Explorer Version 3 Instructions

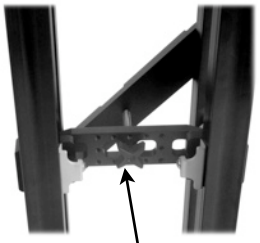
Unpacking the system.

The Explorer is now easier to assemble than its previous version, but packing it up is a little tricky, so note how things are configured as you take them out of the case. We are sure you will prefer the hard-shell tripod cases with wheels that have replaced the soft bags of the previous versions. The wheels offer much easier transport, and the hard cases give better protection.

There are two tripod style cases. Case 1 holds the majority of the system. Case 2 holds the tripod, duopod and trolley.

For both packing and unpacking Case 1, you will find it easier to lay the case on the ground and slide the items out. It is a bit heavy and awkward to control the components if this Case 1 is left upright.

The 2 main sections are held together with the weight bucket bracket positioned on an angle.

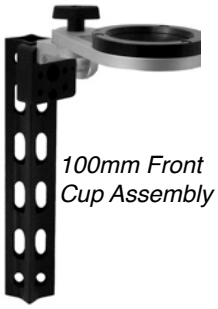


Remove this knob to separate the two sections.

The two main rail sections are shown here with the end clamps pointing up. To nest them together for transport the lower one will be turned over--its clamp pointing downward.

The JIb Assembly consists of two 3' Rail Sections that will be added to the central Pan/Fulcrum Assembly, and then completed by adding the front 100mm Cup Assembly and the rear Weight Bucket Assembly. Set up time is 5 minutes.

Fulcrum Assembly



100mm Front Cup Assembly

The Explorer does not require carrying steel counterweights. Simply add whatever is handy to the bucket. An easy way to fine-tune the balance is to add a bottle of water. Then simply remove a little water to dial in the balance.

Rear Weight Bucket Assembly
(transport case lid becomes the weight bucket)

The two main rail sections are held together for transport by the weight bucket bracket positioned on an angle and locked in place with a long bolt with a four prong knob. ***This is an important configuration to make note of so it can be duplicated when packing up.*** As you remove the 4-prong knob/bolt from the weight bucket bracket, the two main sections will separate. ***Make note of how the two sections nest together***.

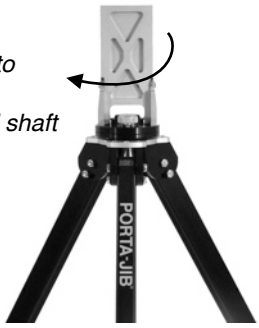
When re-packing, you will place these two sections together and then turn them on their side. This will make it easier to mount the weight bucket bracket that holds them together. This weight bucket bracket has to be placed on an angle so that it is no wider than the separation of the rails, otherwise it will not slide into the case.

Next open the padded bag and remove the contents: the pan/fulcrum assembly, two 12" rails and one 17" rail. The other bag contains a variety of clamps and leveling feet. Several of these items have dual purposes and will be explained as we proceed through the set-up. Open Case 2 and remove its contents: one tripod, one duopod and one bag containing the trolley.

Jib Mode Assembly

To begin the jib set-up, start by positioning the tripod. Normally you will want the legs all the way out and fully extended. You will notice that this tripod has a simple flat top and a 3/8-16 threaded rod protruding up through the center about 1/2 inch (12mm). If there is considerably more thread exposed, back it down to the 1/2" range by turning the knob below. (A longer threaded rod portion is used in the slider mode, which could explain why there might be too much thread exposed. This will be further explained in the slider section below.) Also, be aware that you can also use this tripod as a 100mm tripod for your fluid head by simply attaching the 100mm off-set cup to the top.

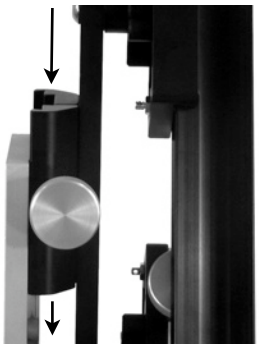
Add the Fulcrum Assembly to tripod by spinning the entire assembly onto the threaded shaft



Optional use for the tripod when not supporting the jib or the slider.

Instead of mounting the Fulcrum assembly onto the tripod by turning the knob from below, as one is accustomed to doing when mounting a fluid head, you will instead lock the pan-drag knob on the fulcrum assembly, and then rotate the entire assembly down onto the threaded rod. Once snug, you can then unlock the pan-drag knob.

