POCKET
PANO
COMPACT

Camera specific panoramic head

Operation manual

for the perfect panorama with YOUR camera

left: pocketPANO COMPACT nodal head for the SONY RX 100 (I) with mounted camera

below: transport mode of the pocketPANO COMPACT nodal head

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About this guide

We would like to thank you for purchasing this panoramic head and hope you enjoy it!

In the following, we would like to give you some hints on how to use the panorama adapter and how to make personal settings. You will not find any hints for stitching the pictures on your PC. The market for suitable software is too large and constantly evolving. Our recommendation: PTGui (paid) or Hugin (free)
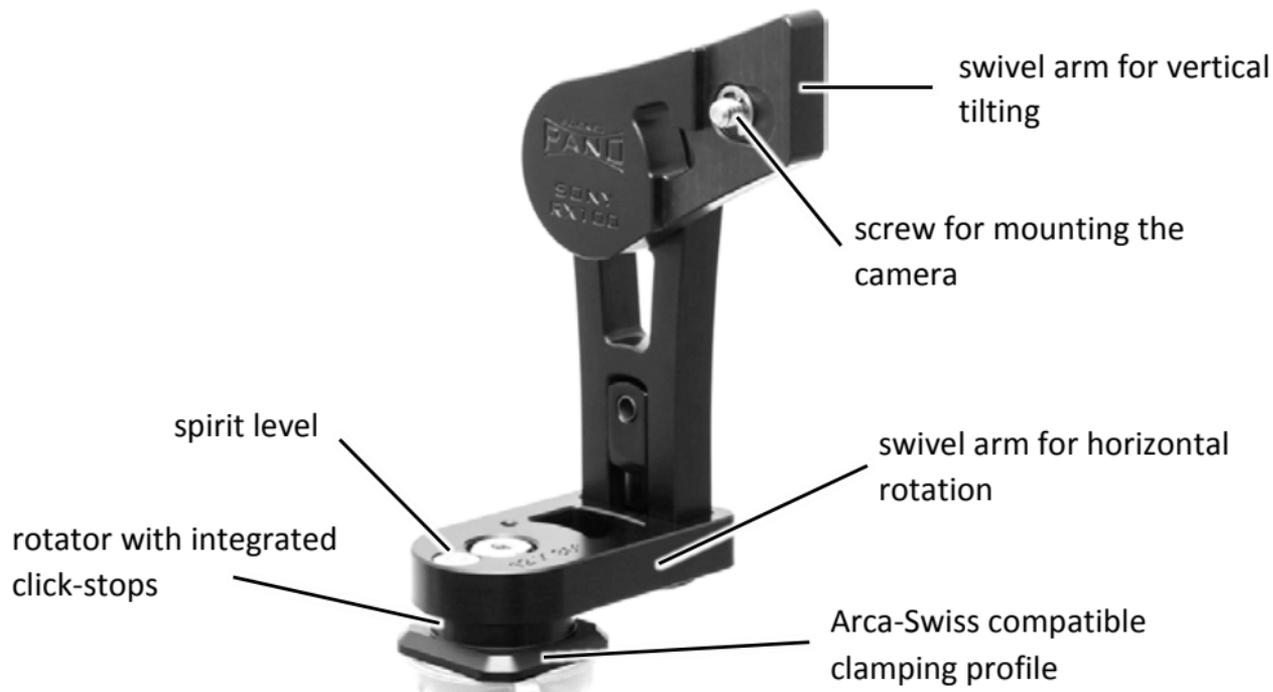
Should it ever come to a complaint or other clarification, do not hesitate to contact us. We will do our best to solve the problem to your satisfaction. The contact details can be found at the end of this manual.
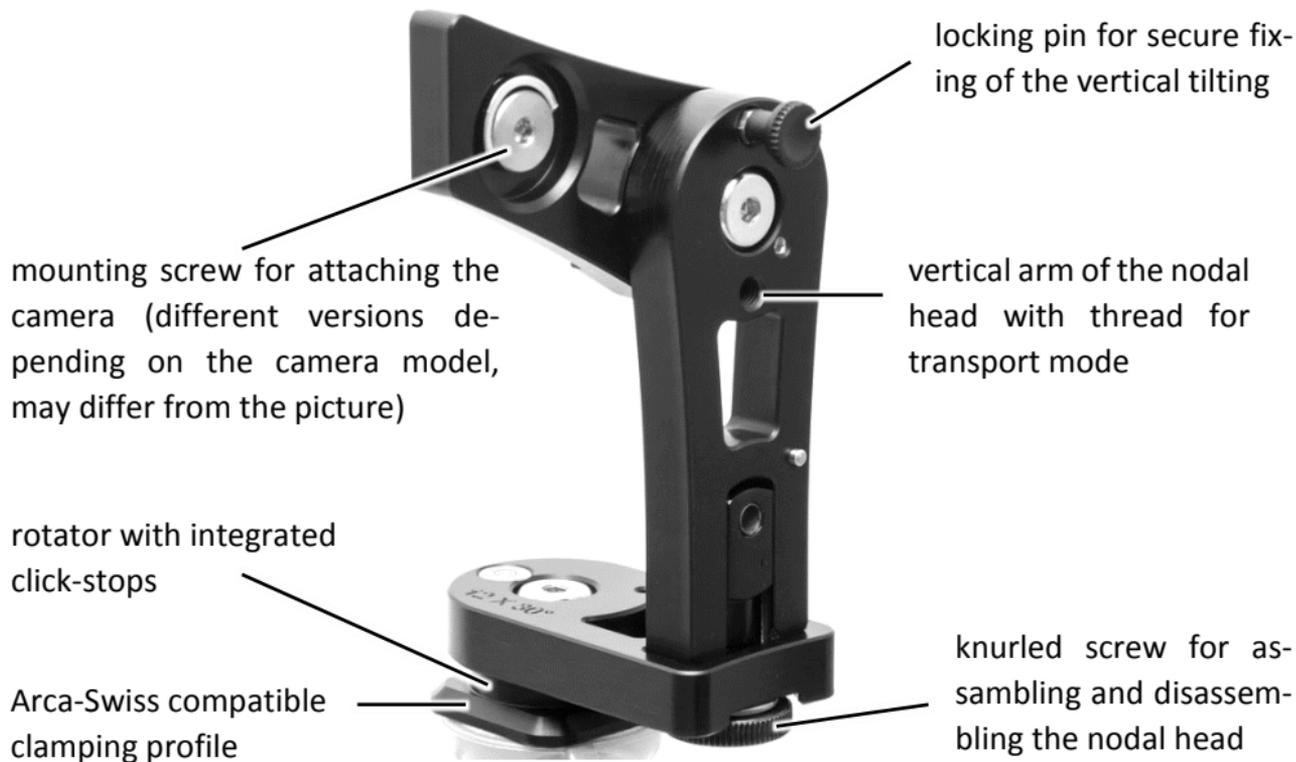
Attention - safety instructions!

