HI-POD

X-Product Line

Manual

HI-POD Manual - Table Of Contents:

Congratulations!

You have just purchased a HI-POD! Now you can begin to elevate your game.

X6 – The newest HI-POD is packed with new features. Not only is it taller (31 feet), but lighter as well- base only 35 lbs.

It is also faster and safer to use. Each of the tube collars have stainless steel inserts to prevent stripping. These collars lock and unlock with our newly designed cam-locks for easy tightening. Each of the 4 legs has a dual locking system to insure rock-solid stability.

Introduction: *About Your HI-POD*

Travel Case & Packing

The new case design makes it very convenient to use and very easy to pack and keep organized. Also you can tell how light the base is if Katie (our new supermodel) can pick it up with one hand.

Now there are three cases for the HI-POD; one for the base, one for the accessories, and one for the tubes.

Parts Of The HI-POD: Inventory Checklist

HEAD

MONITOR BRACKET

CHARGER

LAPTOP PLATE

BASE

TUBES

LCD MONITOR

HANDLE

LAPTOP BRACKET

BATTERY PACK

LCD SUN VISOR

30 FT VIDEO CABLE

RAINGEAR

SANDBAGS

MONITOR COIL CABLE

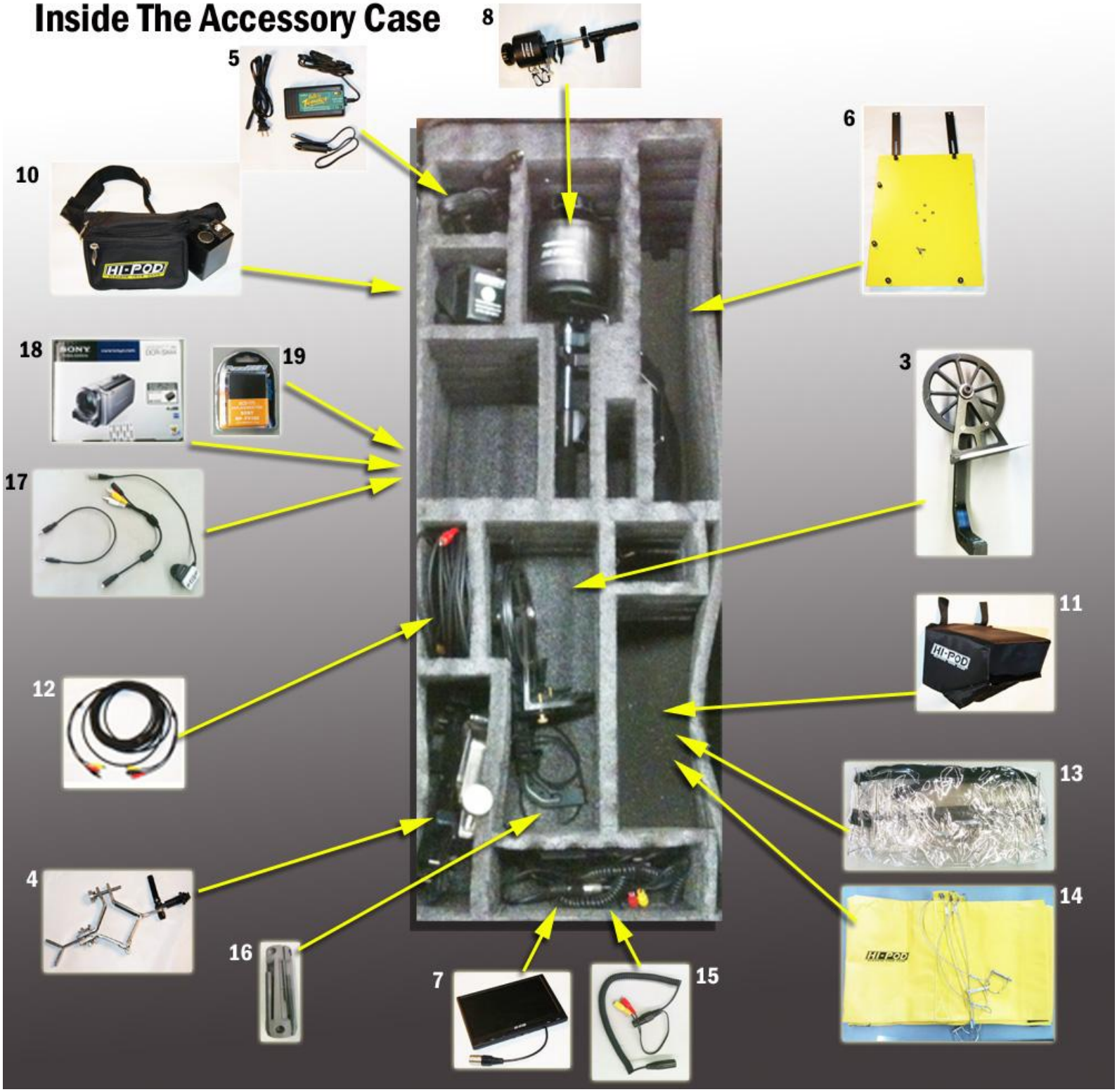
ALLEN KEY

LANC PIGTAIL, D-CONNECTOR, CONTROLLER

CAMERA

CAMERA BATTERY

Inside The Accessory Case



LCD & Bracket

HI-POD now includes a 9” LCD. We have created a new bracket to accommodate this new 9” LCD, as well as many different monitors. Not only is the bracket able to easily pivot up and down, but it’s versatile enough to be moved up to another stage of tube. This allows very tall users to have more LCD placement flexibility.

Transporting your HI-POD

The base has been streamlined in complexity and weight, making it a snap to unpack and go. Each of the 4 legs has a closed lock position and an open locked position. This ensures that the legs stay in position when it is in use or being transported.

The new wheels are solid and no longer inflatable, ensuring that they maintain their shape.

This new base has been designed to accommodate older X models, making it possible for users of older models to replace their older and heavier base systems.

Leg Test

The four legs have been beefed up in size and now include a double locking system. In addition to the twist lock, there is also a safety split lock collar on every leg, ensuring extra security.

…Notable Upgrades

Foldable Camera Plate

The camera plate mechanism now has the ability to fold. This new feature serves many purposes. Firstly it conserves space. It allows the HI-POD to easily fit into the tube travel case without the user having to remove the head.

At the same time the camera plate can be much longer. This is useful because it will allow the user to attach larger cameras or even attaching 2 camcorders (one wide and the other tight).

Thirdly, this new feature allows for more precise control of the camera position and balance. On the bottom side of the folding plate there is a separate balancing level. This level is separate from the level on the base, allowing for each to set independently of each other.

