



Astro & Nature Tripod



#2451020



Manual and Application Tipps

Thank you for your purchase of the Astro & Nature Tripod. This large and sturdy tripod was developed especially with the demands of astronomy in mind.

To learn about all its possibilities and advantages, we recommend that you spend a few minutes reading this manual before using your new tripod.



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BAADER PLANETARIUM

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Zur Sternwarte 4 • D-82291 Mammendorf • Tel. +49 (0) 8145 / 8089-0 • Fax +49 (0) 8145 / 8089-105
www.baader-planetarium.com • kontakt@baader-planetarium.de • www.celestron.de

Astro & Nature Tripod

MADE ESPECIALLY FOR ASTRONOMY

The Astro & Nature photo tripod is a lightweight and stable tripod that has been specially optimised for astronomical observations. With a maximum extension height of 189 cm, you can mount binoculars or spotting scopes at a comfortable height even when looking up at the sky.

The special arrangement of the handles makes it possible to track targets comfortably and accurately in all directions – regardless of whether you want to keep an eye on birds or stars. At the same time, at only 3 kg, the tripod is light enough that you can take it with you to remote areas to observe the night sky or photograph nature with the sturdy carrying bag.

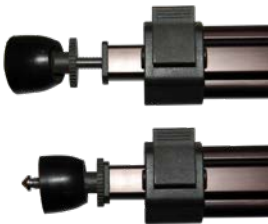


The Astro & Nature tripod at a Glance

Legs made of aluminium tube pairs – increased stability

The use of pairs of aluminium tubes for constructing the tripod legs allow for a stable and torsionally stiff construction with a low weight – it gets wider and wider towards the top (picture on the right), like a classic pyramid tripod, which counteracts torsion even when the legs are fully extended. The stiffness and the post-swing behaviour are comparable to much more expensive carbon tripods – at least in our tests did the differences not justify the significantly higher price.

The legs can be retracted in two stages so that the tripod, including the tilt head, fits into the 80 cm long carrying bag. Nevertheless, it is still stable even at a maximum height of 189 cm. The generously dimensioned clamping levers on the legs can be operated even with thick gloves.



The plastic caps on the legs can be screwed in or out, depending on whether the tripod is used on sensitive floors or on earth.

The leg braces stiffen the unfolded legs and provides additional stability. When folded, the legs can be secured with a fixed clamp so that they do not unfold unintentionally.

The movable plastic caps on the legs provide a stable hold on smooth ground and also protect the floor covering from damage. For more stability on loose soil, you can screw the caps back, exposing the steel tips. You can press these into the ground when using the tripod outdoors.

Extendable centre column with connection for ¼ inch photo thread.

The 35 cm long extendable centre column **5** is securely clamped with an easy-grip screw whose plastic handle you can easily operate even on cold nights.

At the top end there is an adapter from ⅜ inch to ¼ inch photo thread, so that you can attach accessories with "small" photo threads – for example, a small travel mount for telescopes instead of the fluid head included. For accessories with ⅜ inch thread, you need either a ⅜ inch reversing piece or a reducing piece (not included).

More stability with additional weights

At the bottom of the centre column is another spare adapter with 1/4 inch thread. Here you can attach one or more 1 kg leveling counterweights #2951401 (sold separately) to further increase the stability of the tripod with this additional weight.

The usual trick with lightweight photo tripods of simply hanging a backpack on the centre column has the disadvantage that it can act like a pendulum. The compact, weight attached directly to the centre column avoids this pendulum effect.

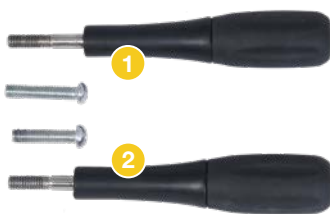
You can still hang your backpack between the tripod legs by suspending it with small tension straps between the tripod legs – there is enough space below the braces. This way you can access your backpack without putting it on the ground. By the way: Even if you hang your backpack on a classic tripod with hooks on the centre column, you should also attach it to the tripod legs with tension straps to prevent it from swinging.



The optional 1 kg leveling counterweight #2951401 at the center column

Versatile Fluid-Head made of Metal

The fluid tilt head is superior to a normal ball head in many respects. The built-in bubble level allows you to level the tripod – perfect for panoramic shots. If you remove the transport screws, you can screw on the two handles with which you can adjust the head vertically and horizontally. **The handle with the slightly longer thread **1** belongs to the height adjustment, the longer one **2** to the horizontal adjustment.** Depending on how much you tighten the handles, you can move the binoculars or spotting scope sensitively or clamp them firmly in one position.



The two handles of the tripod head. The slightly longer handle replaces the slightly longer clamping screw of the height axis, the slightly shorter one is used for lateral swivelling.

