

# HI-POD LX15-25 Setup Manual





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## Congratulations on Your New Hi-Pod LX!

*Now you can begin to elevate your game.*

~

**LX** - The HI-POD LX series combines the professional control features of the Hi-Pod PRO series, with the ease of use and transport of a 35 lb tower. Once you are familiar with the setup procedures it should take 10-15 mins to fully configure a unit.

\*Note: Within 2 weeks of delivery, product must be checked and confirmed by the client to have arrived in good order and in its entirety. After that time, clients will be responsible for any and all lost parts (which are not covered under the warranty).

\*Confirm your inventory with the sheet on the following page.



## LX CHECKLIST

- Handle
- Head with Quick Release Spud
- Monitor Bracket
- 3 Piece Raingear
- 3 Sandbags
- LCD
- LCD Visor
- LCD Battery / 5-9 Volt Adapter Cable
- HDMI Cable
- Linc Cable
- Gold Screw for Power Bank
- Camera Remote
- Camera
- Camera Power Bank
- 16GB SD Card
- Cable Stress Relief Plate
- Hi-Pod Quick Notes Insert

**3 IMPORTANT THINGS:**



- **ALWAYS** use the **Strain Relief Plate** for your cables

- **ALWAYS** use your sandbags



- **Take note of the 'Text on Screen'** instructions to display record status

*...and other camera settings - (page 35)*

## STEP 1: Take Tower Out Of Case



Take the tower out of your case, and place it on the ground. There are two black twist knobs on the base of the tower, and you will need to unlock these to allow for the tower legs to expand.



## Step 2: Set Legs, Safety Locks, and Sandbags

You will want to setup the base of the tower with the black slats between the yellow legs as even/level with the ground as possible. This will give you the maximum stability during operation.



Once the black slats are level, hold them in position with the three yellow safety collars (see below). Once in place, these yellow collars will hold your leg position, while allowing the black knobs to stay unlocked, allowing the pole to turn.



**USE  
YOUR  
SANDBAGS!**

## Sandbags continued....

The included sandbags are **NOT** optional. **You must apply them every time you use the tower.** This is intended to provide your safety weight. With a tower of 35 lbs, and an approximate extra 35 lbs in the sandbags, this gets you to ~ 70 lbs in total. This is the approach which works in the vast majority of situations.

### **You are welcome to go beyond the three bags should you want to.**

Add cables through the legs which then connect to stakes (if not on a turf field), add more sandbags, whatever you'd like! The three bags we include are sufficient, but there is no harm in going beyond them if you prefer, and also if you are dealing with extreme conditions.



# NEVER WALK AWAY FROM AN ELEVATED TOWER.

## NEVER EVER!

### *Don't do it - seriously!*

When a tower is elevated you must manage it at all times. Anything can happen at any time - unexpected winds can pop up, rain can surprise you, someone could mess with your setup, or there could be lightning - who knows?!

- If you ever need to walk away from the unit, bring it completely down so the tubes are fully compressed. Then you can take a break.

### **Step 3: Yellow Safety Locks, continued...**

Take note of how the black ratchets are positioned on the yellow safety collars below. Notice how they are adjusted so they will not bump into the yellow leg when the black pole turns.

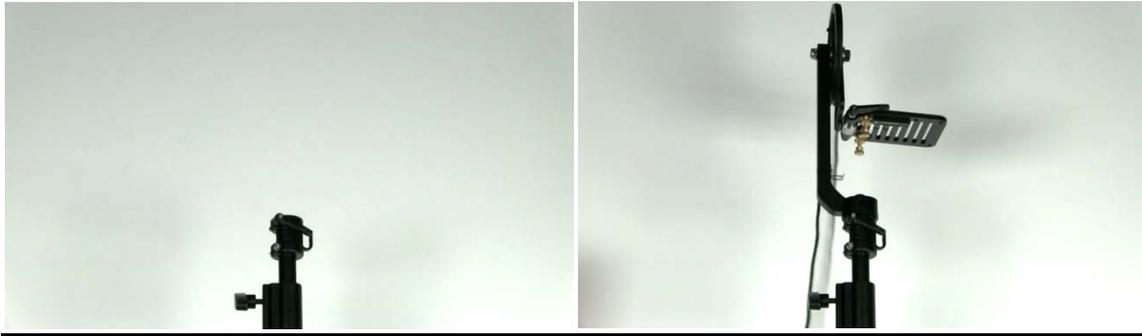


You will need to adjust this on all three yellow collars. Test when setting up the base to make sure you can turn the black pole 360 degrees with no interruption. A normal setting would place the tips of the ratchets:

- **Top: Up**
- **Middle: Down**
- **Bottom: Down**

### Step 4: Hi-Pod Head

Find the Hi-Pod Head in the case, and attach it to the opening at the top of the tubes with the mounting pedestal found at the bottom of the 'L' shape of the head.



Once in place, use the ratchet at the top of the tubes to tighten and secure.

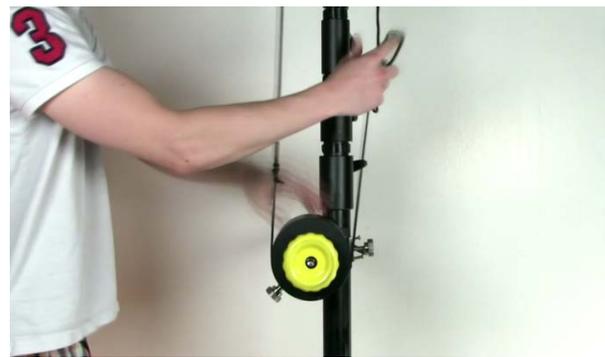
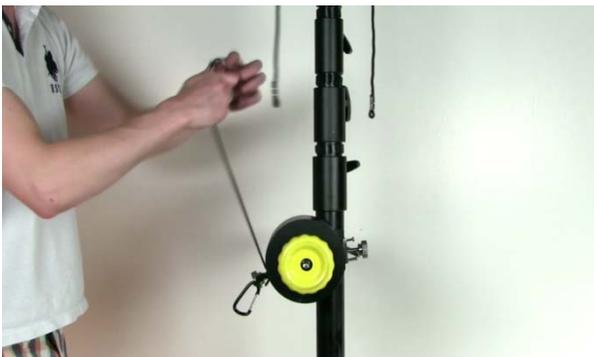


### **STEP 5: Hi-Pod Handle**



Find the Hi-Pod Handle in your case. Notice the two clamps that can open and tighten by turning the large black 'X' shaped piece on the item. Use this to attach the handle to the main pole.

### **STEP 6: Connect Head & Handle**



Notice the two black ropes coming out of the bottom of the Hi-Pod handle, with a silver pin between them.

Each of these ropes must go around the bottom of the rounded handle in opposite directions. If they come out of the top of the handle, or if they go in the same direction, they will not create the 'pulley' motion which controls the pan/tilt of your camera.

You can see in the image below that we have two arrows on the handle, indicating this for setup.



Connect the ropes coming out of the handle to the matching shorter cords coming down from the Hi-Pod Head. This engages the system. Connect with the attached carabineers.



## **STEP 7: (Handle) What The Silver Screws Do**



Focusing back on the handle, there are two large silver screws. Each has an important function you need to be aware of.

**The first is the Spool Locking Screw.** This is the screw found between the two black ropes coming out of the handle. If you lock this screw, the ropes will not pull out of the handle, nor will they retract. They will be fixed at whatever length you set them at. This is important at two points during setup.