9” LCD

The X6 has included a 9” LCD. This is an upgrade from the 7” that was included with the X4. The larger screen is still an anti-glare screen that is auto switching from the USA standard (NTSC) to the European standard (PAL).

By a simple push of the menu button you can also change from 16×9 to 4×3 and vice versa. Although a much bigger screen, the power consumption is still the same as the 7” screen.

One of the things you will notice is the cable is much shorter on the 9 inch. This is to prevent the unintentional user damage of the LCD. Always use the cable that connects the battery to the LCD.

Battery

The biggest problem in the past was not the battery but the plastic straps of the battery belt. If they broke in the past we did not have an effective way to replace them, because they were sown directly to the belt strap. In this version we can easily replace the damaged clip if necessary.

Next we included a plastic cap for the cigarette lighter plug. This will prevent unwanted debris, rain or moisture from damaging this jack.

We have slightly increased the power of the battery from a 7.8amp/hr to 8.0amp/hr and have added our HI-POD logo to the battery pack.

NO

YES

LCD Bracket

This LCD bracket is much easier to use than the previous one. Simply slide the hook into the back of the LCD monitor. Once you slide the hook into the slot, position it where you want it, then tighten down on it with the threaded screw. Now to position the LCD so it best for your viewing, loosen the camlock. Reposition and then lock again with the camlock.

(*CAUTION:* To reposition the LCD, loosen the camlock and reposition. Do not twist the LCD to reposition. Overtime this will damage the back of the slot, bend the metal slot and ultimately strip the screws that hold the slot to the back of the LCD.)

Laptop Plate

Now the Laptop plate is much faster to setup. No tools are required to assemble the laptop plate kit. The bracket is attached to any leg you choose by two camlocks. Loosen the camlocks so that you can level the top of this bracket with the top of the base.

Place the center of the plate directly on the top of the bracket. Make sure the Metal nipple lines up. Remove and reapply the small wing nut at the bottom. Notice you can orient the plate vertically or horizontally. Once you pick the orientation that you want, then loosen the screws that hold the rods beneath the plate.

Now attach those rods to the base plate. This three point connection to the base allows for strong support for the plate.

Let's Get Started!

Step 1: Opening The Box

Every HI-POD arrives in a set of three boxes; a tube case, a base case, and an accessory case.

Tube Case – The tube case contains the tubes. The case telescopes just like the tubes. This way you are able to extend and contract the tube case depending on whether you want to keep the head attached to the tubes or not.

Base Case – The base case holds the base. It has cutouts to store other items, but no items come packaged with the base. The only thing that comes with the base is the bracket for the laptop plate.

