

PROT-MINI and PROAT-MINI

Bottom Loading Tripod Adapter Assembly and Use Instructions

Description

This adapter is designed to allow the use of a compact bottom tape loading palm-camcorder with a larger tripod head, such as a fluid head or other type of professional use tripod, while still allowing access to the tape. The PROAT also supports mounting additional accessories through a forward mounting bar.

Contents

Included should be: A thin flat plate, a thicker vertical mount plate with an alignment pin and thumb screw. Also included are two short slotted screws and a small set of felt pads. The user will need a flat head screwdriver for assembly.



Included Parts
for PROAT-MINI

Compatibility

The PROT-MINI and PROAT-MINI models have been tested to work on these camcorder models:

Canon HV10

Canon ZR200

Canon ZR500

Many other model and brand camcorders are compatible but have not been tested. To report a compatibility or incompatibility, please send an email here:

compat@dm-accessories.com.

Handling

When working with this or any other camera or camcorder, be sure to handle them gently. Camcorders have precise internal components that may be damaged when handled improperly. Consult the camcorder's manual for details.

While working with the the camcorder at a table or bench, placing it on on a soft, clean pad or towel is a good idea. Using excessive force may damage parts. If screws or parts bind such that they don't turn, stop, back up and check to be sure it is aligned.

Assembly

The thin, flat base plate is intended to stabilize the mount on the tripod. If the tripod has a firm top surface, then the base plate may not be necessary and assembly can be skipped. The user may choose to adhere the enclosed foam pads onto the bottom of the base plate and vertical plate. The instructions are included with the foam pads.



Align and thread screws



Tighten screws



Turn in alignment screw if necessary, see instructions.

Installation

If the camcorder does not have an alignment pin pocket ahead of the tripod mount screw pocket, use a small flat head screwdriver to turn the alignment pin screw clockwise until the screw head is flush or below flush with the top of the adapter.

If the camcorder has an alignment pin pocket, position the alignment pin of the adapter to the smooth hole on the bottom of the camcorder while positioning the thumbscrew into place.

While keeping the adapter and camera parallel, tighten down the mounting screw as tight as possible, but by hand only to prevent damaging the camcorder.



Align thumbscrew (and pin if applicable) with camcorder



Check to be sure the adapter doesn't block the tape door



Tighten thumbscrew

Adding Accessories (PROAT-MINI only)

The PROAT-MINI is intended to allow the use of accessories that would normally be attached to the camcorder's tripod mount point. Shown is a Bescor VB-50.



Often, accessories can be mounted to either side of the camera.



Be sure to check that the tape door opening isn't obstructed by the mounted accessories.



A front side view of the camera, the PROA and an accessory mount bracket.

DM Accessories sells two accessory mount bars, SAB0820 (8" / 20cm wide bar) and SAB1025 (10" / 25cm wide bar). More information is available on the web site.

Other compatible accessory bars are: Canon SA-1, Sony HVL-20DMA dual light, Sony HVL-IRM Night Shot Video Light and Sony VCT-S30L Cold Shoe Adapter.

Service

If there are any faulty or missing parts, email parts@dm-accessories.com to get working parts. Keep in mind that while this adapter is designed to work with many bottom loading adapters, it has only been tested with camcorder models listed in previous pages. If this adapter does not work for your camera, DM Accessories will return the purchase price of the adapter so long as the parts are in re-sellable condition.

Maintenance

The aluminum plates are protected by satin black powder coat. While powder coating greatly improves durability and scratch resistance, the protection is not absolute. Should nicks and scratches appear, they could be touched up with a black marker or small amounts of hobby paint. Fingerprints can be wiped using a clean, lint-free cloth. For table top resting, you may want to attach the enclosed protective felt pads to the corners of the base plate to prevent abrasion to the base plate and table surfaces. Table top resting with the small base plate is not recommended. For packing, removing the adapter and keeping it isolated from other equipment using padding is recommended.

Parts

The short screws for the base plate are a relatively standard 1/4"-20 thread, with a 5/8" length flat head screw. To prevent the loss of the screws, do not disassemble the adapter unless absolutely necessary.

The alignment pin set screw in the top is a stainless steel #10-24 x 3/8" set screw. Removing this screw should never be necessary. To use the adapter on camcorders without an alignment pin socket, turn the screw clockwise until it is below the top mounting surface. If the alignment pin is desired at a later time, turn the screw counter-clockwise until the top is about 3/16" or about 4 mm above the mounting surface of the adapter.

Using stainless steel screws is recommended for best longevity and best corrosion resistance, but standard zinc coated steel screws will work. For stowage or storage, removing the adapter from the camcorder is recommended.

Should the user lose the base plate screws and is unable to locate replacement parts, replacements can be sent for a small fee. Should any parts be missing on first arrival, please email parts@dm-accessories.com for replacements. Larger alternative base plates are available for a fee.



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