

## Manfrotto 509HD, 536K

# Manfrotto 509HD Video Head and 536 MPRO Carbon Fiber Tripod Kit User Manual

Model Numbers: 509HD, 536K

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides detailed instructions for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your Manfrotto 509HD Video Head and 536 MPRO Carbon Fiber Tripod Kit. This professional video support system is designed for stability, precision, and ease of use, featuring advanced technologies for optimal camera control.

The kit combines the innovative 509HD video head with the robust and lightweight 536 MPRO carbon fiber tripod, offering a versatile solution for various filming environments.

## 2. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all components are present in your kit:

- Manfrotto 509HD Fluid Video Head
- Manfrotto 536 MPRO Carbon Fiber Tripod
- Carrying Bag
- Pan Bar
- Quick Release Plate

## 3. SAFETY INFORMATION

Please read and understand all safety instructions before using the Manfrotto 509HD and 536K kit. Failure to follow these instructions may result in equipment damage or personal injury.

- Always ensure the tripod legs are fully extended and locked before mounting any equipment.
- Do not exceed the maximum load capacity of 28.6 lbs (13 kg) for the video head.
- Securely attach your camera to the quick release plate and ensure the plate is locked into the head.

- Avoid sudden movements or impacts that could destabilize the tripod.
- When transporting, ensure all components are securely fastened and stored in the provided carrying bag.

## 4. SETUP

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### 4.1 Attaching the Video Head to the Tripod

1. Unfold the 536 MPRO Carbon Fiber Tripod legs and place it on a stable, level surface.
2. Ensure the tripod's mounting plate is clean and free of debris.
3. Align the base of the 509HD video head with the tripod's mounting screw.
4. Rotate the video head clockwise onto the tripod's mounting screw until it is finger-tight.
5. Use the locking lever or knob on the tripod (if applicable) to secure the head firmly in place.

### 4.2 Adjusting Tripod Leg Angles and Height

The 536 MPRO tripod features a new leg angle selector for quick and precise adjustments.

1. To adjust the leg angle, press the leg angle selector button located at the top of each leg.
2. Move the leg to the desired angle (e.g., narrow for maximum height, wide for maximum stability). Release the button to lock the leg in position.
3. To adjust the height of each leg section, unlock the leg locks (twist or flip-lock mechanism, depending on model). Extend the leg to the desired length and re-lock the sections securely.

### 4.3 Mounting the Camera

The 509HD video head uses a quick release plate system.

1. Remove the quick release plate from the 509HD head by unlocking the safety catch and sliding the plate out.
2. Attach the quick release plate to the base of your camera using the provided screw. Ensure it is tightened securely.
3. Slide the camera with the attached quick release plate back into the 509HD head. Ensure the plate clicks into place and engage the safety catch.
4. Verify that the camera is firmly seated and cannot accidentally detach.



Figure 1: Manfrotto 509HD Video Head. This image shows the video head with its pan bar, quick release plate mechanism, and various control knobs for fluid drag and balance.

## 5. OPERATING THE 509HD VIDEO HEAD

### 5.1 Fluid Drag System (FDS) Adjustment

The 509HD features a variable Fluid Drag System (FDS) for precise control over pan and tilt movements.

- Locate the FDS control knobs for pan and tilt (typically marked with numbers or symbols indicating drag levels).
- Rotate the knobs to increase or decrease the fluid drag. Higher numbers provide more resistance for smoother, slower movements, while lower numbers allow for faster, freer motion.
- Adjust both pan and tilt drag independently to match your shooting style and camera weight.

### 5.2 Pan Friction Control

The "Bridging Technology" design assists in intuitive pan friction control.

- The pan friction control is integrated into the head's design, allowing for fine adjustments to the horizontal movement resistance.
- Use this control to achieve the desired level of resistance for smooth panning shots.

## 5.3 Advanced Balance Recorder (ABR)

The ABR system allows you to record and recall the perfect balance position for your camera setup.