*First,* make sure the screw is open when you are elevating the tubes, as the ropes will need to extend to the full height of the tower.

*Second,* once the tower is fully extended, pull back down on the ropes slightly to remove any slack, then lock the screw to hold in place. This will keep the ropes tight, and will stop them from slipping out the handle. This gives you very accurate control over pan/tilt during

operation. Unlock again at breakdown to allow the ropes to retract back into the handle.

**The second is the Position Lock Screw.** This is the screw that is seen facing you directly in the above picture, half way up the handle, next to one of the black clamps. If you turn this screw, it will hold whatever position you have the camera pointed in place. When this screw is unlocked, the camera will naturally swing flat/even - back to the horizon line. Re-locking will hold the camera in any direction. This is useful if you just want to hold a shot in an area for an extended time, say when you don't need to follow action as it moves for drills, etc.

### **Step 8: LCD Bracket**



The LCD Mounting Bracket holds the screen on the tubes.

You will find a metal item with a black tip on one end (for the LCD), and a black clamp with silver connecting screw on the other (connects to tubes).

Open the collar, size to the tube, and close the silver screw to lock on.



## Step 9: Attach LCD & Battery



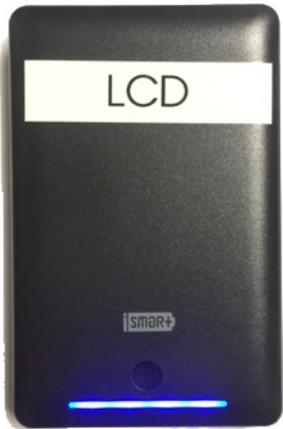
The LCD will attach to the black tip on the end of the LCD Mounting Bracket. This tip will slide into the groove on the back of the LCD.

\*Note: The size of the tips/LCD tracks has varied over the years. If you ever upgrade/change your LCD, check with us so we can confirm everything will fit.



Once attached, tighten the round screw on the mounting tip behind the LCD to hold the screen in place.

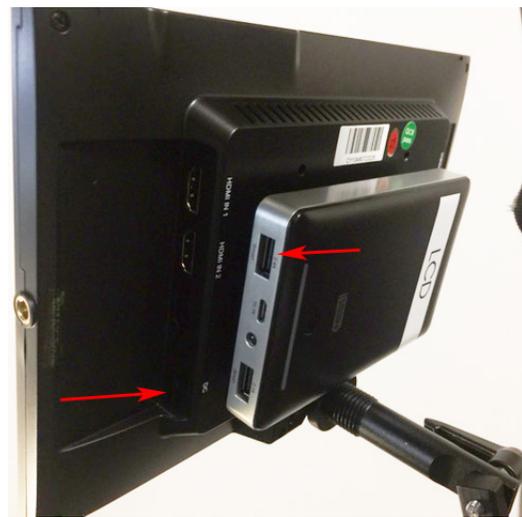
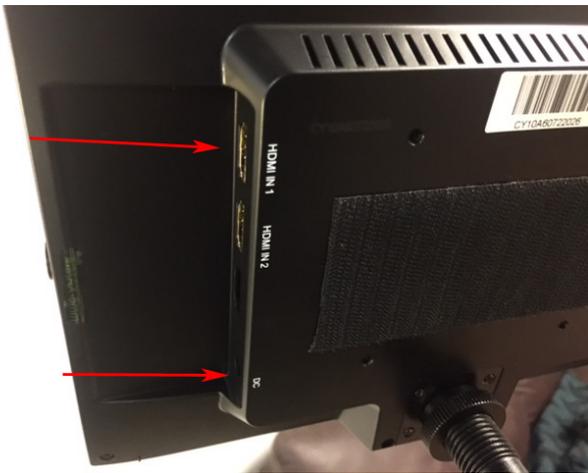




<- - see 2017 LCD battery on left

There are two LCD battery styles that have shipped. The current 2017 model LCD and battery will be described first.

On the back of the screen take note of the velcro strap, and two ports: '**HDMI IN 1**' for video and '**DC**' for power. Attach the LCD battery as shown.



<- - Use the adapter on the left to plug into the USB end of the battery, and then connect the DC tip into the LCD.



**LCDs Pre-2017:** Clients before 2017 will have a different battery system

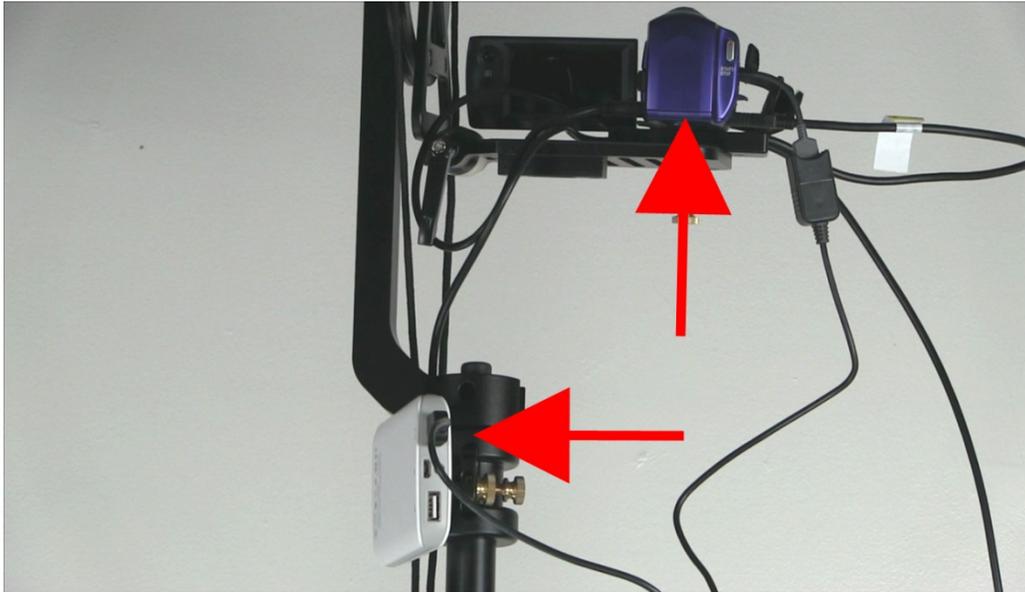
Connect the battery by lining up the metal pins on the LCD battery plate, and sliding them into the holes on the battery. Be careful not to misalign and bend the pins.



