## Manfrotto MKBFRA4-BH

# Manfrotto BeFree Compact Aluminum Travel Tripod

Model: MKBFRA4-BH

## Introduction

The Manfrotto BeFree Compact Aluminum Travel Tripod (MKBFRA4-BH) is engineered for photographers who require a lightweight, portable, and stable support system for their camera equipment. Its innovative design allows for compact storage, making it an ideal companion for travel. This manual provides detailed instructions for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your BeFree tripod to ensure optimal performance and longevity.






Figure 1: The Manfrotto BeFree tripod in its fully extended, ready-to-use configuration, showcasing its compact yet sturdy design.

## Key Components

- **Ball Head:** Integrated aluminum ball head for precise camera positioning and quick adjustments.
- **Quick Release Plate:** Allows for fast attachment and detachment of your camera.
- **Center Column:** Rapid extension for additional height.
- **Leg Sections:** Four-section aluminum legs with flip locks for height adjustment.
- **Leg Angle Selectors:** Patented selectors for setting leg angles at 25° or 51°.
- **Rubber Leg Warmers:** Provides a comfortable and secure grip on one leg.
- **Carrying Bag:** Padded bag for convenient transport and protection.



Figure 2: A detailed view of the integrated aluminum ball head, showing the quick release plate and locking mechanism.

## Setup

1. **Unfolding the Tripod:**

   The BeFree tripod features a unique folding mechanism where the legs fold around the ball head for maximum compactness. To unfold, gently pull each leg outwards from the central column until they extend fully. The legs will click into their initial open position.




Figure 3: The tripod in its compact, folded position, demonstrating how the legs wrap around the head for easy storage.

2. **Adjusting Leg Angles:**

   Each leg has a patented leg angle selector. Press the selector button at the top of each leg to choose between two distinct angles (25° or 51°) for varied shooting conditions and stability on uneven terrain.



Figure 4: A close-up of the leg angle selector, indicating the two available angle settings for versatile positioning.

3. **Extending Leg Sections:**

   Open the flip locks on each leg section to extend the legs to your desired height. Close the flip locks firmly to secure the sections in place. Ensure all locks are engaged before mounting your camera.



Figure 5: Detail of the aluminum leg flip locks, which provide secure and adjustable tension for extending and retracting leg sections.

4. **Extending the Center Column:**

   Loosen the center column lock to extend the column for additional height. Tighten the lock firmly once the desired height is reached. For maximum stability, extend the center column only when necessary.

5. **Attaching Your Camera:**

   Attach the quick release plate to the 1/4" screw mount on the bottom of your camera. Ensure it is securely tightened. Then, align the plate with the receiver on the ball head and push down until it clicks into place. Engage any safety locks if present. Verify the camera is firmly seated before releasing your grip.

## Operating

### Using the Ball Head

The integrated aluminum ball head allows for smooth and precise camera positioning. Loosen the main locking knob on the ball head to adjust the camera's angle and orientation. Once the desired position is achieved, firmly tighten the locking knob to secure the camera. The ball head is designed to hold your camera steadily, even with longer zoom lenses, up to its maximum payload capacity.




Figure 6: The ball head with a camera mounted, illustrating its compact profile and secure attachment.

## Adjusting Leg Tension

The aluminum leg locks are designed with adjustable tension to ensure long-term performance. If you notice the leg sections becoming too loose or too tight over time, you can adjust the tension using a small hex key (often included or standard size). Locate the small screw on each flip lock and turn it clockwise to increase tension or counter-clockwise to decrease tension until the desired feel is achieved.



Figure 7: A close-up of a leg lock, highlighting the adjustment screw for fine-tuning the tension of the leg sections.

## Maintenance

- **Cleaning:** Wipe down the aluminum and rubber components with a soft, damp cloth. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents that could damage the finish.
- **Lubrication:** The moving parts of the tripod are designed for smooth operation. Avoid applying lubricants unless specifically instructed by Manfrotto support, as this could attract dust and debris.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the tripod in its padded carrying bag in a dry, cool place to protect it from dust, moisture, and physical damage.
- **Inspection:** Periodically inspect all screws, locks, and joints for tightness and wear. Tighten any loose screws and address any signs of damage promptly.

## Troubleshooting

**Issue: Camera sags or shifts after locking the ball head.**

**Solution:** Ensure the quick release plate is securely attached to your camera and the ball head. For heavier camera setups, especially with long lenses, ensure the lens collar (if available) is used to balance the weight directly over the tripod. Verify the ball head locking knob is tightened firmly. If the issue persists, the tripod may be overloaded; check the maximum payload capacity against your equipment's weight.

**Issue: Leg sections are difficult to extend or retract.**

**Solution:** The leg locks may require tension adjustment. Refer to the "Adjusting Leg Tension" section in this manual. Dirt or sand can also impede movement; clean the leg sections thoroughly if used in dusty or sandy environments.

**Issue: Tripod feels unstable.**

**Solution:** Ensure all leg sections are fully extended and their flip locks are securely closed. Verify that the leg angle selectors are properly engaged. On uneven surfaces, adjust each leg's length and angle independently to achieve maximum stability. Avoid over-extending the center column, as this can reduce stability, especially in windy conditions.

## Specifications

| Feature | Specification |
|---|---|
| Attachment Type | 1/4" screw |
| Center Column | Rapid |
| Maximum Height | 144.0 cm (56.7 in) |
| Maximum Height (Center Column Down) | 123.0 cm (48.4 in) |
| Minimum Height | 34.0 cm (13.4 in) |
| Closed Length | 40.0 cm (15.8 in) |
| Weight | 2.4 kg (5.3 lb) |
| Load Capacity | 4 kg (8.8 lb) |
| Leg Sections | 3 |
| Leg Angles | 25°, 51° |
| Material | Aluminum |

| Feature | Specification |
| --- | --- |
| Plate Type | 200PL |

## Warranty and Support

For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official Manfrotto website or contact their customer service directly. Keep your proof of purchase for any warranty claims.
Additional resources, including an installation manual in PDF format, may be available on the product's Amazon page or the Manfrotto support site.


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