The **Accessories Case** contains the following:

1. The Handle
2. The Camera (cam, battery, cables)
3. The battery
4. The battery charger
5. The LCD
6. The LCD bracket
7. The laptop plate (1 piece & 2 rods)
8. The laptop bracket
9. Camera-Head- Plate mechanism (Yoke/Pulley wheel/Tilt Plate)
10. Camera controller
11. Cables (external cable, firewire, pigtail, video cable, lcd/battery cable)
12. Rain Gear for (camera, battery, LCD, controller)
13. Sun Visor
14. Sandbags

With these 3 hard cases, you have an excellent way to protect your product for a very long time. By making all pieces fit into the accessories case, you have the flexibility of going “case-less” for the tubes and base.

Step 2: Base Setup

The base has 4 legs with redundant leg locks for added safety. Please examine the location of the pin. There are two holes that the safety pin can occupy. The first pin hole locks the leg closed. This is important when traveling, as it keeps the legs from falling out of place.

The second pin hole locks the leg open. This is necessary to stabilize the base and provide support for the extended HI-POD. Repeat this for all 4 legs. (Make sure when you insert the pin that you insert through the leg hole. It is possible to insert the pin, without securing the leg. Please make note of this.)

Lower Leg Lock

Now that you have locked the upper part of the leg in the open position, it is time to lock the lower part of the leg. Unlock the twist lock by turning in the direction that is desired.

Release the lock, by unlocking. This allows the inner leg to move freely. After extending the leg, twist the collar to lock. Now it is time to use the redundant safety lock. Loosen the cam on the safety lock, making it easy to move. Push the safety lock up so it makes contact with the twist lock. Once you have done this tighten the safety lock. Repeat this on all legs. Examine the balance bubble. You may have to adjust the legs to achieve perfect balance.

Step 3: Sandbag Support

As an added safety backup, we have added a sandbag for each of the four legs. A simple cotter pin is used to easily hook each bag to each leg.

Each sandbag has a velcro opening, allowing the user to fill the bags on location. This makes the bags much lighter for transporting, setting up and storage.

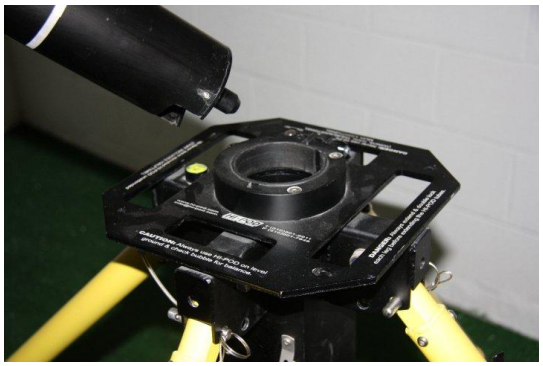
Step 4: HI-POD Tubes & Tube Case

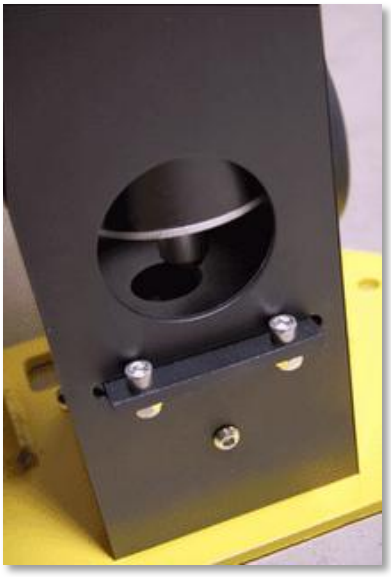
The HI-POD Tubes arrive in a telescoping black travel case. As you twist off the top cap you will be able to remove the bubble wrapped tubes from the case. After unwrapping them you will attach the head to them. However, before we get there, please notice that the black travel case also telescopes.

By removing the cotter pin, you can extend the inner section of the travel case to make it taller. This helps because the tubes will become longer after attaching the head.

The HI-POD Core X6 consists of 6 Telescoping tubes. They each are approximately 5 feet long- thus providing 31 feet of height. (Actually they are longer so each of the collars can securely grip each telescoping tube).

Tube Pin Into Base Hole





Now that you have inserted the tubes into the base make sure the pin at the bottom of the tubes aligns with the small opening at the bottom of the base. The pin is the bearing that allows for small 360 degree panning. By inserting the pin into the hole, the tubes become secure and rotate very smoothly.