## Step 10: Cameras / Cables / Remotes

There are also two categories of cameras, which have different setups:

(1) - Cameras with a fixed shell w/USB external battery *(2016 forward)*



(2) - Cameras with a battery that connects in the back *(ended 2015)*

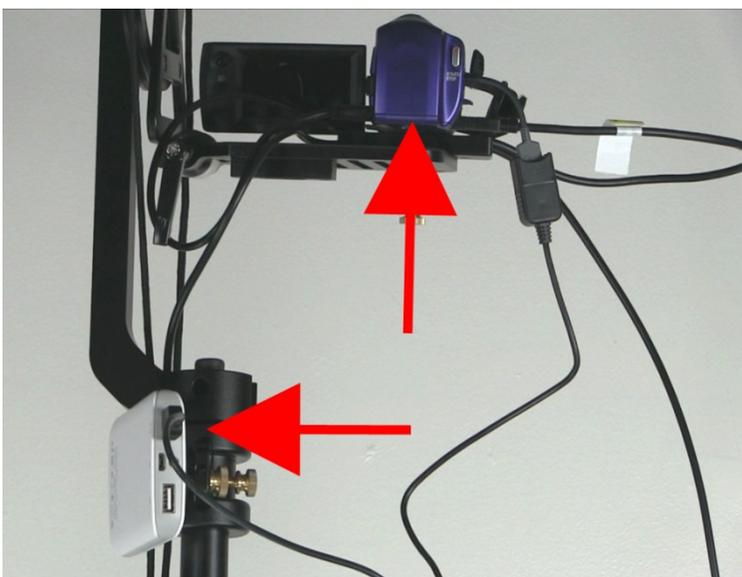


## • Cameras w/USB Power Pack (2016 forward)•

*Sample Cameras: Sony CX240, CX405, etc...*

The newest Hi-Pods ship with cameras that use an external USB power pack. We have shipped white and grey batteries (they setup the same).

Find the USB power pack (exact style may vary), and attach to the tower where there is a hook at the top of the tubes. Use the brass screw (shown in the image) to sandwich the battery to the tower.



Connect the battery pack to the camera with a USB extension cable (included in your case). Note the shorter USB cable in the hand-strap of the camera, and use the longer extension to connect the camera/battery.

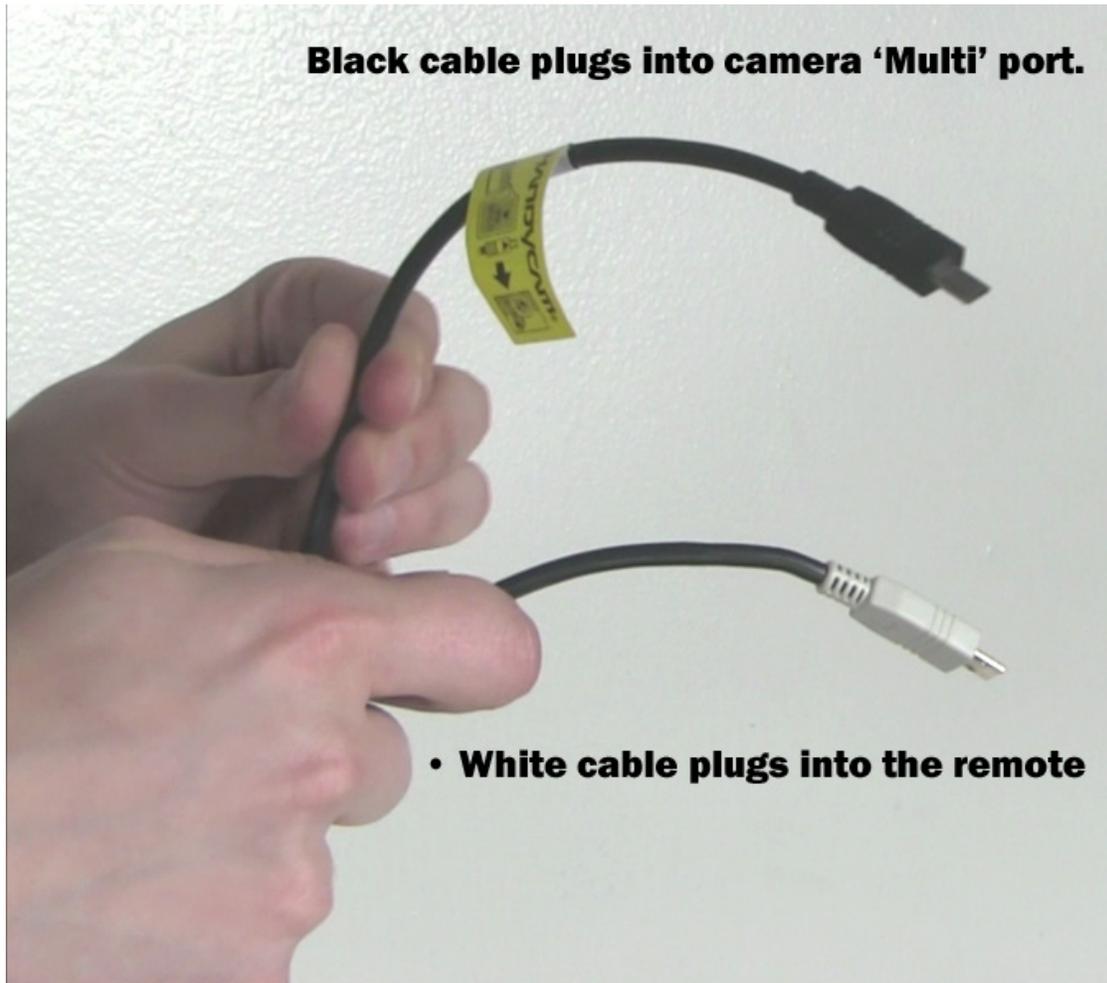


Some versions of the battery will have more than one power port. The higher of the voltage options is what you'll plug into. On the current grey battery (not pictured) the plug is **2.4A**

Now it's time to connect the camera to the remote which controls zoom and record functions. The cable/remote are pictured below:



**\*NOTE IMAGE BELOW: If reversed, the system will not function.**



- Find the plastic clip/cradle, insert remote, and attach to the handle



**\*\*NOTE the white end of the cable plugs into the remote.**



**\*\*NOTE the black end of the cable plugs into the camera 'Multi' port.**



• Cameras w/battery in the back (ended 2015)•

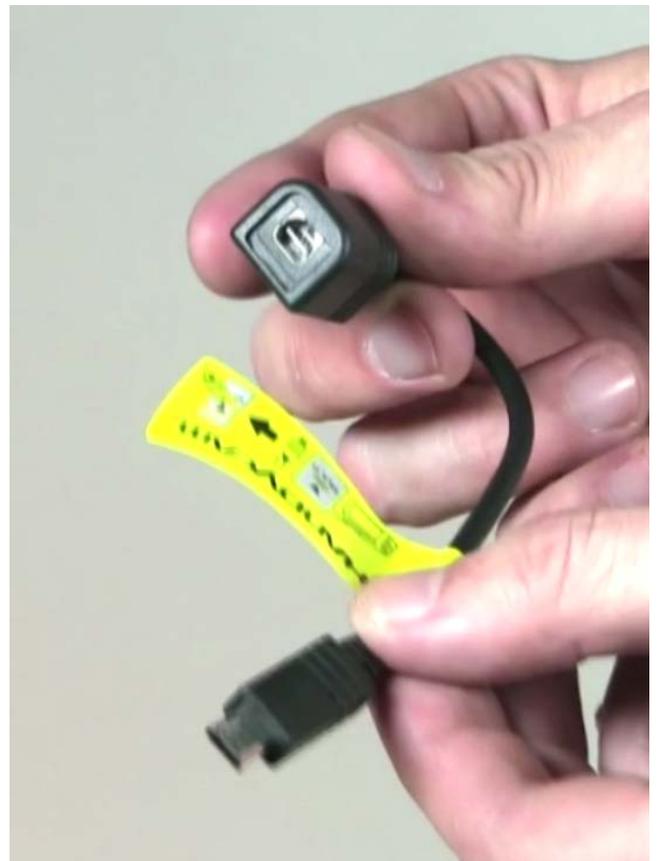


For cameras that have a battery which connects in the back of the unit, there are a few more steps. We'll work from the top down in this setup.