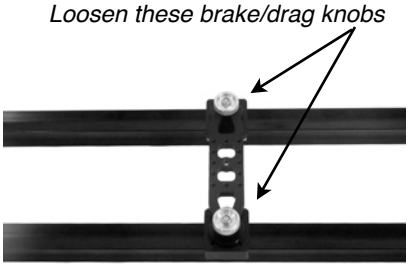
Slide the rear rail assembly onto the fulcrum assembly and secure by tightening the large clamp.

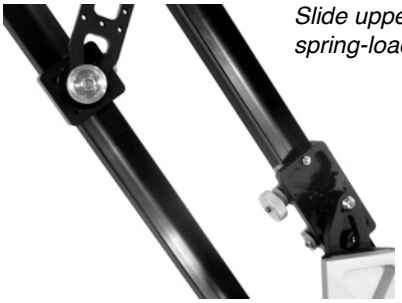


It is possible to put this section on upside down. If the large fulcrum clamp is facing towards you, as pictured here, then the rails should be going to your right.

There are two rail assemblies, one with dual clamps on one end, and the other with loose rail ends on one end. Attach the rail section that has the dual clamps to the fulcrum by simply sliding the unit into place and locking the fulcrum's large clamp.

Loosen these brake/drag knobs





Slide upper rail into the joining clamp. Make sure spring-loaded pin engages the safety hole.

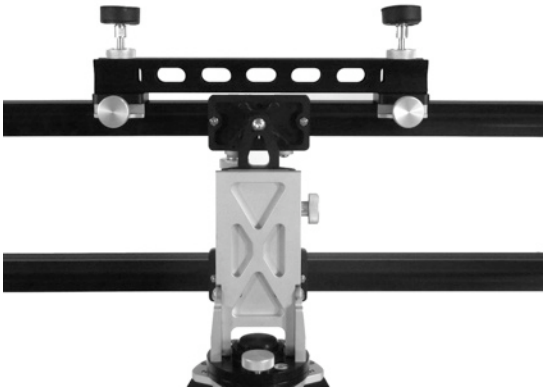
The second rail assembly section has a brake/drag feature. Loosen the two knobs so that no brake is being applied. Then slide the upper rail into the dual clamp. Make sure the spring loaded pin in the dual clamp engages the slotted hole in the rail. (Again, it is possible to have this section upside down. The front, rear and center clamps have to be facing the same direction. A quick check is to make sure the Explorer Logo is on the upper rail.)

To engage the lower rail move the upper rails until they are more or less parallel with the ground. Then the lower arm will easily slide into the lower dual clamp.

Stiffening Bar for upper rails.

Attach clamps to 17" Rail with these two Leveling feet.

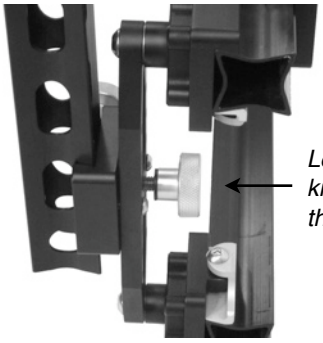
Center above the Fulcrum



Next add the Stiffening Bar to the upper rails. This is a step that involves dual purpose components: the 17" rail, two clamps, and the two leveling feet that have only a single knob on their shafts. For Jib mode, they will be combined to make the Stiffening Bar for the upper rails. Connect a clamp to each end of the rail by running the threaded shaft of the leveling foot through the 3/8" clearance hole on the end of rail and into the tapped center hole on the clamp. Then attach this assembly to span the top rail at the fulcrum.

Next add the two 12" rails to the clamps on both ends of the jib. Although these two clamps look similar, they are different. The one on the front of the jib only accepts the 12" rail in a vertical position. The one at the back can be loosened and rotated 90° so that it can be vertical or horizontal.

Note how the clamp on the weight bucket end can be loosened and rotated so the 12" arm can be positioned either parallel or perpendicular to the ground. It is parallel when in jib mode and also when using the duopod in slider mode. However, it is turned 90° when using the leveling feet in slider mode.



Loosen this knob to rotate the clamp.

To complete the front end of the jib, add the clamp that has the right angle bracket attached to it. To this add the 100mm off-set cup, which you will find attached to the trolley. Note that the position of the off-set cup is variable, not only up and down the rail, but also left and right. With a light camera and fluid head, you can position the head out away from the arm so that the pan bar of the fluid head is less likely to come in contact with the jib as it moves upward. For heavier cameras, the cup should be moved in line with the center of the jib to minimize lateral torque.

