

ACRATECH INC.

QUALITY PRECISION PRODUCTS



Spherical Panoramic Head

Thank you for choosing an Acratech Product

The Acratech Spherical Panoramic Head is used to capture virtual reality type images, where when viewed on a computer you can pan around an image to simulate looking left, right, up or down.

This head is designed to be used with the Sigma 8mm 3.5 lens. The proper upward lens angle and nodal point are designed into the head and do not need to be set by the user.

Please note that all knobs on all Acratech products tighten in the clockwise direction, just like opening a container. Clockwise to tighten, counterclockwise to loosen.

All of our knobs are secured so they cannot vibrate loose or fall off. Do not loosen them past the point where resistance is felt.

INSTALLING THE LENS RING

Make sure the small arrow points toward the front of the lens and the line that the arrow is on lines up with the focus line on your lens

If your lens has a manual focus switch there is a notch in the lens mount ring to clear the switch.

Slide the ring forward until the ring is evenly centered on the section of the lens that has the Sigma Logo on it.

Double check that the focus line on the lens mount is still aligned with the focus line on the lens. Tighten the screw with the supplied Allen wrench. Tighten the screw just enough so the lens will not move, but do not over tighten it.

INSTALLING YOUR TRIPOD HEAD

When shooting panoramic images it is important to pan exactly horizontally or parallel to the horizon. To do this we must level the bottom of the panoramic head.

The easiest way to do this is with a leveling base. A ballhead can also be used as a leveling base, by installing a quick release plate onto the bottom of the Panoramic head and inserting it into the quick release clamp of the ballhead.

If you are installing your Panoramic head onto a 1/4-20 thread, the thread should be at least 3/16 (5mm) long and you will need to use the included brass reducer bushing.

If you are installing your Panoramic head onto a 3/8-16 thread, the thread should be at least 1/4" (6mm) long and no longer than 3/8" (9.5mm).

Being careful not to cross thread slowly tighten your Panoramic head onto your leveling base. Make certain to tighten it enough so it will not loosen during use.

INSTALLING YOUR CAMERA

To install your camera onto the Panoramic Head first make sure the head is rotated correctly so that the lever is at the front and the lens slot is facing you. The index mark should also be pointed at the 1. and the pan knob should be on your left side.

Tighten all of the knobs and then push in the lever all of the way and depress the safety lock and pull the lever open. If you do not first push in the lever, you cannot depress the safety lock.

Now simply slide the lens mount into the panoramic head and close the lever.

Every time you put your camera onto any ballhead, clamp etc. always test the set-up by trying to wiggle your camera up and down and side to side before removing your hand from your camera.

PREPARING TO SHOOT

To level your panoramic head loosen the main knob of your leveling base or ballhead and simply move the panoramic head so it is level using the bubble level on the panoramic head as a guide.

You may have other levels on your tripod, leveling base etc. and they may not all be in exact agreement. It is easiest just to use the one on the panoramic head. They have been verified and are easy to read.

We are now ready to point the camera in the direction of our 1st shot. If you plan on using your images in conjunction with mapping software, there is a flat surface on the body for aligning a compass. Just put your compass against the flat, loosen the pan knob and rotate the panoramic head until the compass points north. Retighten the knob. Otherwise loosen the pan knob and point your camera in the desired direction of your first shot and retighten the knob.

SHOOTING YOUR IMAGES

It is beyond the scope of these instruction to cover all of the aspects of camera settings but generally set all of your settings to manual and if you do not have a specific point of focus, use an F stop of F 8.0 and set your focus to the hyperfocal distance which; for this lens and f stop is just under .5 meters or 1.5 ft.

You are now ready to take your first shot. Make sure the index mark is still at the number 1, and take your first shot. Rotate the head clockwise (panoramas are always done in the clockwise direction) until it stops at the number 2 mark and take your second shot. Continue until you have taken the 4 shots and return your camera back to position 1.

Remember that the lens has a very wide field of view so be careful to always stand behind your camera so no part of your body is in the shot.

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Thank you for choosing an Acratech product. If your tripod head or any Acratech product needs service or repair, please send it directly back to us. Do not send it to your dealer as this will only delay the service. If you have any questions or comments please call or email us .

WARRANTY

All Acratech Products are fully guaranteed for 10 years to the original purchaser. This covers all manufacturing and material defects.

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