\*Note the 'Multi' port under the hand strap on the camera.

**4 Cables In Total**

- (1) Find the 'Multi-Adapter cable (pictured right), and plug it into the 'Multi' port.

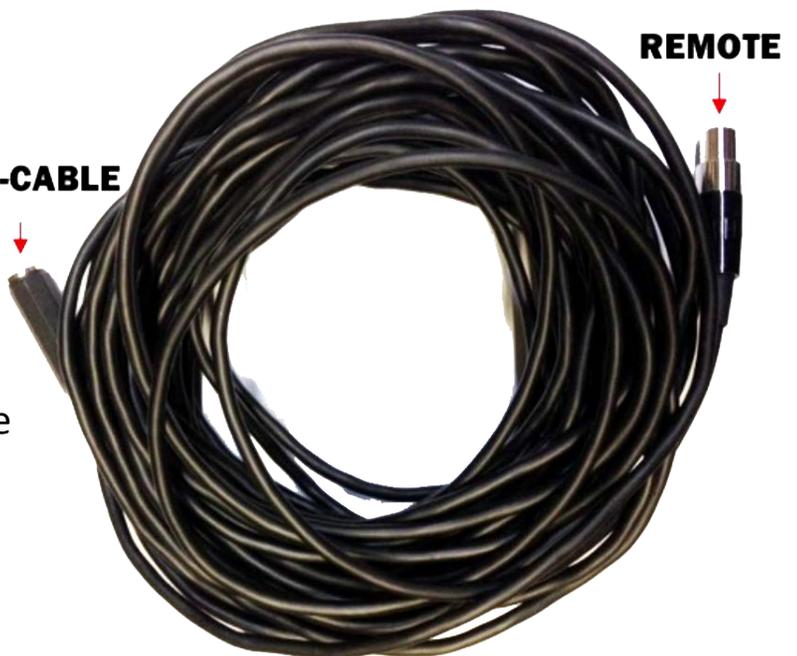




- (2) The 'Sony D-Cable' will plug into the D-shaped port on the 'Multi-Cable'. In the vast majority of cases, the only cable involved is the black cable with the stereo tip. The RCA cables are only involved if not using HDMI. Just ignore them.

(3) You'll find a really long skinny 'Lanc Cable' (pictured right), which links the 'D-Cable' down to the remote. This cable runs the length of the entire unit (top to bottom).

**D-CABLE**



**REMOTE**

(4) Over the years, three different remotes have shipped with this lanc system. See images below (*left to right: Silver Sony, Vivitar, VariZoom*):



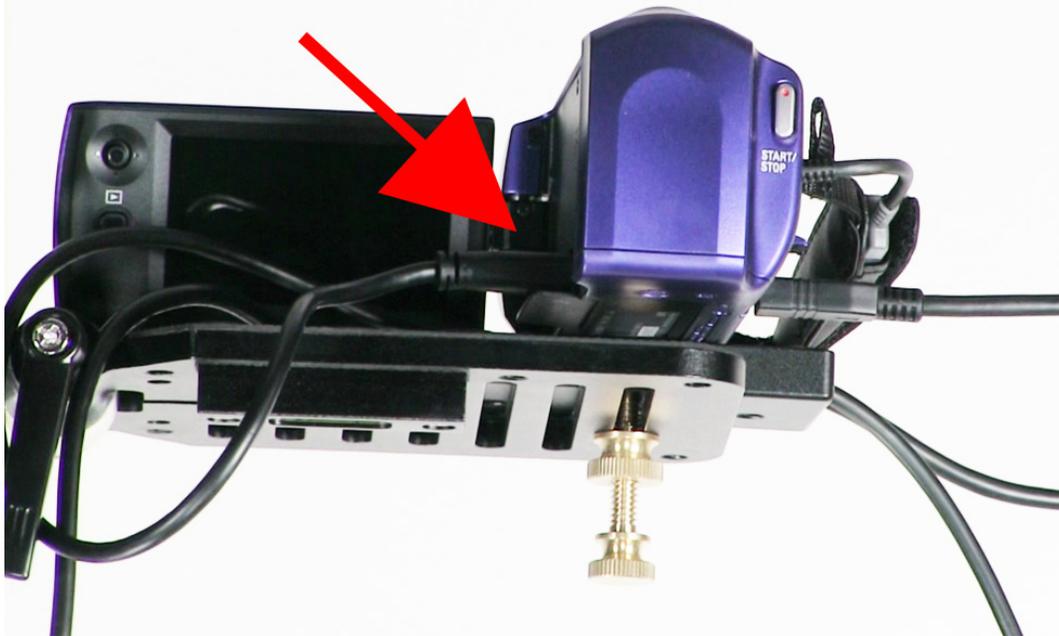
All of these remotes have a 4-6" cable which ends in a silver connector with three pins. This will connect to the long 'lanc' cable on the end which has ports to receive these three pins. Just connect the ends, and they will snap into place. You can release by pressing the small black button when disassembling.



Connecting HDMI:

For all HD cameras (regardless of what battery system you have) you will plug the long HDMI cable into the mini/micro port on your camera (found under the camera's LCD window), and run it down to the standard HDMI port in the large LCD at the base.

**HDMI Port Is Found Here**



(Camera)

**...and here.**



(Back of LCD)

## **Step 11: Strain Relief Plate**

*\*This is one of the most important steps during setup for any camera. Failure to use this plate can void your electronics warranty. See the cable Strain Relief Plate below:*

# **IMPORTANT FOR WARRANTY**



The Strain Relief Plate locks the video and linc cables firmly under the camera. When the unit is fully elevated, it prevents gravity from pulling down on the delicate cable tips/camera ports, which can cause the tips to break or ports to widen. If damage occurs your control/video signal will drop - so **USE THIS ITEM EVERY TIME.** *\*Damage to the system can occur as quickly as a single use if not applied.*



You use this plate by threading your video and linc cables through it (in opposite directions to come out on the appropriate sides of the camera).

Attach your camera with the brass screw in the middle of the plate.





The brass screw is flushed against the bottom of the black plate, so you'll need to use a coin (or whatever is available) to securely connect.