100mm offset cup attached to right angle clamp

100mm cup position for light cameras

100mm cup position for heavier cameras

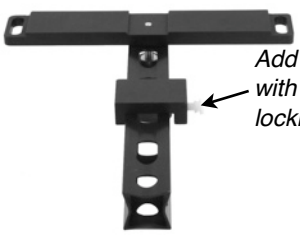
100mm cup positioned on the bottom of 12" rail for lower angle.

To complete the back end, attach the weight bucket bracket to the 12 " rail by using one of the leveling feet. Use one that has two knobs on its shaft, but remove one of those knobs. The shaft with one knob will then locate in the circular hole on the end of the 12" rail. Once the threaded connection is made to the tapped hole in the weight bucket bracket, tighten the knob against the rail to secure the connection. Next place the small clamp with the nylon lock thread onto the top of the rail. This is used support the uneven shape of the weight bucket. Finally, use the top of one of the tripod cases to become the weight bucket for the jib. Make sure to adjust the length of the straps so that they make a tight connection.

Remove one of the knobs

Thread leveler through 12" rail and into the weight bucket bracket

Add clamp with nylon locking thread



Adjust straps to make tight connection

Slider Mode Assembly

The slider mode is supported either with leveling feet directly on the ground (or on apple boxes, tables, etc.) or with our tripod and duopod. We will begin by setting it up on the tripod and duopod.

First remove your camera from the front of the jib. Note: You can let the weight end come down gently without an auxiliary support. The steep angle of the jib will prevent it from tipping even when imbalanced.

Next, remove the entire weight bucket assembly from the rear of the jib, leaving only the 12" rail.

If you have not done so already, remove the fluid head, as well as the 100mm offset cup and its right angle support clamp from the front of the jib, again leaving only the 12" rail.

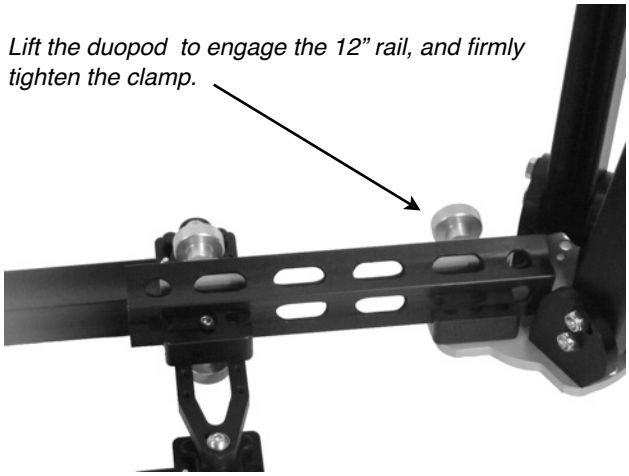
Remove the Stiffening Bar Assembly.

Lock the boom so the rails are parallel.

Loosen the fulcrum clamp and lift off the entire assembly. Place it on the ground upside down (rails toward the ground).

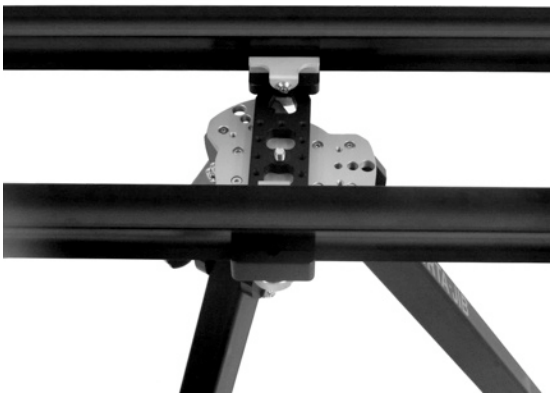
The rails are now going to be supported by the tripod and the duopod, so the Fulcrum Assembly, which is not used in Slider Mode, needs to be removed from the tripod. Lock the pan mechanism and unthread the Fulcrum Assembly from the 3/8-16 shaft. Once it is removed, we will need the 3/8-16 shaft to protrude about 1/2" further through the top of tripod. Turn the shaft from below until at least 1" (25mm) of thread is protruding out of the top of the tripod. However before using the tripod, we will begin with the duopod.

Both the rails and the duopod are positioned upside down.

