

RotaCam

for Mamiya 645AF/645 Pro-TL

Operating Instruction Manual



Thank you for purchasing the RotaCam flash bracket.

The RotaCam was designed by professional photographers looking for a camera/flash bracket that makes sense for the rectangular format shooter. For location photographers, the RotaCam offers adjustable positioning of the flash, while providing a rock solid platform for the Mamiya 645AF and 645 series Mamiya cameras. A unique and convenient sliding arc (or cam) moves the camera from a horizontal to vertical position quickly and easily. Since the camera rotates on its lens' optical axis, there's no need to re-compose or re-focus, just swing the camera and shoot.

Engineered from high quality aluminum alloy, the RotaCam is a precision designed and manufactured camera/flash support bracket. Utilizing the latest computer controlled milling machines, RotaCam is the smoothest, most precise and most durable bracket ever made.

This booklet will explain the many features of the RotaCam and how to take full advantage of its many benefits. Please take a few minutes to read these instructions, so that you are familiar and comfortable with how to use the RotaCam before you attach your camera and flash. Improper installation or use of the RotaCam could result in damage to your equipment.

Please refer to Fig. 1 for the names and locations of the components of the RotaCam. Special flash mounting adapters are available for all popular flash manufacturer models (see Fig. 9 for a listing).

After reading, please retain this manual for future reference.

Parts Designations

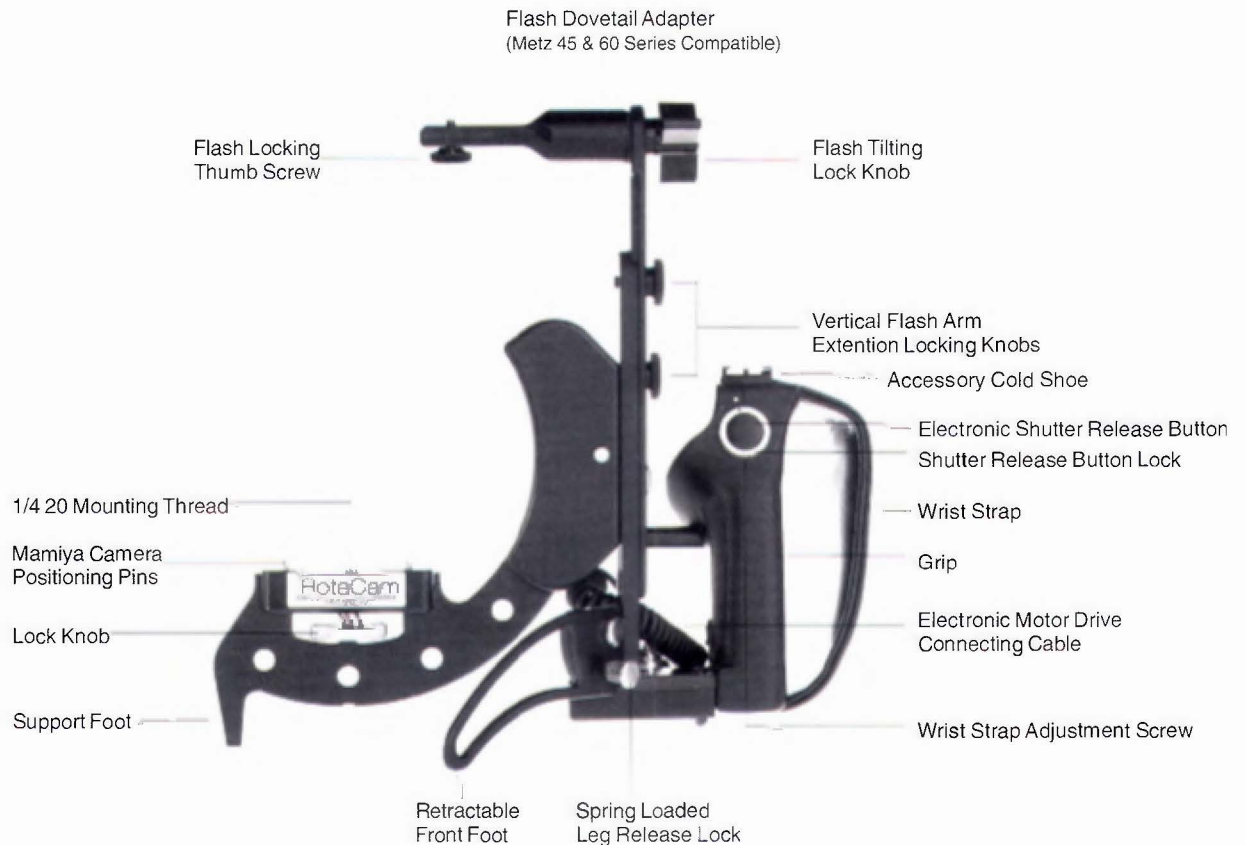


Fig. 1

Mounting the Camera (Fig. 2)