1. **To Record Balance:** With your camera mounted and balanced, activate the ABR function (refer to the specific button or switch on your 509HD head). The system will record the camera's position.
2. **To Recall Balance:** When remounting the same camera setup, activate the ABR recall function. LED lights controlled by a proximity sensor will guide you to quickly slide the camera to its previously set perfect balance point.



*Figure 2: Manfrotto 509HD Video Head controls. This view highlights the various knobs and levers for adjusting fluid drag, tilt, and the quick release plate mechanism.*

## 6. OPERATING THE 536 MPRO CARBON FIBER TRIPOD

### 6.1 Leg Section Adjustment

The 536 MPRO tripod features multiple leg sections for height adjustment.

- To extend a leg section, unlock the corresponding leg lock (twist-lock or flip-lock).
- Pull the leg section outwards to the desired length.
- Securely re-lock the leg section by twisting or flipping the lock mechanism until it is firm.

- Ensure all leg sections are fully locked before placing any weight on the tripod.

## 6.2 Leg Angle Selector

The leg angle selector allows for quick and easy adjustment of the tripod's footprint and stability.

- Each leg has an independent angle selector. Press the selector to release the leg from its current angle.
- Move the leg to one of the predefined angle positions.
- Release the selector to lock the leg at the chosen angle. This is useful for uneven terrain or low-angle shots.

## 7. MAINTENANCE

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Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your Manfrotto kit.

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe down the tripod and head after each use. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth with mild soap can be used, followed by thorough drying. Avoid harsh chemicals or abrasive materials.
- **Lubrication:** The fluid head mechanisms are factory-sealed and do not require user lubrication. Do not attempt to disassemble the head for lubrication.
- **Storage:** Store the kit in its carrying bag in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures. Ensure all locks are disengaged or loosely engaged during long-term storage to prevent stress on components.
- **Inspection:** Periodically inspect all screws, levers, and leg locks for tightness and proper function. Tighten any loose fasteners.

## 8. TROUBLESHOOTING

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If you encounter issues with your Manfrotto 509HD and 536K kit, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

- **Problem:** Camera movement is not smooth (jerky pan/tilt).  
**Solution:** Check the Fluid Drag System (FDS) settings. Increase the drag for smoother, more controlled movements. Ensure the quick release plate is securely mounted and the camera is properly balanced.
- **Problem:** Tripod legs slip or collapse.  
**Solution:** Ensure all leg section locks are fully engaged and tightened. Verify that the leg angle selectors are securely locked in position. Do not exceed the maximum load capacity.
- **Problem:** Quick release plate is difficult to insert or remove.  
**Solution:** Ensure the safety catch is fully disengaged. Check for any debris in the quick release mechanism. Do not force the plate; ensure proper alignment.
- **Problem:** ABR (Advanced Balance Recorder) not functioning.  
**Solution:** Ensure the ABR function is correctly activated. Check for any obstructions to the proximity sensor. Refer to the specific instructions for ABR activation and recall.

For issues not covered here, please contact Manfrotto customer support.

## 9. SPECIFICATIONS

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Feature	Specification
Model Numbers	509HD (Video Head), 536K (Tripod)
Maximum Load Capacity	28.6 lbs (13 kg)
Minimum Height	16.5 inches (40.5 cm)
Maximum Height	85.8 inches (218 cm)
System Weight	17.4 lbs (7.9 kg)
Material	Carbon Fiber (Tripod Legs)
Head Type	Fluid Video Head with Bridging Technology
Leg Sections	4
Special Features	Variable Fluid Drag System (FDS), Advanced Balance Recorder (ABR), Leg Angle Selector

## 10. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Manfrotto products are designed and manufactured to high quality standards. This product is covered by a limited warranty. For detailed warranty information, including terms and conditions, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Manfrotto website.

For technical support, spare parts, or service inquiries, please contact Manfrotto customer service through their official website or the contact information provided in your product documentation.

**Manfrotto Official Website:** [www.manfrotto.com](http://www.manfrotto.com)