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Manfrotto MKBFRTA4GT-BH

Manfrotto Befree GT Aluminum Travel Tripod MKBFRTA4GT-BH User Manual

Model: MKBFRTA4GT-BH

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for choosing the Manfrotto Befree GT Aluminum Travel Tripod Kit MKBFRTA4GT-BH. This professional-grade travel tripod is designed for advanced photographers using DSLRs and high-end mirrorless cameras. It combines durability, intuitive operation, and high stability, making it ideal for various photographic scenarios. This manual provides essential information for the safe and effective use of your tripod.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Manfrotto Befree GT Aluminum Travel Tripod features a robust aluminum construction, a large ball head (MH496-BH), and the M-Lock twist lock system for quick and secure leg adjustments. It offers universal compatibility with Manfrotto RC2 and Arca-Swiss style plates, ensuring versatile use with your camera equipment.



Figure 1: Manfrotto Befree GT Aluminum Tripod (MKBFRTA4GT-BH) assembled with ball head.

SETUP

1. Unfolding the Tripod Legs

1. Grasp the tripod firmly and release the leg angle selectors located at the top of each leg.
2. Extend the legs outwards to your desired angle. The tripod offers multiple leg angle positions for stability on various terrains.



Figure 2: Leg angle selector for adjusting tripod leg spread.

2. Extending the Leg Sections (M-Lock System)

1. Rotate the M-Lock twist locks counter-clockwise to unlock each leg section.
2. Extend the leg sections to the desired height. The tripod has 4 sections.
3. Rotate the M-Lock twist locks clockwise to securely lock each leg section in place. Ensure all sections are fully locked before mounting your camera.



Figure 3: The M-Lock twist lock system for quick and secure leg extension.

3. Attaching the Camera Plate

1. Ensure the ball head's quick release clamp is open.
2. Attach the camera plate to the base of your camera using the 1/4"-20 or 3/8"-16 screw. Tighten securely.
3. Slide the camera plate with your camera into the quick release clamp on the ball head.
4. Close the quick release clamp to secure the camera. Verify that the camera is firmly attached and cannot accidentally detach.



Figure 4: The ball head features a quick release plate compatible with Manfrotto RC2 and Arca-Swiss style systems.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Adjusting the Ball Head (MH496-BH)

- **Main Lock Knob:** Loosen this knob to allow free movement of the ball head for positioning your camera. Tighten it to lock the camera in place.
- **Friction Control Knob:** This smaller knob allows you to adjust the tension of the ball movement. Turn clockwise to increase friction for heavier cameras, or counter-clockwise to decrease friction for lighter cameras.
- **Pan Lock Knob:** This knob controls the horizontal rotation (panning) of the ball head. Loosen to pan the camera smoothly, and tighten to lock the panning movement.



Figure 5: The MH496-BH ball head features independent pan lock and friction control for precise camera positioning.

2. Adjusting the Center Column

- Loosen the center column locking collar.
- Raise or lower the center column to achieve additional height.
- Tighten the center column locking collar to secure it in position.
- For low-angle shots, the center column can be inverted. To do this, fully extend and remove the center column, then reinsert it upside down.

3. Using the Easy Link Attachment

The tripod features an Easy Link attachment point on the spider. This 3/8" threaded connector allows you to attach accessories such as external monitors, LED lights, or reflectors directly to the tripod, expanding your creative possibilities.



Figure 6: The Easy Link attachment allows for direct connection of accessories.

MAINTENANCE

- **Cleaning:** After use, especially in dusty or sandy environments, wipe down the tripod legs and head with a soft, dry cloth. For stubborn dirt, use a slightly damp cloth and mild soap, then dry thoroughly. Avoid harsh chemicals.
- **Lubrication:** The M-Lock mechanisms and ball head generally do not require lubrication. If movement becomes stiff, consult Manfrotto support. Do not apply oil or grease unless specifically instructed.
- **Storage:** Store the tripod in its carrying case in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.
- **Inspection:** Regularly check all screws, knobs, and leg locks for tightness. Ensure the quick release plate mechanism operates smoothly and securely.



Figure 7: The included carrying case protects your tripod during transport and storage.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Leg sections do not extend/retract smoothly.	Dirt or debris inside the leg sections or M-Lock mechanism.	Clean the leg sections and M-Lock rings thoroughly. Ensure no sand or grit is present.
Camera not secure on ball head.	Quick release plate not fully engaged or clamp not tightened.	Ensure the quick release plate is correctly seated and the clamp lever is fully closed and tightened. Verify the camera plate screw is tight.
Ball head movement is too loose or too stiff.	Friction control knob not adjusted correctly.	Adjust the friction control knob on the ball head to your preferred tension.
Tripod feels unstable.	Legs not fully extended/locked, or leg angles uneven.	Ensure all leg sections are fully extended and M-Locks are tightened. Adjust leg angles evenly for maximum stability. Avoid over-extending the center column unnecessarily.

SPECIFICATIONS

- **Model:** MKBFRTA4GT-BH
- **Material:** Aluminum
- **Weight:** 1.85 kg (4.08 lbs)
- **Folded Length:** 43 cm (16.93 in)
- **Maximum Height:** 164 cm (64.57 in)
- **Minimum Height:** 43 cm
- **Leg Sections:** 4
- **Leg Diameter:** 26 mm
- **Ball Head Type:** MH496-BH Ball Head
- **Maximum Payload (UNI/PdR 105:2021):** 12 kg (26.45 lbs)
- **Quick Release Plate Compatibility:** Manfrotto RC2, Arca-Swiss style
- **Origin:** Italy
- **Included Accessories:** Carrying Case



Figure 8: The Manfrotto Befree GT tripod extended to its maximum height of 164 cm.



Aluminium



1.85 kg / 4.08 lbs



12 kg / 22.05 lbs



**43 cm
16.93 in**

Figure 9: Key specifications including folded length (43 cm), weight (1.85 kg), and maximum payload (12 kg).

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Warranty Information

This Manfrotto product is covered by a 2-year quality warranty from the date of purchase when bought from an authorized dealer. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims. The warranty covers manufacturing defects and material flaws under normal use. It does not cover damage caused by misuse, accidents, unauthorized modifications, or normal wear and tear.

Customer Support

For technical assistance, spare parts, or warranty service, please contact your local Manfrotto authorized service center or visit the official Manfrotto website for support resources and contact information.