Both the Mamiya 645AF and 645 series include positioning pinholes on the bottom of the body. When mounting the camera to the RotaCam, position the camera so that the grip or film advance is located on the right side of the Arc (from mounting position). Take special care to align the positioning pins on the RotaCam camera-mounting plate with the positioning holes found on the bottom of the camera body. Once the camera is seated properly on the camera platform, begin to screw the 1/4-20 mounting screw into the 1/4-20 thread female tripod socket on the bottom of the camera. Do not over tighten the screw, but apply enough torque to achieve a secure mount.



Fig. 2

Mounting the RotaCam to a Tripod (Fig. 3)

Mounted on a tripod, the RotaCam provides a simple way to switch from horizontal/vertical position without the need to move the tripod head, which so often causes off center balancing problems. The RotaCam comes equipped with both a 1/4-20 and 3/8" tripod socket. When 3/8" mounting is necessary, remove the 3/8" to 1/4-20 thread bushing using a slotted screw driver. Some tripods may require special spacer adapters available from the tripod manufacturer in order to provide full movements. It is recommended that the RotaCam be mounted on a tripod and head configuration, which can accommodate the weight of the camera and flash, failure to do so will result in damage to your equipment.



Fig. 3

Flash Quick-Release Adapter (Fig. 4)

The RotaCam utilizes a quick-release dovetail design, which accepts many different types of adapters to accommodate most popular flash manufacturers. The dovetail design is supplied with the RotaCam and it is designed to interface directly without adapters to the Metz 60 and 45 series handle mount flash units.

Mounting Metz 60 and 45 Series Handle Mount Flash Units

To attach a Metz handle mount flash unit, slide the flash onto the flash quick-release dovetail until it snaps into place, then tighten the thumbscrew located on the bottom of the quick-release dovetail to secure.

For Use With Other Flashes

Metz 50/70MZ-5 – Remove the Metz flash quick-release carriage on the flash handle (see Metz instruction manual) and replace it with the RotaCam Metz 50MZ /70MZ Flash Quick-Release Adapter (Cat.# 211-766). See instructions with adapter.

Sunpak Barrel Type – Slip the flash through the flash quick-release ring and tighten the clamp with the clamp screw. See instructions with adapter.

Shoe Type – Slip the flash into the quick-release and tighten the clamp screw at the end of the quick-release. See instructions with adapter.

1/4-20 Screw Mount Flash – Mount the correct mounting plate onto the flash with the screw provided. See instructions with adapter.

NOTE: The Flash Quick-Release Plates are designed for different types of electronic flash units. If installed properly, they will hold the flash parallel to the lens, preventing it from twisting and insuring proper light source alignment.

Suggestion:

Leave the Flash Quick-Release Plate permanently attached to the flash base to take full advantage of the Flash Quick Release feature.

Installing the Flash and Flash Adapter to the RotaCam

Slide the flash quick-release plate onto the flash dovetail adapter until it stops, then tighten the locking thumbscrew to secure. The thumbscrew tightens into a recess pocket in the flash quick-release plate for added safety.

Rotating the Camera (Fig. 5)

Rotating from Horizontal to Vertical

Hold the handgrip with your left hand, while holding the camera grip or body with your right hand. Push the silver arc release thumb lock with your left-hand thumb and rotate the camera down until it stops vertically.

Rotating from Vertical to Horizontal

Just reverse the above until the camera stops at horizontal.

Positioning of the Flash

Tilting the Angle of the Flash - Loosen the Flash Tilting lock knob on the left side of the flash arm (see Fig. 1) and set the flash to the desired position, then tighten the lock knob. Please note: for best results set the angle of the flash for no more than – 15 degrees.

Flash Arm Extention – It is possible to adjust the height of the flash by loosening both locking knobs located on the left side of the flash arm (see Fig. 1). Simply loosen the vertical flash arm locking knobs, position to the desired height and lock both knobs to secure the flash. Please note: for best results set the height of the flash for no less than 6 inches above the lens optical axis.

NOTE: If the lock knobs are not tightened properly, they can loosen during use and causing the flash to swing forward, backward or slide down.



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Retractable Support Legs (Fig. 6)

When not in use the RotaCam offers a convenient and safe way to rest your camera system on a stable surface. Simply fold out the retractable support legs until a locking click sound is heard. When it's time to shoot or store the RotaCam, retract the support legs by releasing the leg locks. This is achieved by pressing in the silver spring-loaded lock until it clears the slotted channel in the support leg. (see Fig. 1)

NOTE: Remember to set the camera in a horizontal position when resting the RotaCam on a flat surface, as the third support leg is part of the Arc.