Single-handed Operation for Quick Use and Photography

The Astro & Nature tripod can be used in two configurations. If you only mount the elevation handle **2**, you can tighten the pre-installed Phillips screw of the horizontal adjustment so that the fluid damping allows smooth pans and the tilt head still does not change its position. You can then use the height adjustment handle to align the head as you would like. You can then fix the height setting by turning the handle around its axis.

In this configuration, the tripod fits into the carrying bag. It then offers the same convenience as the common fluid tilt heads of photo tripods. This setup is especially practical when you are using a camera and have one hand on the shutter release.

Of course, this classic use is also possible if you mount both handles.

Comfortable Motion with Both Hands

The Astro & Nature shows its strengths when you use both handles and observe with a spotting scope or binoculars. Instead of one handle for all movements, you have two handles at your disposal: One for horizontal **1** and one for vertical **2** movements. This allows you to move your device much more sensitively than with a simple photo tripod - whether you are tracking animals or birds, or leaving the earth to observe the sky.

Simply place one hand on each handle; the long lever allows you to perform even small pans with precision. The fluid damping prevents jerky movements.

This allows you to realise "smooth" pans even when shooting video – no wonder that special video tripods have been relying on fluid technology for years.

Transportation

To store the tripod in the bag, all you have to do is unscrew the handle for horizontal adjustment. Depending on your preferences, you can also replace it with the silver Phillips screw that is pre-mounted at the factory. With a screwdriver you can set a comfortable resistance and pack the tripod like this – so it is always ready for use when you take it out of the bag and use it as a "normal" photo tripod.

However, the second handle gives you more comfort when panning. However, since there is no load on the panhead in this axis, you can replace it with the screw as a slip clutch when observing near the horizon. Depending on whether compact packing dimensions and quick usability or more comfort and accuracy during panning as well



The fluid tilt head with quick release plate and the specially arranged handles.



The special arrangement of the handles enables sensitive tilting – here a 70mm binocular with Baader SkySurfer III illuminated dot finder #2957300

as a firm clamping are more important to you, you can adapt the tripod exactly to your needs. Fluid damping allows for smooth pans, no matter which option you choose. Even with just one handle, you can position the tilt sensitively.

Especially for astronomy or panning outside the horizontal, both handles allow you to follow an object more sensitively with both hands than with just a single handle.

The Tilting Mechanism

Especially for photography in portrait format, you can tilt the complete platform by 90°. This is done with the small hand screw **3**, which is attached to the fluid head.

Even small telescopes with an adapter plate with a photo thread on the right hand side can be used so that the fine adjustment and finder are oriented correctly. Compared to some of the mounts supplied with entrylevel telescopes, this is a clear gain in stability!



Above: A camera in portrait format for taking pictures in portrait format; right: A small telescope.



Quick Release Plate with Safety Lock

With the quick-release plate with ¼-inch photo thread, you can also conveniently mount heavy accessories on the quick-release plate first and then just clip it onto the tripod. The clamping lever **4** holds the quick-release plate securely in position. The small, silver safety lever **5** protects against unintentional activation of the lever. If you flip it, the plate can no longer be accidentally released (see pictures to the right).

If you often switch between several devices, working becomes really convenient if you use additional, optionally available quick-release plates (#2451021). Then the quick-release plate can remain on the device and you can, for example, take off one camera and put on a spotting scope in a few seconds – without any tedious screwing. To attach devices with ⅜ inch thread, you still need a reducer to ¼ inch thread (not included with the tripod, please contact the manufacturer of your device or your photo dealer).



Der Scherungshebel der Schnellwechsellplatte. Oben verriegelt, darunter entriegelt.

For maximum stability, place a camera in such a way that the interchangeable plate covers as large an area of the support surface as possible. The plate is oriented in such a way that this is automatically the case with cameras. At the same time, it is wide enough (five centimetres) to make use the support plate of common spotting scopes and to allow you to move a spotting scope freely horizontally and vertically. The cork coating ensures that the device does not get scratched and has a secure hold.

When using long telephoto lenses, use the thread on the lens instead of that on the camera, if possible, so that the camera is as balanced as good as possible. If necessary, follow the operating instructions of the camera manufacturer.

Nylon Carrying Bag

The durable bag has a side compartment where you can store the handles or small accessories. With the pair of carrying handles and a shoulder strap, you will always find a comfortable way to transport the tripod.



The carrying bag with outer pocket for handles and other small parts.

Technical Data

Maximum height: 189 cm

Weight of tripod & head: 3,1 kg

Payload: ca. 3 kg

Dimensions in carrying bag: 80x14x12 cm

Scope of delivery: Tripod, Fluid-head made of metal, carrying bag

Item number of additional quick release plates: #2451021

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Zur Sternwarte 4 • D-82291 Mammendorf • Tel. +49 (0) 8145 / 8089-0 • Fax +49 (0) 8145 / 8089-105
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