

Manfrotto 501PL

Manfrotto 501PL Rapid Connect Sliding Plate Instruction Manual

Model: 501PL

INTRODUCTION

The Manfrotto 501PL Rapid Connect Sliding Plate is an essential accessory designed for securely mounting cameras to compatible tripod heads, enabling quick attachment and detachment. This plate is a replacement quick release plate for National Geographic NGE2 ball heads and Manfrotto 501 or 503 video fluid heads. Its design facilitates balanced camera mounting and includes both 1/4-inch and 3/8-inch camera fixing screws for broad compatibility.

Key Features:

- Supplied with both 1/4-inch and 3/8-inch camera fixing screws.
- Compatible with NGE2 Ball heads and Manfrotto video fluid heads 501 and 503.
- Features a rubber pad to protect your camera and prevent rotation.

SETUP

Follow these steps to properly attach the 501PL Rapid Connect Sliding Plate to your camera and tripod head.

1. Attaching the Plate to Your Camera

1. **Identify the Correct Screw:** The 501PL plate comes with both 1/4-inch and 3/8-inch camera fixing screws. Select the screw that matches the tripod mounting thread on the base of your camera. The 3/8-inch screw is typically an adapter that fits over the 1/4-inch screw.
2. **Position the Plate:** Align the plate with the camera's tripod mounting thread. Ensure the rubber pads on the plate are clean and free of debris to provide a secure grip and protect your camera's finish.
3. **Secure the Camera:** Insert the chosen screw into the camera's mounting thread through the slot on the plate. Tighten the screw firmly by hand until the plate is securely attached to the camera base. Do not overtighten.
4. **Check Anti-Rotation Pin (if applicable):** Some cameras may utilize an anti-rotation pin. Ensure this pin, if

present on your plate, aligns with any corresponding hole on your camera base to prevent twisting. Note that some versions of this plate may have a removable plastic anti-rotation pin.



Image: Top view of the Manfrotto 501PL plate, showing the two camera fixing screws (1/4-inch and 3/8-inch) and the rubberized grip strips. This view illustrates how the camera would be mounted.



Image: An angled perspective of the Manfrotto 501PL plate, highlighting its rectangular form factor and the textured rubber strips designed to provide a stable, non-slip surface for the camera.

2. Attaching the Plate (with Camera) to a Tripod Head

1. **Open the Quick Release Clamp:** Ensure the quick release clamp on your compatible Manfrotto tripod head (e.g., 501, 503, NGE2) is fully open.
2. **Slide the Plate In:** Carefully slide the camera, with the 501PL plate attached, into the quick release receiver on the tripod head. The plate is designed to slide smoothly into the head's groove.
3. **Secure the Clamp:** Once the plate is fully seated, close the quick release clamp firmly to lock the camera in place. Verify that the camera is stable and cannot be easily removed without releasing the clamp.

OPERATING

The 501PL Rapid Connect Sliding Plate allows for precise camera positioning and quick transitions.

- **Balance Adjustment:** The sliding design of the plate allows you to adjust the camera's position forward or backward within the tripod head's receiver. This is crucial for achieving optimal balance, especially with different camera bodies, lenses, or accessories. Loosen the quick release clamp slightly (without fully releasing) to slide the camera, then re-tighten.
- **Quick Release Functionality:** To quickly remove your camera from the tripod, simply open the quick

release clamp on the tripod head and slide the plate out. This feature is ideal for fast setup and breakdown or switching between handheld and tripod shooting.

MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and reliable performance of your Manfrotto 501PL plate.

- **Cleaning:** Regularly wipe the plate with a soft, dry cloth to remove dust and dirt. For stubborn grime, a slightly damp cloth can be used, followed by thorough drying. Avoid harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners.
- **Inspect Screws:** Periodically check the 1/4-inch and 3/8-inch camera fixing screws for any signs of wear or damage. Ensure they thread smoothly and securely.
- **Check Rubber Pads:** Inspect the rubber pads on the plate for signs of wear, peeling, or damage. Damaged pads can compromise grip and camera stability. If pads are worn, consider replacing the plate or contacting Manfrotto support for advice.
- **Storage:** Store the plate in a clean, dry environment when not in use to prevent corrosion or accumulation of debris.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your 501PL Rapid Connect Sliding Plate, refer to the following common problems and solutions.

- **Problem:** The plate does not fit into my tripod head.
Solution: Verify that your tripod head is compatible with the Manfrotto 501PL plate (e.g., Manfrotto 501, 503, NGE2 series). This plate is not universally compatible with all quick release systems.
- **Problem:** My camera feels loose or rotates on the plate.
Solution: Ensure the camera fixing screw (1/4-inch or 3/8-inch) is fully tightened to the camera base. Check that the rubber pads on the plate are intact and providing sufficient grip. If your plate has an anti-rotation pin, ensure it is properly engaged with your camera's base.
- **Problem:** The plate is difficult to slide into or out of the tripod head.
Solution: Ensure the quick release clamp on the tripod head is fully open. Check for any debris or obstructions in the plate receiver on the tripod head or on the plate itself. Clean both surfaces if necessary.
- **Problem:** The anti-rotation pin is causing a gap or interference with my camera.
Solution: Some versions of the 501PL plate feature a removable plastic anti-rotation pin. If it causes issues with your specific camera model that does not utilize such a pin, it may be removed. Consult your camera's manual for its base plate requirements.

SPECIFICATIONS

Brand	Manfrotto
Model Number	501PL
Item Weight	0.2 Pounds (approx. 90 grams)
Item Dimensions (L x W x H)	3.54 x 1.97 x 0.43 inches (9 x 5 x 1.1 cm)
Material	Aluminum
Color	Black
Compatible Devices	Cameras
Mounting Type	Surface Mount
Camera Fixing Screws	1/4-inch and 3/8-inch
Additional Features	Rust Resistant

WARRANTY INFORMATION

For detailed warranty information regarding the Manfrotto 501PL Rapid Connect Sliding Plate, please refer to the official Manfrotto website or the warranty documentation included with your purchase. Warranty terms and conditions may vary by region and product.

SUPPORT

Should you require further assistance, technical support, or have questions not covered in this manual, please visit the official Manfrotto website at www.manfrotto.com or contact their customer support directly. Contact information can typically be found on their website under the "Support" or "Contact Us" sections.