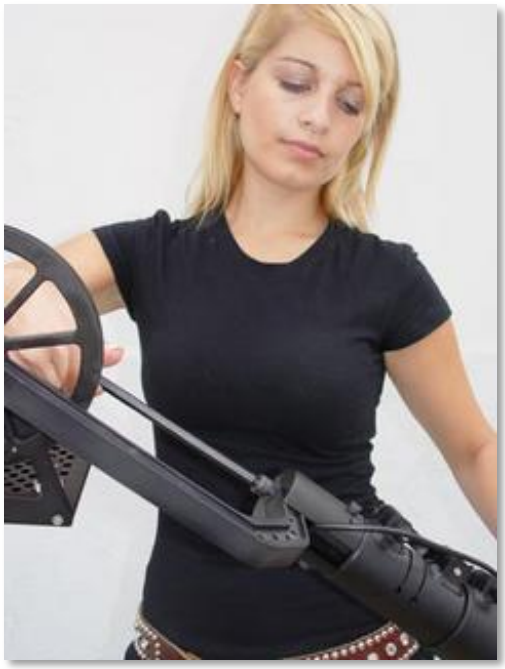
Step 5: Attaching Head to Tubes

Remove the L-shaped yoke/camera plate from the case. This is the only HI-POD piece that will require a tool. (We have included an allen key set)

Now look at the top of the HI-POD. There is a slot cut out of the top spud. This slot is made to accommodate the L-shape of the camera/yoke/plate. Slide the L-shaped yoke/plate into this slot. Notice the opening.

This will accept that large 6mm allen screw. Make sure the L-shape is to the left (as in the picture below). Insert the bolt(that you removed from the top of the tube spud) and tighten. You should use an allen key (metric #6 to be exact) to tighten the yoke to the tubes.

Notice there are holes to accommodate the accessory items to the head.



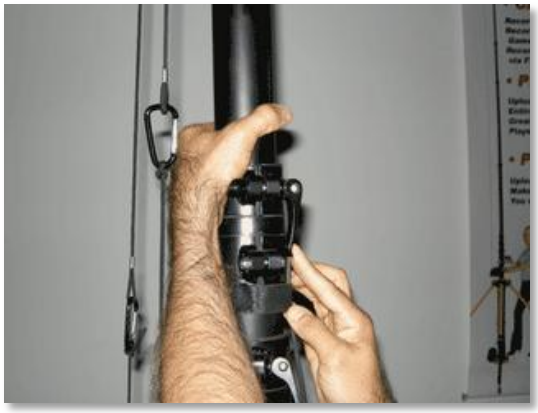
Step 6: Raising, Locking & Lowering HI-POD Tubes

To open the collar and allow a tube to move freely, first hold the tube above the collar so it does not move.

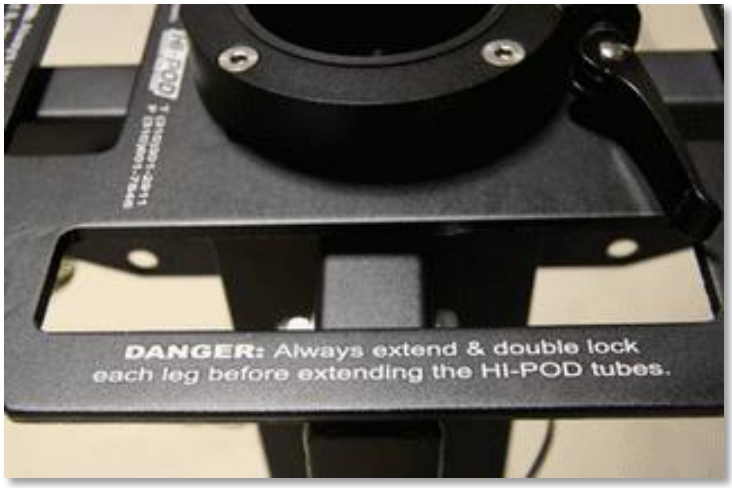
Next pull out the cam-lock so it is straight (horizontal). Now you can manually push up the tube to the desired height.

When you reach that height, hold the tube with one hand and close the camlock with the other hand. (Close is the down position) If the tube is still slipping you may have to tighten the camlock. You do this by spinning the camlock. It moves like a screw. On the other side of the collar is a stainless steel insert that grips the camlock shaft. As you keep twisting the camlock squeezes the collar shut, creating a very strong positive-lock. To release the camlock, simply unscrew in the opposite direction.

There are 5 collars for the 6 HI-POD tubes, each collar squeezing the upper tube. When you reach the recommended height you will see a white line. This white line tells you to stop elevating and lock the collar. It is not possible to push the innermost tube so high that it comes out. There is a built in safety catch that prevents the tube from coming out.



Safety Warnings



We can't stress enough that safety must be taken into consideration when using the HI-POD. Please follow the directions on the top of the HI-POD base.

1. Never leave an elevated HI-POD unattended. If you must leave it, please bring the unit down.
2. Always secure the legs before elevating. We have reduced the weight of the HI-POD base considerably over the years, but that means more of the stability job has been assumed by the legs. For safe operation make sure all the legs are locked and double locked.
3. Be careful in extreme weather conditions. The unit can get wet. We have raingear for all the electronics. But use caution as the winds increase or as lighting occurs. This is also a judgment call. As the winds increase, reduce the height until you feel comfortable.
4. Use the leveling bubble to balance your HI-POD. If your unit is unbalanced it may be unstable.