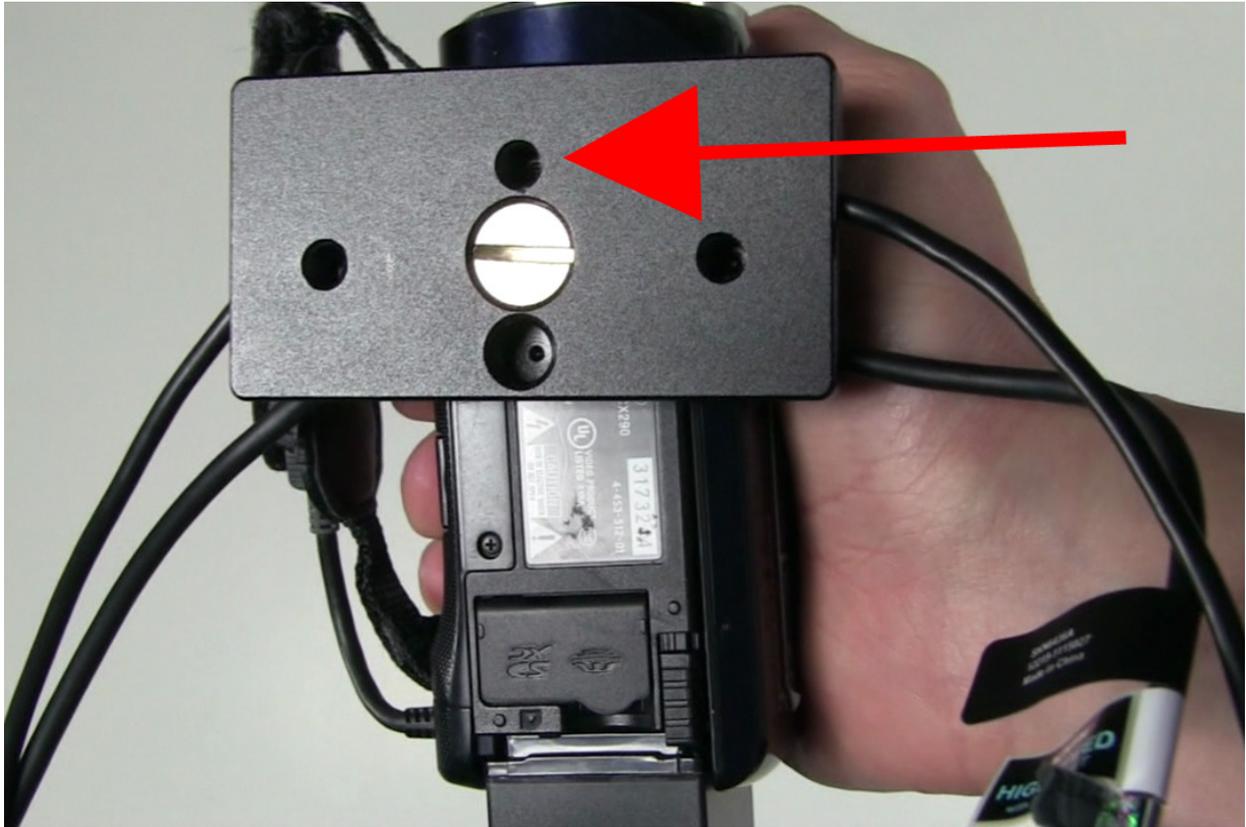


- Before mounting the camera to the wheeled plate, make a slack knot in the cables around the 'L' shape of the head, where it attaches to the tubes. This helps to cut down on cable droop, etc - just make sure to leave enough slack for the wheel/head so it can move in all directions (including straight up and down). - If you don't leave enough slack you can damage the cables when the head begins to move.



**Setup:  
All Remotes**

After the Strain Relief Plate is attached, to mount to the Hi-Pod wheeled head, find the smaller of the two holes next to the bottom of the brass screw. This will connect with the camera mounting screw.



Take one of the brass camera mounting screws (attached to the plate of the head), and insert from below the plate with grooves carved out of it. You'll likely need to use one of the most exterior slots to mount.

- See (below) how this setup should look when mounted.



**\*NOTE:** Pay attention to how the cables (when threaded through the strain relief plate) do not immediately turn back around to plug into the camera. Leave some slack in the cables (extra length) so that you don't 'pinch' them by twisting back too quickly. Doing so can damage the cables or the camera port, as you would be adding tension to the tips/ports by not allowing ample cable slack. Also, notice how we've looped the HDMI cable around/under the ratchet on the bottom left of the plate. This will keep the cable out of the way during operation. The linc cable on the right can stick out as there is nothing in the way.

### Step 12: Text (REC) On Screen

In general, cameras under \$1,000 do not have the ability to save a setting to push out text (record/battery status) from the camera down to the LCD. There is a way to achieve this on less expensive cameras, but it's applied every time the camera is turned on. Once memorized it takes about 5 secs.

- First, click on the '**Menu**' button in the top left corner:



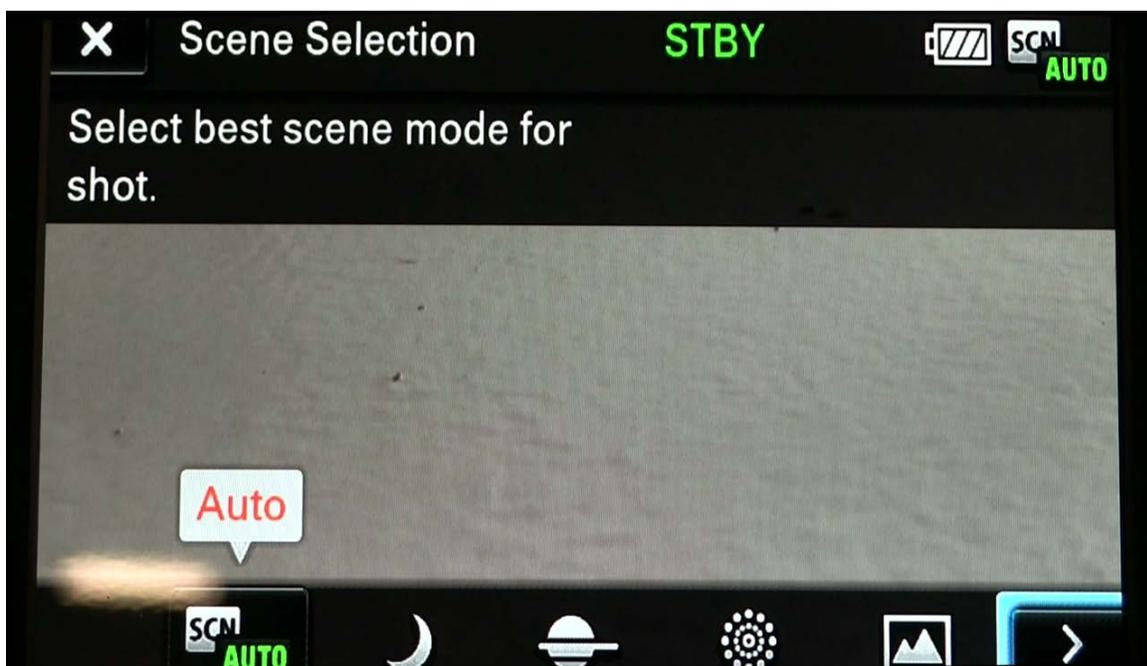
- Select '**Camera/Mic**'