This nodal point adapter is only suitable for use with the intended camera in its original state. It is optimally adapted to this camera and the attempt to attach other camera models or cameras with additionally attached accessories (eg additional handles, adapter plates, filter threads, filters, step-up / step-down rings or the like) can lead to damage of the camera or nodal point adapter.

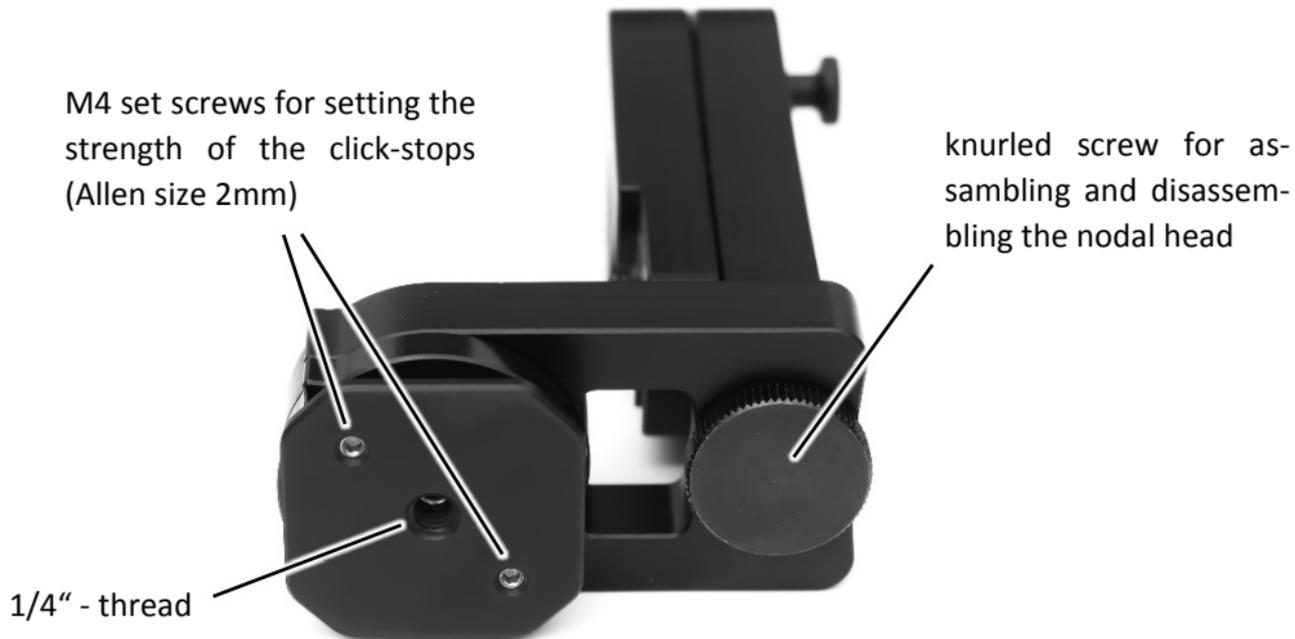**Attention:** If you want to attach the nodal point adapter to your tripod by screwing, the maximum permissible length of the 1/4"-UNC threaded stud is 6mm! If the threaded bolt of your tripod is longer, the nodal point adapter must not be screwed on directly, as this could otherwise damage the nodal point adapter. We recommend the use of an Arca-Swiss compatible quick release clamp. For questions please contact us!

