



Black Widow Gimbal Tripod Head for Heavy-Lens Applications

Thank you for purchasing the **Black Widow Gimbal (BWG) Tripod** head from **Jobu design**.

If you have been frustrated using your current ball-head to support your heavy lenses, then you will love how well balanced, simple, and safe the BWG is. The BWG is tough, robust and easy to operate in all kinds of conditions.

Special Features Include:

- ❑ *Ergonomically designed, indestructible, thermoplastic clamping knobs.* These feature a wide grip and smooth contours that are easy on the hands. The high-profile 6-lobe design allows for easy of use and strong clamping, even with gloves on.
- ❑ *Horizontal Lockout Knob.* Use for locking head while traveling.
- ❑ *All weather design.* From the hard powder-coated support arm, to the stainless steel shafts, to the black anodized clamp, the finish will endure the worst nature can throw at it.
- ❑ *Light weight yet High Strength.* Strength and weight are optimized so that the BWG can carry a monster 600 F4 lens, yet be light enough to carry to shooting locations without undue stress on your shoulders.
- ❑ *Maintenance free design.* The BWG requires no maintenance for the life of the product. Nylon bushings will never wear out, and heavy-duty waterproof grease is used to create the silky-smooth operation.

Available Accessories:

- **Jobu's SureFoot Lensplate** – An Arca-Swiss™ compatible, adaptable lensplate to fit most styles of telephoto lenses.
- **BWG- Camera Horizontal Mount Bracket** – Convert your side-mount to a Top-mount with simple adapter. Allows somewhat improved usage for 600mm lenses, or older lenses without rotating tripod collars.
- **Skorpion Ground Pod** - The SGP has a solid aluminum base with a unique flip-flop design. One side of the SGP can be used with the 3 skis in order to push it along sand, snow or grass so that you can creep up on your subject. The other side has 3 rubber feet that are suitable for any hard surface, such as a table, car-roof, or cement. A convenient carry handle allows you to carry around your gear with ease.

Installation and Usage Guide

Requirements: A telephoto lens with a rotating tripod collar, fitted with an "Arca-Swiss™" style dovetailed lens plate (such as the Jobu Design "SureFoot Plate", or similar plates manufactured by Kirk™, Wimberley™, Arca-Swiss™, etc.)

1. Holding the BWG vertically, screw the BWG base onto the 3/8" threads on your heavy-duty tripod. Tighten the setscrew in the base using the included Allen wrench. Failure to tighten the setscrew may cause the BWG and camera to unscrew from your tripod during usage. This is the nature of tripods in general -- it is not a design-flaw. Check periodically for tightness.

Note:

DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN THE SETSCREW - you may damage your tripod head threads if you do.

DO NOT USE WITHOUT A SETSCREW. If you have lost your setscrew, contact Jobu Design for a replacement, or purchase a 1/4"x20 set screw at your local hardware store.

2. Engage the horizontal lockout-knob to prevent any accidents before installing a lens on the BWG. Simply turn the tilt mechanism to horizontal, and turn the lock knob to its locked position. **Do not try to unscrew the lock-out knob. It is a PULL-and-TURN type of knob.**
3. Firmly attach the appropriate lens-plate to your telephoto lens according to manufacturers' directions*.
 - a) Open up the thumbscrew on the BWG lens-clamp a few turns and either: Slide the lens into the clamp, or:
 - b) If you have a dead-stop style lens-plate: Open up the clamp wide enough to install side-ways. Lightly tighten the thumbscrew.
4. Slide the lens and camera back and forth in the clamp to find the center of gravity. Tighten the thumbscrew firmly by hand. It is not necessary to over-tighten. If properly balanced, you should be able to position the lens in any orientation without it tilting back or forth. If you cannot balance the lens, then you likely have a lens-plate that is too short and will have to buy a special extended-length plate. **Perfect balance is not necessary in most cases.** The addition of teleconverters or a flash will not necessarily require a rebalancing.

Note: Some lens plates are reversible, check for correct usage.

5. Use the horizontal and vertical control knobs, as well as the rotating lens collar on your camera to adjust the position of your camera for optimum shooting. Leave the control knobs loose for panning and tilting, or clamp to freeze the action. Note: Turning the control knobs about 1/4 of a turn will clamp or loosen the position, there is no need to over tighten or unwind the knobs if you have achieved correct balance.
6. **TRAVELLING TIPS:** Use the horizontal lockout knob on the tilt-mechanism to prevent your camera and lens from tipping over when traveling, or when you are going to adjust the balance point (i.e., when you change lenses, cameras, add extension tubes, etc). Simply pull out the knob and turn one-quarter turn to unlock.
7. **Maintenance Tips:** The Black Widow does not require user maintenance. Heavy duty grease is used on all critical areas and should never wear too thin. If you really feel the need to give the unit a clean/lube/adjust then you can either return to Jobu Design, or follow some of the following steps:
 - The 2 large clamping knobs are removable – these can be greased periodically (once per year) with a synthetic grease (such as a bicycle grease) to help resist any galvanic corrosion (a condition arising from dissimilar metal contact).
 - Do not use thin 3-in-1 oil, chain oils, sewing machine oils (or similar) anywhere as it may wash out the factory installed grease. Only use synthetic grease.
 - If dirty, wipe with a clean, damp cloth and let air dry.
 - Check threads periodically for sand or dirt. Brush out or blow out with a bulb-puffer.
 - Chips in the powdercoat or anodizing will NOT rust. You may touch them up with permanent marker or automotive touch-up paint.
8. Test your BWG with your camera equipment indoors. Do not wait until you are out on a 10-mile hike, uphill, in the snow before you realized you have missed something!

That's it! Go out and shoot!

*Disclaimer: Jobu Design cannot be held responsible for any damage or losses to equipment incurred due to improper usage or abuse of equipment. Consult your manuals, do not abuse your equipment and only use it for its intended purpose. Check knobs and screws for tightness frequently.

The BWG is designed and manufactured proudly in Canada.