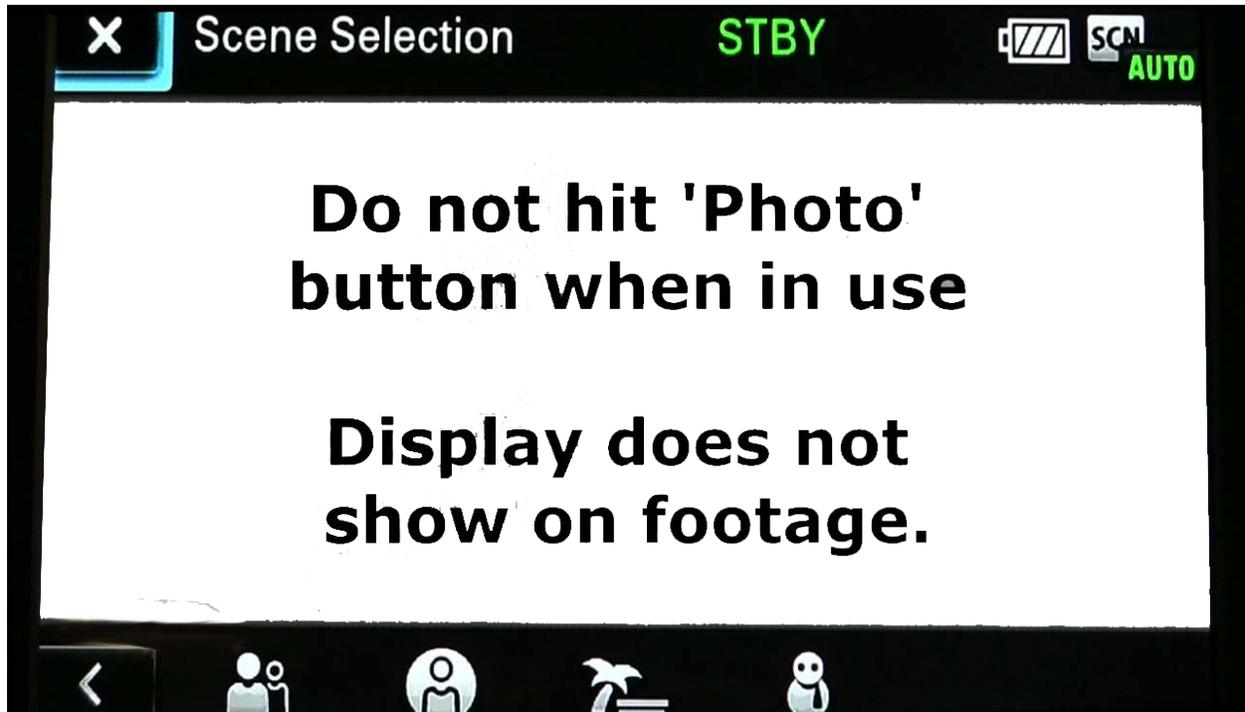
- Scroll down until you find 'Scene Selection' and click on it



Your screen will change to look like this. Click on the bottom right arrow to continue.



At this point, your screen will clear up leaving the middle unobstructed. **DO NOT CLICK ANYTHING.** Just leave the screen here. The text displayed will push down to your LCD - notice the 'STBY' in green. This will change to a red 'REC' indicator when you're recording. This way you'll always know when you are or aren't recording.



This text overlay will not be on your final video files. It is only seen by the Hi-Pod operator when they are filming.

\*Note: If you have a remote which has a 'Photo' button option - **DO NOT HIT IT.** If you do it will bounce you out of this view back into the menu where you chose 'Scene Selection.' If you do this while the camera is in the air, you will have to bring it all the way down to setup on the camera again.

## Camera Settings Continued: Dual Video REC

On new cameras for 2017 (example CX405), they appear to default ship with a setting called 'Dual Video REC' enabled in the camera settings. When this feature is active the camera saves two copies of the same clip in different quality settings (one is higher def, one is for online sharing). What this means is that the camera is taking double the storage space that it needs to. Whether you want to leave this setting on is up to the preference of the user, but if you want to turn it off..

- First go to '**Menu**'
- Then '**Image Quality/Size**'
- Then look for '**Dual Video REC**'



- Turn this feature '**Off**'

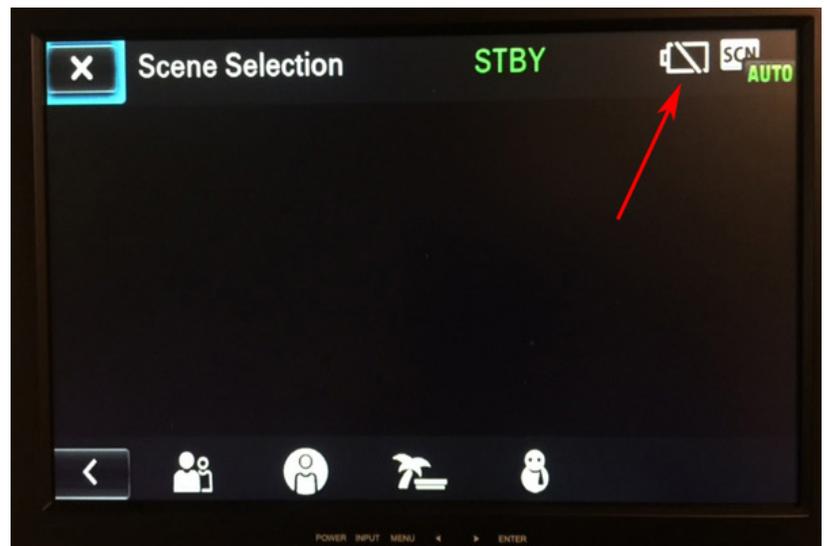


**Camera Settings Continued: Confirming Camera Battery**

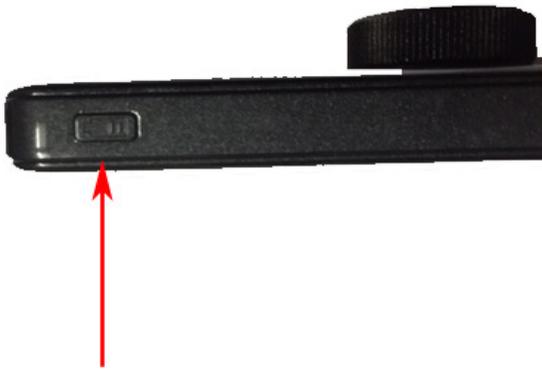
For those clients using either the grey or white USB batteries, you need to confirm that the battery is turned on and is set as the main power source before elevating. Without doing this, it's possible to leave the small internal camera battery active which will die quickly.

If you have your camera connected to the LCD (with text on screen applied as explained earlier in this manual) you will see the battery icon in the top left. This means the small internal battery is active.

**This is not what you want.**

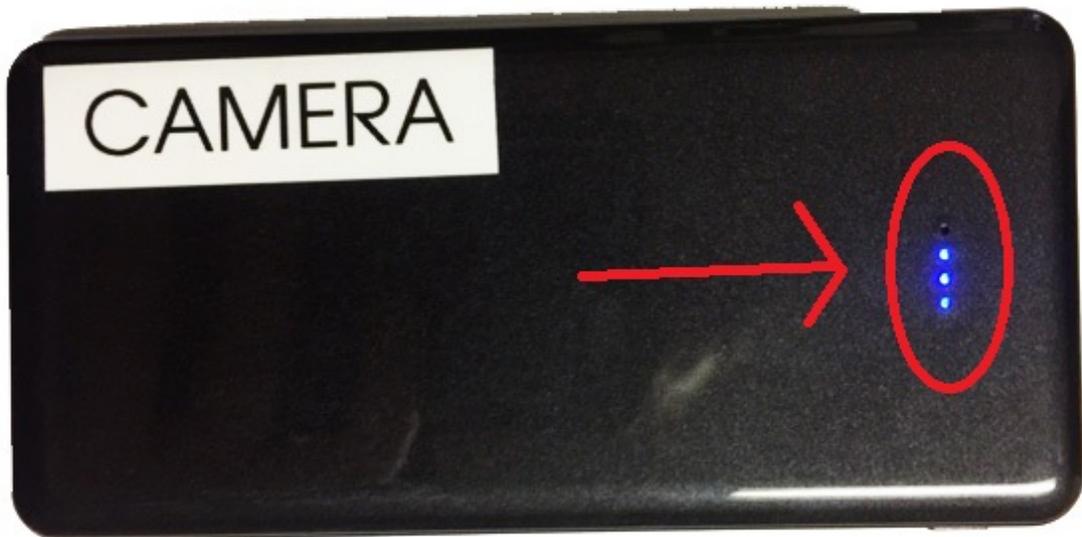


First, mount the battery to the tower (either to the top of the poles as shown or to the camera plate). Connect the battery to the camera with the female-to-male USB cable extension. The female end will connect to the USB cable found in the camera hand strap.