The most important components

swivel arm for vertical tilting

screw for mounting the camera

spirit level

swivel arm for horizontal rotation

rotator with integrated click-stops

Arca-Swiss compatible clamping profile

locking pin for secure fixing of the vertical tilting

mounting screw for attaching the camera (different versions depending on the camera model, may differ from the picture)

vertical arm of the nodal head with thread for transport mode

rotator with integrated click-stops

Arca-Swiss compatible clamping profile

knurled screw for assambling and disassambling the nodal head

bottom

M4 set screws for setting the strength of the click-stops (Allen size 2mm)

knurled screw for assambling and disassembling the nodal head

1/4" - thread

pointer

In order to better recognize whether you have taken all pictures of a row, the pocketPANO COMPACT nodal head has a freely rotatable position indicator. This will help you to know when all pictures are taken for a 360° panorama!

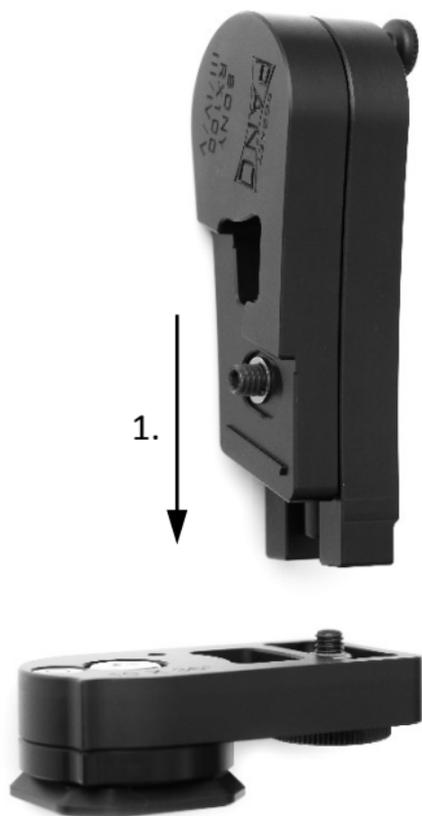Most pocketPANO COMPACT models have a matching reference mark.

If your model does not have this "nose", you can simply align the position indicator in the direction of the spirit level.

Assembly and disassembly

1.   connecting

Before you attach the nodal point adapter to your tripod, you should connect the two parts of the adapter together. Insert the vertical part into the recess of the horizontal part and turn the knurled screw at the same time. The recess in the horizontal part of the adapter is designed so that the assembly can take place only in one orientation. A wrong assembly is therefore excluded. The knurled screw is mounted by a needle bearing, which is why it exerts very high tensile forces on the vertical part of the adapter and guarantees a firm hold. Even with strong tightening of the screw, it can be dismounted without effort.

2.   mounting on the tripod

The nodal point adapter has a 1/4" thread at the bottom. You can screw it directly to any tripod that also has a 1/4" screw (maximum length 6mm). Make sure that the adapter is placed straight on and that the thread is not jammed when screwed on. Do not use force, this could damage the thread.

