

Manfrotto 173B

Manfrotto 173B Mini Boom Arm Instruction Manual

Model: 173B

1. INTRODUCTION

The Manfrotto 173B Mini Boom Arm is designed to extend the capabilities of your light stand, allowing for precise positioning of lighting equipment over a subject. This aluminum boom arm is ideal for various photographic applications, including hair lighting and product photography, where overhead or angled light sources are required. Its robust construction ensures stable support for your lighting setup.

This manual provides essential information for the safe and effective use of your Manfrotto 173B Mini Boom Arm, including setup, operation, and maintenance guidelines.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

- Always ensure the boom arm is securely attached to a stable light stand.
- Do not overload the boom arm. Refer to the specifications for maximum load capacity.
- Use appropriate counterweights when extending the boom arm with heavy equipment to prevent tipping.
- Regularly inspect all connections and components for wear or damage before each use.
- Keep the boom arm away from electrical cables and water sources.
- Exercise caution when adjusting the boom arm, especially with attached lighting equipment, to avoid injury or damage.

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all components are present upon unpacking:

- Manfrotto 173B Mini Boom Arm
- Integrated 5/8" Stud with 1/4-20" & 3/8" threaded tips

4. SETUP

1. **Attach to Light Stand:** Insert the base of the Manfrotto 173B Mini Boom Arm into the receiver of a compatible light stand. Ensure it is fully seated and secured using the light stand's locking mechanism.



Figure 1: Manfrotto 173B Mini Boom Arm. This image shows the full length of the boom arm with its attachment points at both ends.

2. **Mount Lighting Equipment:** The boom arm features a 5/8" stud with 1/4-20" and 3/8" threaded tips. Attach your lighting fixture, speedlight, or other accessories to the appropriate threaded tip. Tighten securely.



Figure 2: Close-up of the attachment end of the Manfrotto 173B Mini Boom Arm, showing the 5/8" stud and threaded tips for mounting accessories.

3. **Balance and Stability:** For optimal stability, especially when extending the boom arm, consider using a sandbag or other counterweight on the opposite end of the light stand base. This helps prevent the stand from tipping.

5. OPERATION

The Manfrotto 173B Mini Boom Arm provides flexibility in positioning your light source. Once securely mounted, you can adjust the angle and extension of the boom arm to achieve the desired lighting effect. Always ensure all locking mechanisms on your light stand and boom arm are tightened before leaving the setup unattended.

- **Overhead Lighting:** Extend the boom arm horizontally to position a light directly above your subject for hair lights or top-down illumination.
- **Angled Lighting:** Adjust the boom arm to create specific angles for fill light, rim light, or other creative lighting setups.
- **Product Photography:** Utilize the boom arm to precisely place small lights or reflectors for detailed product shots, minimizing shadows and enhancing textures.

6. MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** Wipe the boom arm with a soft, dry cloth to remove dust and dirt. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Inspection:** Periodically check the aluminum tube for dents or bends. Ensure the attachment points and threaded tips are free from damage.
- **Storage:** Store the boom arm in a dry, clean environment when not in use.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Boom arm feels unstable or tips over.	Insufficient counterweight; light stand not stable; equipment too heavy.	Add counterweights (e.g., sandbags) to the light stand base. Ensure the light stand legs are fully extended and locked. Verify equipment weight is within the boom arm's capacity.
Equipment does not attach securely.	Incorrect thread size; damaged threads; loose connection.	Ensure your equipment uses 1/4-20" or 3/8" threads, or a 5/8" receiver. Inspect threads for damage. Tighten the connection firmly.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Model Number	173B
Brand	Manfrotto
Material	Aluminum
Color	Black
Length	42.91 inches (109 cm)
Tube Diameters	20mm
Attachment Type	Type 18 + Type 19 (5/8" stud with 1/4-20" & 3/8" threaded tips)

Item Weight	0.71 lbs (0.32 kg) / 11.3 ounces
Product Dimensions	44 x 1 x 1 inches

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Manfrotto products are manufactured to high-quality standards. For specific warranty information and support, please refer to the warranty card included with your purchase or visit the official Manfrotto website.

You can also visit the [Manfrotto Store on Amazon](#) for additional product information and support resources.