slot. Also, some lenses have holes in the feet that allow the lens to be placed in different positions on the quick-release plate. Note that some experimenting may be required.

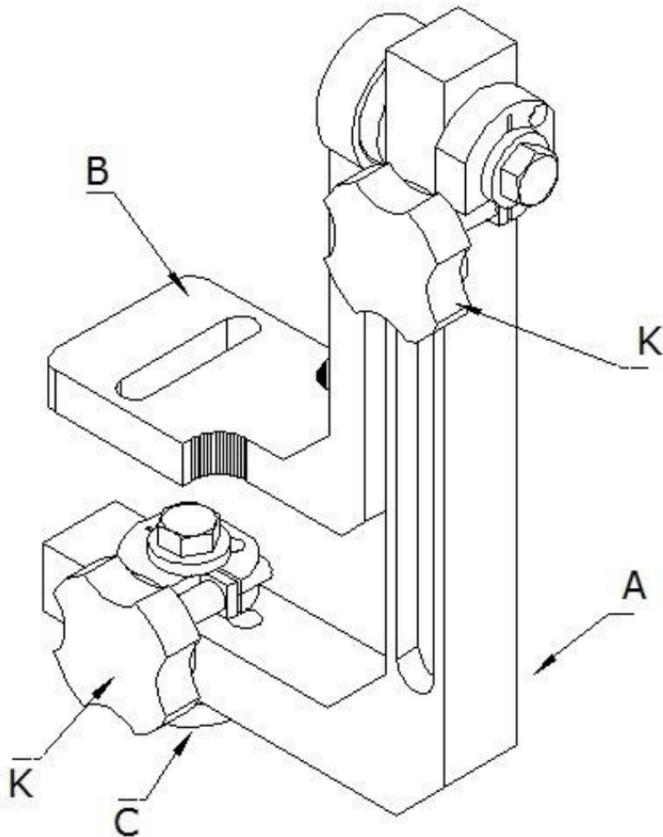
It is now highly recommended that you practice rotating and swinging your camera to get the feel of the tripod head and how it operates. When finished, simply turn both tensioning knobs clockwise to prevent the gimbal from rotating or swinging.

## ADJUSTMENT

The tension on the bearings is preset at the factory; however, it may or may not be correct for your specific lens. Some adjustment is possible. This is an advanced process that requires hand tools and is not recommended due to the possibility of damage to the GH-13r and/or your camera equipment!

If you feel you must change the bearing tension, a crescent wrench and hex wrench can be used to increase or decrease tension on the bearings. Make your adjustments carefully and slowly. Too much tension can damage the bearings and prevent the swing bracket **B** and shaft **C** from moving. Too little tension could cause the shafts to fall out of the frame, thereby causing damage to your equipment and the tripod head. **Remember that damage to your equipment is not covered by misuse or misoperation of the GH-13r Gimbal head.**

## GH-13r PARTS DIAGRAM



A 'L' Frame

B Inner Swing Bracket

C Lower Shaft

K Upper and Lower tensioning knobs

## SPECIFICATIONS

Weight 1 lb 12 oz..

Max. Dimensions 9 3/8"H x 1"W x 5 1/2"L

Maximum Specified Load Capacity 13 lbs

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trademarks of their owners.

## GH-13r Lens Compatibility List

### Canon

EF 70-200 f/2.8L USM  
EF 70-200 f/4L USM  
EF 28-300 f/3.5-5.6L IS USM  
EF 100-400 f/4.5-5.6 L IS USM  
EF 300 f/2.8L IS USM \*  
EF 300 f/4L IS USM  
EF 500 f/4L IS USM  
EF 200 f/2L IS USM \*  
EF 180 f/3.5L Macro USM

### Nikon

AF-S VR 70-200 f/2.8G ED VR/VR II  
AF 80-200 f/2.8D ED  
AF VR 80-400 f/4.5-5.6D ED  
AF-S 200-400 f/4G ED-IF VR/VR II  
AF-S VR 200 f/2G ED-IF \*  
AF-S VR 300 f/2.8G ED-IF  
AF-S 300 f/4D ED-IF  
AF-S 400 f/2.8G ED VR \*  
AF-S 500 f/4G ED VR/VR II

\* These lenses should be tested for proper fit with customer's equipment (i.e. camera, quick-release plate system, etc.) on the GH-13r before purchasing.