Furthermore, the nodal point adapter has an Arca-Swiss compatible clamping profile so you can attach it to any compatible clamp. Of course, you can also mount any other quick-release plate below the adapter (using the 1/4" thread, maximum length of the fixing screw may be 6mm).

mounting with 1/4" tripod thread

mounting with Arca-Swiss compatible
quick release clamp

our recommendation

We recommend using a ball head or a leveling head between the tripod and nodal head, so that you can level the nodal head horizontally with the help of the integrated spirit level. This is particularly useful if there are no horizontal or vertical structures in the image, where you can later align the panorama during stitching.

For direct attachment of the nodal point adapter to a tripod with a 3/8" threaded bolt, a suitable threaded adapter is available separately.
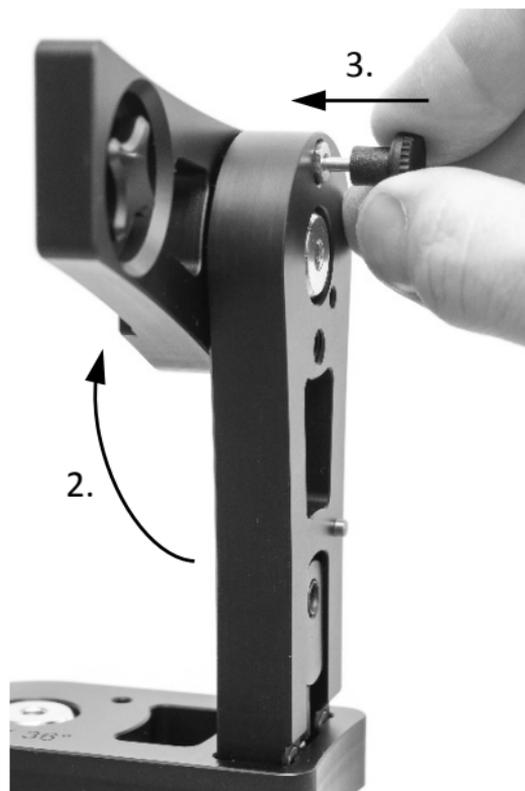
separately available threaded adapter with
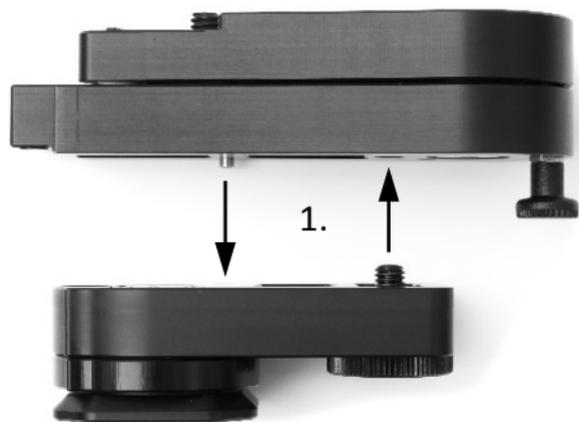3/8" inner thread and 1/4" external thread

3.　mounting the camera

After securely mounting the adapter to your tripod or tripod head, position the arm to which your camera is attached in a horizontal position (or slightly upwards when using a camera with a tripod thread not located below the optical axis). To do this, pull the locking pin outwards and turn the arm to the desired position. This locks automatically in the correct position by the click-stop system. Then release the locking pin. Now you can screw your camera to the arm. Pay attention to the correct position of the camera, so that it does not jam when screwed on and sits correctly in the recess provided.

4.   disassembly & transport mode

When you're done shooting your panorama, you can combine the pocketPANO nodal head into a compact unit for transport. For this, the vertical arm is separated from the horizontal arm (loosening the knurled screw). Then the parts are laid flat on each other and the knurled screw is screwed into the provided thread of the vertical arm. Make sure that the cylindrical pin of the vertical arm fits correctly in the corresponding recess of the horizontal arm. Do not over tighten the hand screw!

1.

2.

Preparing the camera

After mounting your camera, make sure all your camera settings are the way you want. If your camera has a zoom lens, bring the lens to its wide-angle position. We strongly recommend that you take all pictures for a panorama with a fixed aperture, a fixed exposure, a fixed white balance, fixed ISO sensitivity and manual or fixed focus. It is best to shoot in RAW format so that you have more room to correct too bright or dark subject areas.

Now you are ready to take your panorama.