*Please observe the fact that attending the HI-POD always includes halftime.

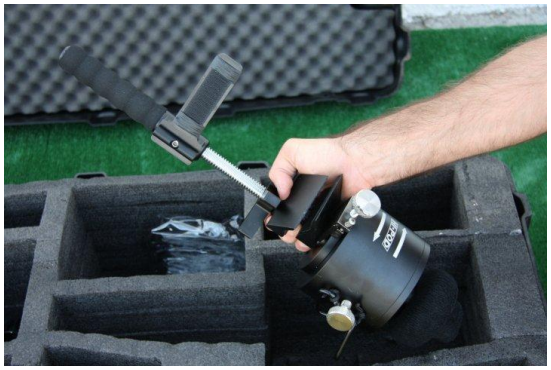
Always check the leveling bubble when setting up the HI-POD. The bubble must be level and the legs are locked and solid.

Safety Pins for the Bottom Three Telescoping Tubes

We have added an additional safety mechanism. Each locking collar for the tubes has the ability to receive a locking safety pin.

As you raise each tube you will see the warning white line. It tells you to stop. If you try to go further there are stoppers that prevent the tube from coming out all the way. But once you elevate the tube to the white line and lock the camlock, you will see a hole visible. On the bottom three tubes we have included a safety pin for each of these tubes. When you insert the pin, the tube is secured. It cannot slip as long as the pin is inserted.

Attaching Handle to Tubes, & Pulley Head



Attaching your HI-POD handle to the main unit is done in three easy steps.

(1) Retrieve the handle mechanism from the base case. Make sure that the round cylinder is on the left hand side of the HI-POD before securing.

Note: *The cylinder should line up directly below the tilt plate and pulley wheel, which will be attached to the top of the HI-POD.* (See Photo)

If you are in front of the HI-POD, then the handle will attach from the back. To attach the handle unit to the tube, loosen the handle mechanism clamp by spinning the large X screw so that it fits comfortably around the tube. Then, with the X screw simply tighten the handle mechanism clamp. As you spin the X screw you are squeezing the clamps against the tube. Reverse this to loosen the handle later on.

(2) Now that the handle is secure, notice the left hand side. It is a cylinder with a gripping wheel for your hand to grab & control the unit. Two ropes should exit the cylinder at the bottom, from either side of a large screw.

Next we will connect the carabineer clamps with the ropes coming down from the HI-POD pulley head. *Notice how the ropes go straight up to the pulley.*

Connecting: As you face the HI-POD Handle, make sure the large silver screw & ropes are pointed towards the ground. Now, grab the rope that is closest to the tube. Pull that rope towards you. It will extend from the cylinder. Pull approximately 1 foot of rope, making sure that the large screw is still pointing down. With your other hand grab the other rope. Make sure this second rope is extending from the opposite side of the cylinder. Pull out the same amount of

rope as the first. At this point, you should have the large screw pointing toward the ground, and 1 foot of rope extending above the cylinder on either side.

(Please examine the photo)

Pull on the ropes and extend them towards the pulley wheel. Look up, and notice the ropes already dangling from the pulley.

Connect the ropes via the carabineer clamp. The carabineer connectors make it very easy to attach and detach the handle from the tubes.

This clamp extends from the ropes that are tied to the pulley at the top of the HI-POD Tubes. You will notice these ropes fall from either side of the pulley wheel. *Remember: the ropes should come from opposite sides of the pulley wheel (just like the cylinder below).*

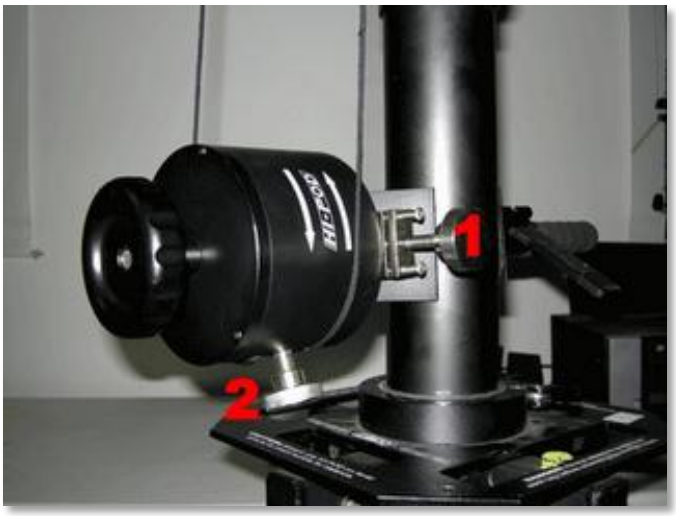
(3) Screw Knob: Notice the big screw knob that sits in-between the rope holes underneath the cylinder. If this screw is loose, the spools behave freely, retracting the pulley ropes if there is slack, or giving out rope if the HI-POD is extended. If the big screw is tightened or locked, the spools can neither extend nor retract the pulley ropes. **You unlock the spools to extend or bring down the HI-POD. You lock the spools to control and tilt the camera plate/camera.** By pointing the lock mechanism on the bottom of the cylinder, the user will have 180 degrees of rotation. If it is not at the bottom, the range of motion is very limited and choppy.