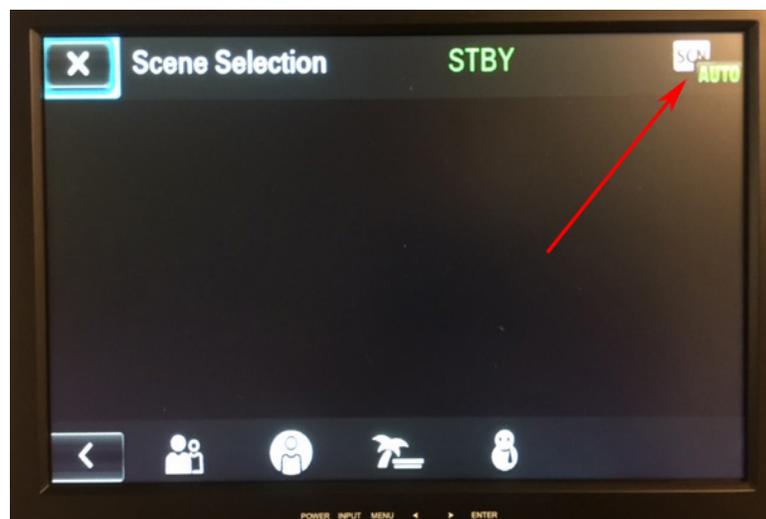


Click the button on the side of the battery to turn it on.

You will see the buttons on the battery light up blue.



When connected correctly and turned on, the battery button in the top right of the LCD will disappear. **This is what you want,** and (when charged) will allow the camera to record for at least 5 hrs.

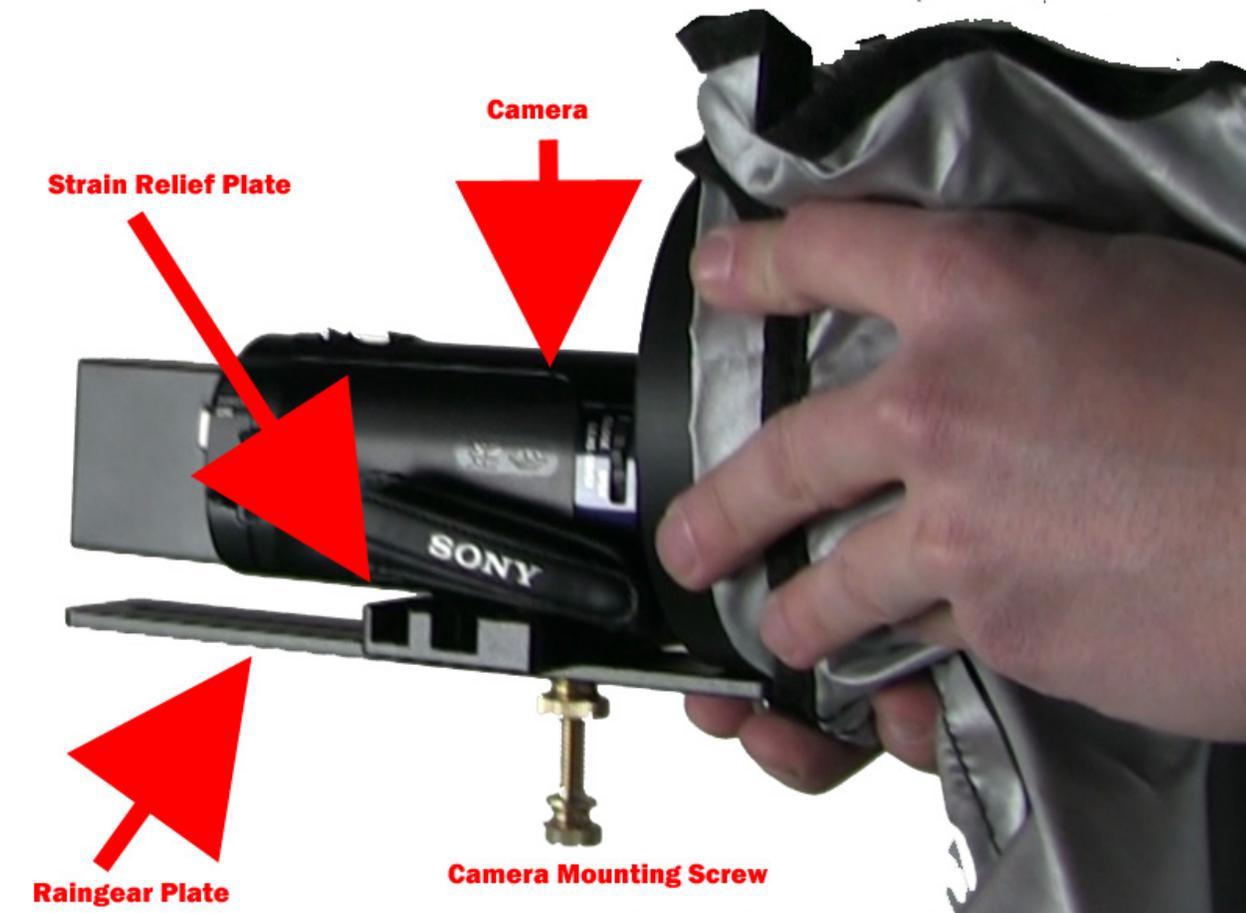


### Step 13: Raingear

There are three parts to the raingear for the Hi-Pod:

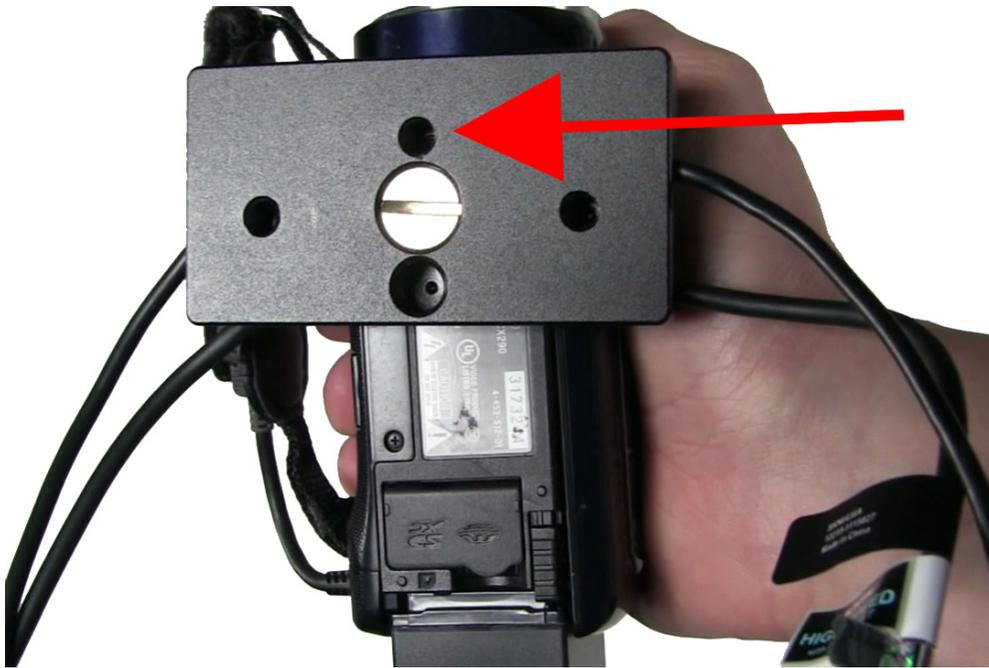
- Camera
- LCD
- Remote

See the camera raingear below:



This image is shown without the wheeled head. The brass screw will be the only part under the wheeled head - everything else will go on top.