Single-row (cylindrical) panoramas

Here are some tips for taking single-row (cylindrical) panoramas:

1. First, think about the vertical angle of your camera. Not every single row panorama has to be taken with a horizontally positioned camera. Sometimes, for example, the foreground is more interesting than the empty sky and you would rather take the single-row panorama with the camera slightly tilted downwards. Even with the camera tilted down, your panorama is not wavy or crooked, because you've mounted the nodal point adapter on the tripod horizontally. Only the camera is tilted down and the horizontal rotation is not affected.

To vertically pan the camera, hold your camera with one hand and pull the locking pin outwards with the other hand. Now you can swing the camera to the desired vertical position and release the locking pin to fix this position.

hint: Between the positions of the vertical click-stops, there are also intermediate positions into which the detent pin can engage!

2. Think about where your panorama should start and turn the adapter with your camera up to this point. Then bring the pointer in line with its counterpart or with the spirit level.

3. Now make your first picture, preferably with a remote control or the self-timer of your camera. Then turn the adapter clockwise to the next stop position and take the next picture. Repeat this until you captured the entire subject. If you want to do a full 360° cylindrical panorama, take so many pictures until the pointer is back in line with its reference.

Now you have taken all the pictures for your single-row (cylindrical) panorama!

Multi-row (spherical) panoramas

With the pocketPANO COMPACT you can also record multi-row and complete spherical panoramas. The process is basically the same as when shooting a single-row panorama, performed several times with different tilting of the camera until all image areas are captured. Simply use the tilting angle of the nodal point adapter given by the click-stops of the vertical swivel arm! For very large vertical tilt angles (e.g., in the top or bottom row), it may be sufficient to take a picture only every second horizontal click stop. This varies from camera to camera, and you can easily check on the display if the images still overlap sufficiently even when panned by more than one click stop.

In fact, there is not *the right* order for creating a multi-row panorama. Basically, you always try to minimize the number of shots you need. But there are other aspects to consider: e.g. In the center of the picture (the "horizon") are usually image-important elements, such as persons who should not be "cut up". Therefore, it may

be useful to take the center row of photos in the panorama, although you might want to get the desired panorama with fewer rows without a center row (for example, a little down and a little up) with a smaller total number of photos.

Just try it! This will give you a sense of how YOU work best with your nodal point adapter.

Tips & Tricks

Actually, you must not set anything on the pocketPANO nodal point adapters. Nevertheless, you have the ability to adjust the strength (not the angle) of the horizontal click-stops to your needs. To do this, you can screw the setscrews (M4, 2mm Allen) further into the bottom of the rotator (for a stronger detent) or unscrew them (for a weaker detent).

Note: The setscrews are relatively hard to turn to prevent unwanted loosening. So use only a high-quality Allen key with the right size (2mm)! Please do not use force when screwing in, this can damage the threads. When unscrewing, make sure that the setscrews do not protrude above the surface.

Tip: You can also unscrew the set screws completely and remove the inner spring (the small ball will not come out voluntarily). Then screw the set screw back in place and store the spring carefully. Thus, the latching of the rotator by removing **one** spring is much easier. By removing **both** springs you can disable the click-stops completely. This can be useful if you are using your camera's "sweep panorama" feature (i.e. taking a panorama in-camera by smooth horizontal panning). Again, the rotation around the nodal point is important!

Cleaning & Care

The pocketPANO nodal point adapters do not require any maintenance.

If you want to clean the nodal point adapter, we recommend a moistened (not wet) cloth. Please do not use solvents for cleaning.

If necessary, you can treat the nodal point adapter thinly with normal plastic or cockpit care. This gives the adapter a strong deep black color.

When using, make sure that the nodal point adapter is not exposed to moisture for long periods of time. Although almost all metallic parts of the adapter are made of stainless steel or rustproof, this is not possible with all components (for example, needle roller bearings). After use in humid weather, you should thoroughly dry the nodal point adapter.

If you ever have a problem with your pocketPANO nodal point adapter, there is nothing to worry about: All parts are standard parts, thus permanently available and easily replaceable. If necessary, just contact us, we can help you!

Should it ever come to a complaint or other clarification, do not hesitate to contact us. We will do our best to solve the problem to your satisfaction! The contact details can be found at the end of this manual.

Space for your own notes

Contact

Lutz Müller Fototechnik
Rottenbachstr. 6 | 98693 Ilmenau | Germany

phone   +49 (0) 17623526682
mail   info@pocketpano.de
web   www.pocketpano.de