Note: *(For the most part this screw is not used. It becomes useful when you are using a heavier and larger camera. This screw is used when the weight of the camera overpowers the strength of the springs inside of the cylinder. You will need this screw when you try to tilt the camera and the camera slips out of position. Typically this screw is not needed when the cameras are small and light.*

Handle (Position Lock Spool Retraction Lock)

Notice a knob beneath the cylinder of the left side of the handle. If you loosen the knob, the cylinder will retract the ropes. (This is a blessing as you are manually contracting the HI-POD poles, the ropes automatically self-retract.) If you tighten the knob, the ropes will stay in that position, without retracting. This knob can be loosened and tighten, according to the desired effect. (For example, if the camera tilt is not responding immediately to your hand movements, or if the camera is slipping out of tilt position)

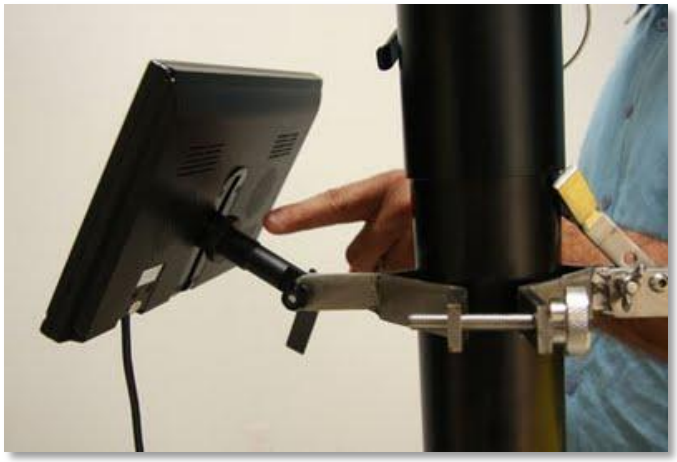
(HANDS FREE!) Now let's say you are taping a drill that is in one place for long time and you do not want to hold the handle in that position. You want to free up your hands to grab something (water or food). Use the position lock (#1 below). Tighten and loosen the position lock for the desired effect. In the below photo **1 is the position lock** and **2 is the spool retraction lock**.



LCD & Bracket

The LCD bracket is designed to work with the big 31foot HI-POD and the smaller 17foot Mobile HI-POD. As you remove it from the case you will notice a Y inside of the bracket that is held in place by a wingnut screw. Loosen the screw and flip the Y so it is out of the original position. Now that the Y is out, the bracket will fit the largest diameter HI-POD Tube.

Loosen the large bolt to open the LCD bracket. Now tighten the bolt so that the bracket squeezes the tube. Adust so you are comfortable with the height.



This LCD bracket is much easier to use than the previous one. Simply slide the hook into the back of the LCD monitor. Once you slide the hook into the slot, position it where you want it, then tighten down on it with the threaded screw. Now to position the LCD so it best for your viewing, loosen the camlock. Reposition and then lock again with the camlock.

(*CAUTION:* To reposition the LCD, loosen the camlock and reposition. Do not twist the LCD to reposition. Overtime this will damage the back of the slot, bend the metal slot and ultimately strip the screws that hold the slot to the back of the LCD.

HI-POD & Controllable Cameras

The HI-POD comes packaged with a Sony hard drive or flashdrive camera; the DCR SX40, SX44, or SR68. (Standard Definition) It may also come with the CX150 or XR150 for High-Definition.

Sony has simplified the process of controlling these cameras. Instead of a jack for video and a jack lens control, now it is combined into one jack. When you look at the camera the plastic cover for this jack will say "AV/R." If it has this it is very easy to control. The

connector looks like the letter “D” – We include 2 cables : A cable that breaks out into the typical red, yellow, white composite (male) but it also has a black female jack. The second cable is a small male-male black pigtail cable.

Attaching to these cables to rest of HI-POD CABLING:

The top of the long HI-POD cable is female. Connect these to the yellow and red males coming out of the camera. Notice the female black 2.5 stereo jack, and the 3.5 female stereo jack. Use the short male to male pigtail to connect these two females. This is the lens control cabling.