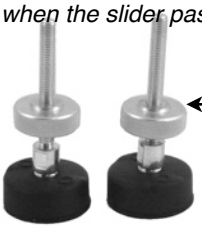


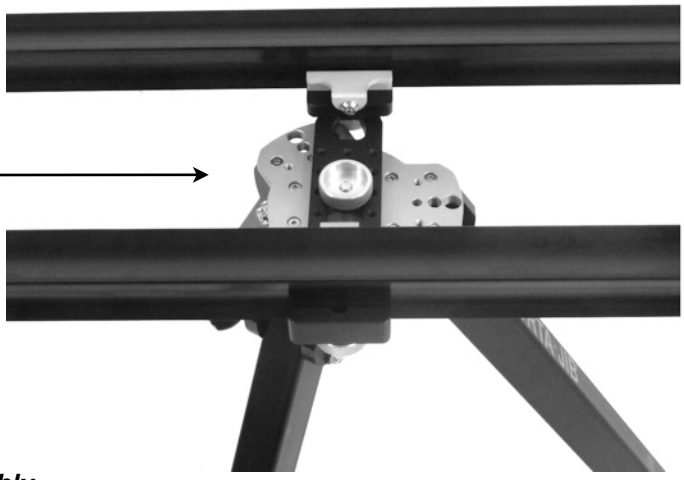
Lift the duopod to engage the 12" rail, and firmly tighten the clamp.

Turn the duopod upside down and attach it to what previously was the 12" rail supporting the weight bucket. Extend the legs and spread them out. Then turn the entire assembly right side up. Place the tripod under the Brake/Drag cross support and position one leg parallel to the rails to create lateral stability. There is a 3/8" clearance hole in the center of the cross support bracket. This hole drops over the 3/8-16 stud protruding out of the top of the tripod. It can be used as is, or you can further lock this connection of rail to tripod by using one of the low profile knobs from one of the leveling feet. Adjust the legs of the tripod and duopod as needed to level.

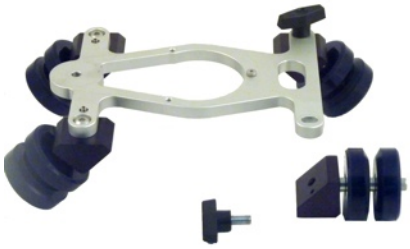


Use one of these low-profile knobs to lock the tripod to the cross support. Warning: Use either no knob or this low profile knob. A larger knob may conflict with the fluid head's tie-down knob when the slider passes over this point.

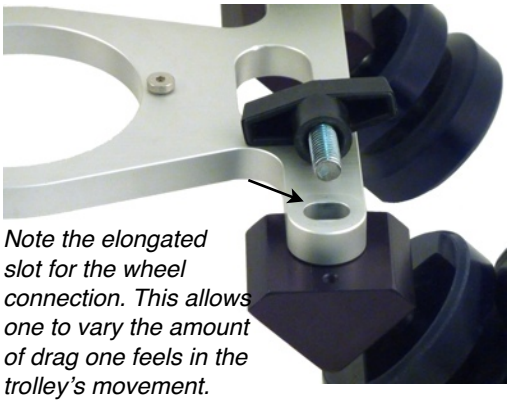




Trolley Assembly



Two wheels are removable to facilitate packing.

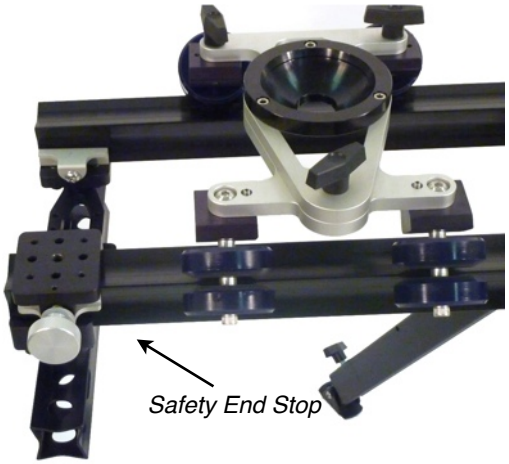


Note the elongated slot for the wheel connection. This allows one to vary the amount of drag one feels in the trolley's movement.

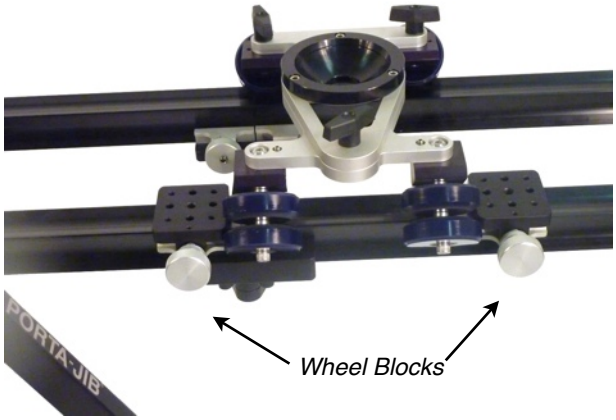
Mount 100mm Off-set Cup to the Trolley

If wheels develop a squeak, lubricate with a silicone spray.