Use the same hole on the strain relief plate to attach the brass screw as you do with the raingear. Just make sure that now, the raingear plate is below the strain relief plate, but on top of the wheeled plate.



*(See attached)*





There is a cinch cord which will allow you to organize your cables, arrange the bag, and then completely close so no water can get inside. There are different ways to accomplish this, but the key is to pull the cord completely shut when finished.

Note the length of cord, and general position. Pull shut.



The LCD raingear attaches by simply sliding it over the mounted screen, with battery attached in the back. Velcro to seal.



Raingear for the remote will attach as shown in the image below. Most often, you seal the bag and operate the remote from outside. However, there is a slot in the bag (to the right) with another cinch cord if you wanted your hand to be inside as well.



With the camera, lcd, and remote covered, this completes the raingear setup. If conditions vary, you can always go beyond what is included to enhance your protection.

**\*\*You will need to judge the weather conditions and adjust **BEFORE** you start shooting. If you even think there is a chance of bad weather mount the raingear in advance. *There is nothing worse than scrambling in rain during the middle of a game with expensive equipment exposed to the elements, so plan in advance!***

**Step 14: Horizon Line**



On the Hi-Pod head, from the bottom looking up, you'll find a green leveling bubble. This helps to confirm whether your shot is level with the ground before elevating.

Attending to this before elevation can make the difference between...

this



or this



## **Step 15: Elevating Tubes**

At this point in the setup, your unit is set to elevate.

Grab a pole above a collar, unlock, raise to your desired height, and lock again.



### Step 16: Lowering Tubes

When lowering the tubes, **always grab the pole above a collar before opening that collar.** If you do not grab the pole first, it will shoot down.



### Step 17: Velcro Cables to Tubes

We include a strap of velcro above every collar. Use this to attach your video/lanc cables to the tower. This keeps your cables out of the way, and acts as an additional strain relief.



## **Step 17: Putting The Tower Away**

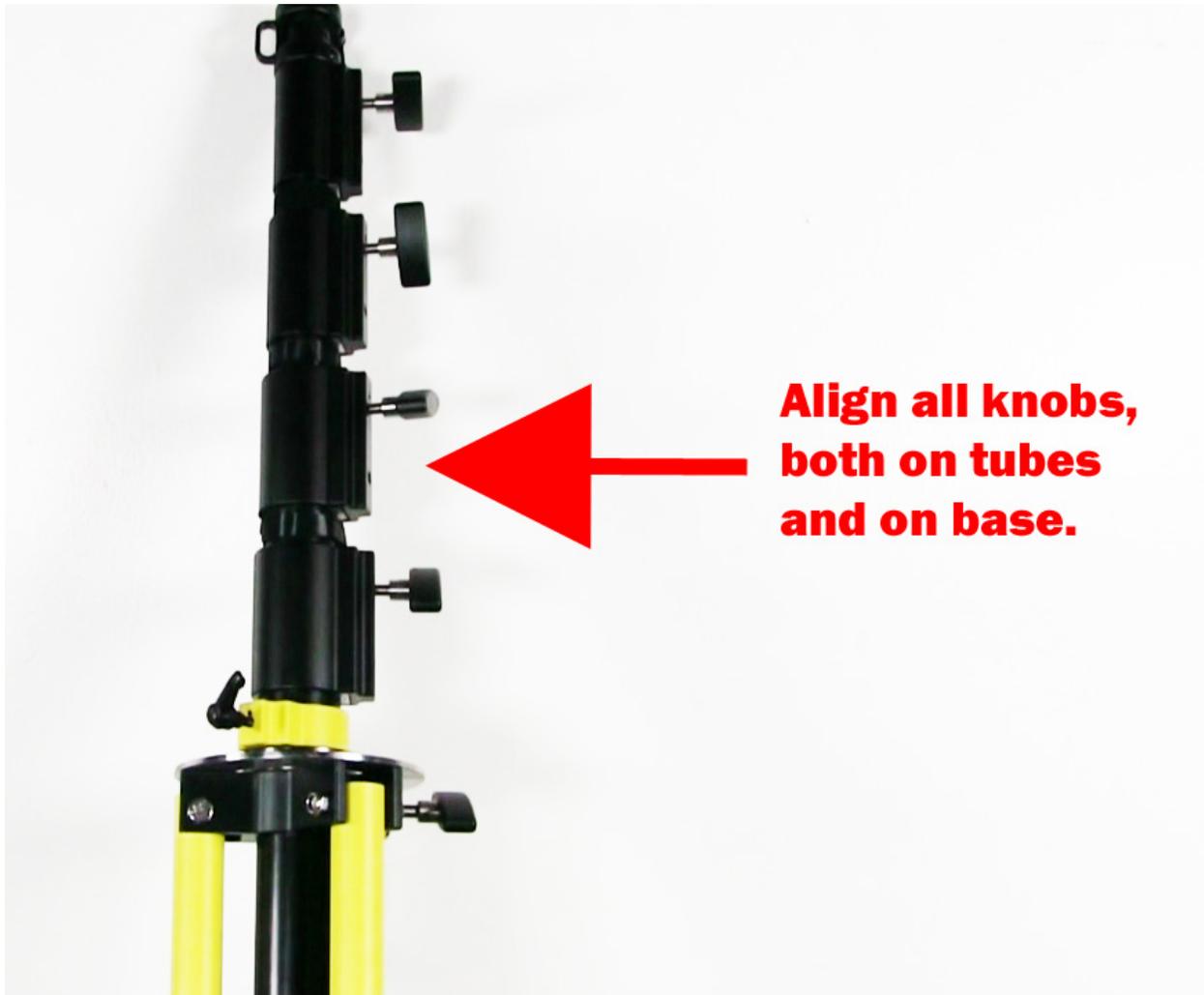
When it's time for you to put away the unit, most of the setup can just be done in reverse.

Two key things to point out:

(1) When attempting to fold the tower, unlock all knobs and push your foot lightly down on the black slats between the legs, and pull up on the silver ring. The legs will fold in.



- For the tower to fit back into the case, you must line up of all of the knobs on the unit - both top (tubes) and bottom (base). If this is not done, the tower will not fit into the case correctly.



\*Note: Cases are provided to protect the tower during shipment, and to facilitate easier transport on and off the field. Cases have a fabric exterior, so be aware of this when putting other gear around/on top of it, and also when moving in and out of a vehicle - make sure not to catch on anything that could rip the case. This is up to the user.

# Setup Complete

For more information, watch

- [LX Series Video Manual](#)

or

<http://hipod.com>

For help call us at:

**818-982-2601**

*9am - 5pm PST, M-F*