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Manfrotto MH494-BH

Manfrotto MH494-BH Centre Ball Head Instruction Manual

Model: MH494-BH

Introduction

This manual provides essential instructions for the safe and effective use of your Manfrotto MH494-BH Centre Ball Head. Please read this manual thoroughly before use and retain it for future reference.



Figure 1: Manfrotto MH494-BH Centre Ball Head. This image shows the overall design of the ball head with its quick release plate and main locking knob.

Safety Information

- Ensure all locking mechanisms are fully engaged before releasing your grip on the camera or equipment.
- Do not exceed the maximum load capacity of 4 kg (8.8 lbs).
- Avoid exposing the ball head to extreme temperatures or harsh chemicals.
- Keep out of reach of children.

Setup

1. Attaching the Ball Head to a Tripod or Slider

1. Locate the 3/8-inch mounting screw on your tripod or slider.
2. Align the base of the Manfrotto MH494-BH ball head with the mounting screw.

3. Rotate the ball head clockwise until it is securely tightened onto the tripod or slider. Ensure it is firm and does not wobble.

2. Attaching the Camera Plate to Your Camera

1. Identify the quick release plate (200PL PRO) provided with the ball head.
2. Locate the 1/4-inch screw on the quick release plate.
3. Align the screw with the tripod mount thread on the bottom of your camera.
4. Turn the screw clockwise to firmly attach the plate to your camera. Use a coin or a small tool if necessary to ensure a tight fit.



Figure 2: Ball head without the quick release plate, showing the mounting platform.

3. Mounting Your Camera to the Ball Head

1. Ensure the main locking knob on the ball head is loosened slightly to allow the quick release plate receiver to open.
2. With the quick release plate attached to your camera, slide the plate into the receiver on the ball head.
3. Push down on the quick release lever until it clicks into place, securing the camera. Verify that the camera is firmly attached by gently attempting to lift it.



Figure 3: Side view of the ball head demonstrating the quick release plate mechanism.

Operating Instructions

1. Adjusting Ball Movement and Tension

The Manfrotto MH494-BH features a single adjustment knob for controlling both the ball movement and friction. This design simplifies operation, making it intuitive for all users.

- **To loosen the ball:** Turn the main locking knob (the largest knob) counter-clockwise. This allows the ball to move freely for positioning your camera.
- **To tighten the ball:** Turn the main locking knob clockwise. This locks the camera securely in your desired position.
- **Friction Control:** The main locking knob also integrates a friction control. By adjusting the tightness, you can control the resistance of the ball movement, allowing for smoother or firmer adjustments as needed.



Figure 4: Side view highlighting the main locking knob for ball movement and friction control.

2. Panning Movement

The ball head allows for 360-degree panning. The panning movement is controlled by the rotation of the entire ball head assembly on its base when the main locking knob is sufficiently tightened to secure the ball, but the base is free to rotate on the tripod mount.

- Ensure the ball is locked in position using the main locking knob.
- Rotate the entire ball head unit on its base to achieve horizontal panning.

3. Portrait Angle Positioning

The design of the ball head includes a notch that allows the camera to be tilted 90 degrees for portrait orientation photography.

1. Loosen the main locking knob to allow free movement of the ball.
2. Tilt your camera into the designated notch on the ball head until it rests securely in the portrait position.

3. Tighten the main locking knob to lock the camera in the portrait orientation.

Maintenance

- **Cleaning:** Wipe the ball head with a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn dirt, use a slightly damp cloth and mild soap, then dry thoroughly.
- **Lubrication:** The ball head is designed to be maintenance-free and does not require lubrication. The internal mechanism is enclosed to prevent dust and debris from affecting its smooth operation.
- **Storage:** Store the ball head in a clean, dry environment away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- **Inspection:** Periodically check all screws and levers for tightness. Ensure the quick release plate mechanism operates smoothly.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Ball head does not move freely or is too stiff.	Main locking knob is too tight, or friction control is set too high.	Loosen the main locking knob counter-clockwise to reduce tension and allow free movement.
Camera is not securely attached to the quick release plate.	Quick release plate screw is loose, or plate is not fully engaged in the receiver.	Ensure the 1/4-inch screw on the quick release plate is tightly fastened to your camera. Confirm the quick release lever is fully closed and clicked into place.
Ball head wobbles on the tripod/slider.	Ball head is not securely tightened to the tripod/slider mounting screw.	Rotate the ball head clockwise on the tripod/slider mounting screw until it is firmly secured.
Missing parts (e.g., quick release plate).	Packaging error or item removed during transit.	Contact Manfrotto customer support or your retailer immediately for assistance.

Specifications

Model: MH494-BH

Brand: Manfrotto

Product Dimensions: 1.7 x 4 x 4 inches (4.3 x 10.2 x 10.2 cm)

Item Weight: 11.7 ounces (331 grams)

Maximum Load Capacity: 4 kg (8.8 lbs)

Compatible Devices: Camera

Quick Release Plate Type: 200PL PRO (RC2 compatible, Arca-Swiss compatible without locking screws)

Material: Aluminum, Technopolymer

Warranty Information

For detailed warranty information regarding your Manfrotto MH494-BH Centre Ball Head, please refer to the official Manfrotto website or the warranty card included with your product. Warranty terms and conditions may vary by region and purchase date.

Customer Support

If you require further assistance, have questions about your product, or need to report an issue, please contact Manfrotto customer support. Visit the official Manfrotto website for contact details and support resources.

Note: Always refer to the latest information available on the manufacturer's official channels for the most accurate and up-to-date support.

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