Yellow is video signal 1, Red is video signal 2. The white cable is left unconnected. This is the flow of the signal from the TOP OF THE HI-POD.

Camera & Camera Plate

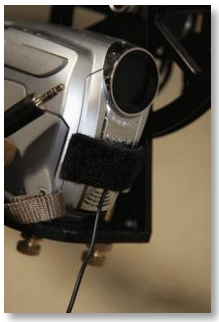
(1) Position the camera on any of the slots; whatever you are comfortable with. Generally position the camera so that the weight is centered. This way the camera will always be level.

(2) Find the screw to attach the camera to the camera plate. Mount camera on top of plate and position the screw to be inserted from underneath. This will be inserted into the camera screw opening. Once tightened, this process will sandwich the mechanism together.

(3) Now push the screw from the bottom up through one of the openings in the plate into the camera screw opening. Once you have tightened the screw as far as it will go, then use the secondary thumbscrew knob to press up against the bottom of the camera plate. This action will secure the camera to the plate very tightly. *Notice that camera plate has a rubber surface to prevent the camera from slipping out of position.*

Note: Try and position the camera so it is easy to remove the battery without having to remove the entire unit. This is great when all you want to do replace a dying battery; a great time saver.

Alternative Cameras – IR Sensors



If your camera does not have the built in Sony LANC or AV/R jack, you still might be able to control your camera. If your camera has a wireless remote it can be wired into the HI-POD. We can Velcro an IR sensor to the IR receiver of your camera. This is how the camera would receive commands for zooming and recording. Only these "pigtail" cables change, making the HI-POD extremely versatile.

Securing the HI-POD Cabling

It is important to minimize the "wear and tear" on the connectors on the camera. A simple way to do this is to secure the 32 foot cable to the tubes with velcro strips as well as securing to the camera head. **By tying a simple knot around the yoke/head, all the pulling and tugging will be on the knot and not on the camera connections.** Make sure there is plenty of slack after the knot so the

camera can move freely without any cable tension. Notice that each of the 6 tubes also has a strip of velcro. This is to secure the 32 foot cable to the tube. This minimizes the cable movement due to wind.

Cable Connections (Bottom)

Now that you have correctly connected the cables at the top of the HI-POD, created the small knot on the yoke/head, and velcroed the 32 foot cable to the each tube stage, then we are ready to connect the bottom of the HI-POD.

In the picture on right you will see the battery, the LCD monitor, the controller. There is a small coiled cable that directly connects the battery pack directly to the LCD monitor. This is how we get power to the LCD monitor. But how do we get the video to the LCD? Take a close look at the coiled cable. You will notice that it has two female connectors (red and yellow). This is to receive the signal from the 32 foot cable.

Connect the RCA connectors. Red to Red, Yellow to Yellow. That takes care of the video signal. Now let's look at the lens controller. The controller has mini-XLR connector. Don't force it in. Insert slowly and turn until the pins find their position, then insert. They should snap together.

Notice: The wires do not become unattached until you hit the small black button on the side of the connector. These are professional connectors. This is to prevent the cables from accidentally disconnecting.

NO

YES

Camera Lens Control

Regardless of which method you use to control your camera, you still must attach your controller to the handle.

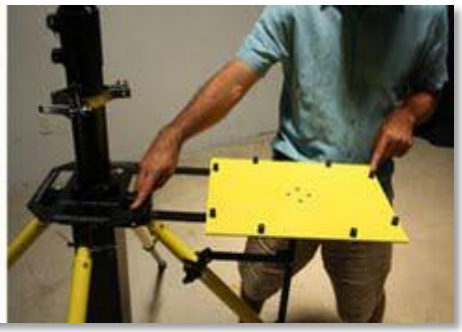
- If you use the Sony controller you clip it onto the small metal bridge on the right side of your handle mechanism. If you use a "wired" wireless remote , you Velcro it to the T-bar on the right side of your handle mechanism.

HI-POD Laptop Bracket

Before you can hook up your laptop you have to setup the Laptop Plate Kit. That starts with the bracket. Notice it is simply two collars that attach with the standard HI-POD camlock. Position the collars so that the top of the bracket is level with the top of the base. It must be level with the top of base, because you must attach rods to connect the plate and the base. (One trick is to mark the leg with a dark marker so you know exactly where to put the bracket collars every time.) NOTE: you can attach the bracket to any leg, because the plate can attach to the top of the base from any position. This ads flexibility to the HI-POD and how you want to set it up.