Assemble the trolley by adding the two removable wheels to the base. Add the 100mm offset cup to the trolley base. Slide the trolley onto the rails from one end to capture the wheels on the rails. Adjust the removable wheels so that they are providing the desired tension. (Note this may change when the camera and fluid head weight is added, and therefore may need to be readjusted. Some people prefer more drag, some prefer less. More drag makes it easier to feather into a stop, whereas less drag makes it easier to start a move smoothly, so it is up to the operator to choose the resistance he prefers.)



Safety End Stop



Wheel Blocks

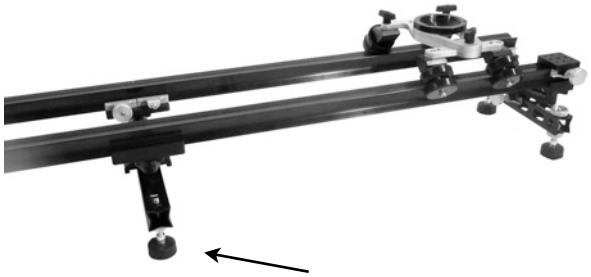
Use the two clamps that were previously used as part of the Stiffening Bracket to become the safety end-stops for the rails. These can also can be used as blocks to prevent the the slider from moving if you want to do a shot without any lateral movement. Just position them snugly against both sides of the wheels.

For low mode work with the levelers, there are 4 levelers that have two knobs per shaft, and 2 that have one knob per shaft. The 4 are used with the 12” rails, and the other 2 are for the 17” rail. To go from tripod/duopod support to low-mode leveler support, remove the rail assembly from the tripod and duopod and place on the ground upside down (rails to the ground). Rotate the clamp on the weight bucket end 90°. Remove the two 12” rails from the clamps, add the leveling feet, and then reinsert the rails with the added levelers into the clamps (feet pointing up). Add the 17” rail to the large fulcrum clamp. Turn the entire assembly right side up. Add the two levelers with the single knobs to the 17” rails. It is important to have the mid-point supported properly to minimize feeling a bump at the seam between the rails.

12” Rail with Levelers

Mount upside down, then turn over the entire rail assembly.

Add 17” Rail to the center position, but do not add its Levelers until after the entire rail system is flipped over because these two are not captive like the other four.



Add the 17” Rail Levelers after the unit is right side up.

6 foot Explorer Slider in Low Mode Configuration

Dual Purpose Components

17” Rail -- In Jib Mode it is part of the Stiffening bracket for the upper rails.
In Slider Mode it is the center cross support used with the leveling feet.

Leveling foot with one knob (x 2) -- In Jib Mode they connect the 17” Rail to the Rail Clamps to make the Stiffening Bracket
In Slider Low Mode they are the leveling feet for the center support (17” Rail)
In Slider Tripod/Duopod Mode, one of its low-profile knobs locks tripod to the cross-support

---

Leveling foot with 2 knobs (x 4) -- In Jib Mode one is used to connect the Weight Bucket Bracket to the 12” Rail. In this configuration, one jam nut knob is removed. The remaining knob locates in the large hole at the end of the 12” rail. Once the 3/8” threaded connection is made with the Weight Bucket Bracket, this jam nut is tightened against the rail to secure the connection.

In Slider Mode -- they are the leveling feet for the end supports (12” Rails)

Weight Bucket Bracket -- In Jib Mode it attaches to the 12” rail with a leveling foot and receives the clips from the tripod lid to turn the lid into the weight bucket.
In Transportation Mode, it, plus a bolt, locks the two main rail sections together

---

Single clamp x 2 -- In Jib Mode these are part of the Stiffening Bar Assembly for the upper rails.
In Slider Mode they have four optional functions: 1)safety end-stops for the rails, 2) wheel blocks for non-moving shots, 3) can attach to the tripod if one prefers supporting the rails from the 12” rail on the end rather than from the brake/drag cross bar, or 4) can be added to a traditional monopod if one wants to add an additional support to the center section’s 17” rail cross support.

Small clamp w/ threaded nylon screw -- In Jib Mode it is added to the top of the rear 12” Rail to support the front of the weight bucket.
In Slider Mode it can be used as a safety end-stop or wheel block if one of the single clamps is being used for function 3 or 4 mentioned above.