HI-POD Laptop Plate

The Laptop Plate comes in 1 piece now. (Fits in new case) To attach plate to bracket, simply align black ring underneath plate to the nipple on top of bracket. At this point you can rotate the plate horizontal or vertical. Use whatever is best for you. Once you choose, insert the small wingnut in the cutout slot underneath the plate. This locks the plate to the bracket. Next attach the rods from the plate to the base. At the top of the base (in each corner) is a hole to receive a screw. This secures the base, the rod and the laptop plate together, creating a strong support structure for your laptop or other equipment.


Sony Camera

Menu Functions

Two things that you must be aware of in the function menu of the sony cameras. Text on Video out, and Power Save.

When you are watching the 9inch hi-pod screen, you also want to know if you are recording or not, how much tape you have left and how much battery you have left. The location of menu items change per camera. Search for DISPLAY. Choose text/video out.

Next is the POWER SAVE or AUTO SHUT OFF. This is in the exact same area. Make sure you set it to NEVER. If you do not , then your camera will power down every 5 minutes of inactivity.

Attach Battery & Video Signal


Wear the battery belt around your waist, shoulder, or hang the battery belt on the base. Attach the y-split coil cable to the battery. Look at the big connectors on the y-splitcoil

cable. One end has 4 pins. The other has 5 pins. Connect the 4 pins to the battery. (4 PIN MALE TO 4 PIN FEMALE)

IMPORTANT !! To Disengage the y-split coil cable from the battery you must press the small lever to release the cable. This is to prevent you from accidently disconnecting the battery from the monitor. If you try to remove the cable without pressing the lever, you will tear the cable because the battery will never disengage the cable.

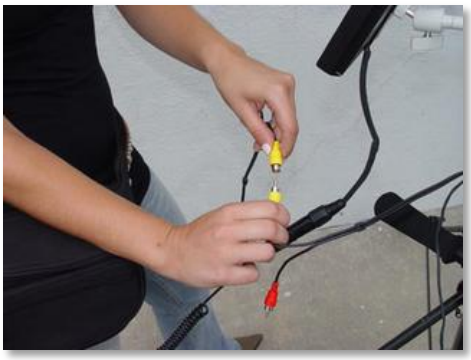
Connect the 5 pins to the monitor. (5 PIN MALE TO 5 PIN FEMALE) DO NOT TRY TO PUT 4 PIN OR THE 5 PIN CONNECTOR INTO THE CIGARETTE JACK. Match the pins. The cigarrette jack is only for the charger. Now notice on the battery that when you connect, it should snap into place.

You will notice that the y-split cable still has a couple of unattached female cables. Now look at the cable that comes up from the bottom of the HI-POD. Connect the yellow (male RCA) cable from the bottom of the HI-POD to the yellow (female RCA) connector on the y-split cable. Now you have a video signal to your monitor.

(* The Red cable can be used as a backup video cable, an audio cable or as a second simultaneous video signal- when shooting with 2 cameras (one camera WIDE, the other TIGHT)

Battery Pack Connections

This small coil cable is what provides power and video signal to the LCD monitor. One end connects to the battery pack and the other end connects to the LCD monitor. It is set up so it can only be inserted in one way. You can't screw it up. 4 pins to the 4 pin connector. 5 pins to the 5 pin connector. Notice that these are professional XLR connectors. You cannot just pull them apart once they are attached. You must press the release button to disengage them. This is to prevent the accidental disconnect during a game.



DO NOT INSERT THE 4 PIN PLUG INTO THE CIGARETTE LIGHTER JACK. INSERT INTO THE 4 PIN FEMALE ON THE BATTERY PACK.

Battery Charger & Battery

The HI-POD Core X6 comes with an international battery charger. Notice there is a space in the case just for the charger and its cables. The charger consists of the wall cable, the charger, with connected charger cable, and the cigarette plug adapter. The wall cable plugs into the side of the charger and into the wall. (This cable can be exchanged for international cables). The cigarette plug adapter connects to the end of the charger cable. Notice how it mates.

Once you have connected all the cables you insert the cigarette plug into the female cigarette light receiver on the battery pack. This charger is a fairly fast charger. Your battery holds an 8 hour charge for the HI-POD LCD, but it only takes the charger about 5 to 6 hours to fully charge the battery. The charger is also intelligent. It will not overcharge the battery. Once it gets close to fully charging the battery it trickle charges, so it cannot overcharge it.

COLOR CODES FOR THE CHARGING: When you plug in the battery and you get a YELLOW, then the battery needs charging. BLINKING GREEN= 80 percent charged. SOLID GREEN = fully charged. If you get a blinking yellow , then battery is not getting a charge. (Disconnect battery from wall) Then check to make sure the battery leads are connected. Open up the battery pack (open the zipper) . Make sure the cables are connected (BLACK TO BLACK, RED TO RED) . If they are not connected then connect them and try to charge again.

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