Fig. 6

Attaching Electronic Cable Release (Fig. 7)

Both the Mamiya 645AF and 645Pro-TL offer electronic shutter release capabilities. The RotaCam has been designed to interface with both the electronic shutter release systems. With the proper electronic cable release (See Fig. 10), connected to the miniphone jack (located just inside the hand grip) and the motor port of the camera, it is possible to trigger the camera from the left-hand grip shutter release button.

NOTE: Turn off both the camera and any attached flash before connecting the RotaCam shutter release cable. When connecting the electronic shutter release cable, it is recommended that the cable be inserted through the rear retractable leg support. Failure to do so may result in a pinched or damaged electronic shutter release cable.

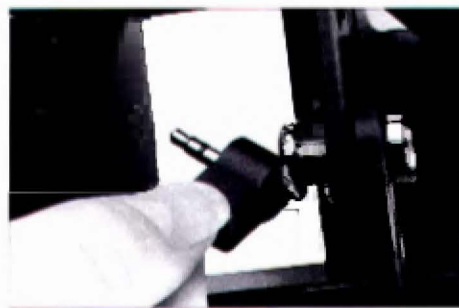


Fig. 7

Wrist Strap Adjustment (Fig. 8)

Locate the adjustment screw on the bottom of the RotaCam bracket grip. Loosen the screw using a coin and adjust wrist strap by pushing or pulling the slotted leather in or out according to individual comfort and then retighten screw.

Accessory Shoe

The RotaCam Grip comes complete with an accessory shoe located on the top of the shutter release button (see Fig. 1). This shoe mount can be used as a mounting solution for radio or infrared triggering slaves or for an additional flash.



Fig. 8

Accessory Flash Adapters

Norman
Cat.# 212-765

Quantum
Cat.# 211-761

Lumedyne
Cat.# 211-762

Standard Shoe Mount
Cat.# 212-763

Metz 50MZ & 70MZ
Cat.# 212-766

Sunpack
Cat.# 212-764



Fig. 9

Accessory Motor Cords

Mamiya 645AF
Cat.# 211-508

Mamiya 645 Series
Cat.# 211-507

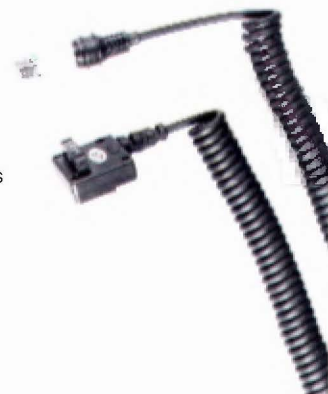


Fig. 10

Brackets

	Cat#
Mamiya RotaCam Pro Flash Bracket for 645AF	211-758
Mamiya RotaCam Pro Flash Bracket for 645 Series	211-759

Accessories

Mamiya Electronic Shutter Release Cable for 645AF	211-507
Mamiya Electronic Shutter Release Cable for 645 Series	211-508
Quantum Q-Flash Mounting Adapter	212-761
Lumedyne Mounting Adapter	212-762
Standard Shoe Mounting Adapter	212-763
Sunpak Handle Mount Adapter	212-764
Norman Flash Mounting Adapter	212-765
Metz 50MZ Series Mounting Adapter	212-766

Maintenance

The RotaCam was designed to be maintenance free. After significant use it may require a small amount of lubrication. If it becomes necessary to lubricate the RotaCam this may be done by applying a small amount (using a Q-tip) of WD-40 or equivalent on the backside of the rotation plate (dovetail side) in the dovetail. Once applied, rotate the system a couple of times, then wipe off the excess WD-40. This procedure will make the internal ball bearings move more freely and provide a smoother rotating cam.

NOTE:

When applying the WD-40, remove the camera and flash from the system.

The RotaCam utilizes special long life all metal ball bearings to provide a smooth rotation from horizontal to vertical position. If after years of use and periodic lubrication the RotaCam does not move smoothly, it may be required that the ball bearings be replaced, restoring the RotaCam to original factory specification. Please contact Mamiya America to have the RotaCam serviced.

Repair service is available by returning the RotaCam to Mamiya America. All items must include a letter explaining the problem. A repair cost estimate will be issued and must be approved prior to any repairs.

Warranty

For a period of one year from date of purchase, if the RotaCam is used according to the instructions in this manual, Mamiya America Corp will repair or replace free of charge, any defect in material or workmanship.

Warranty does not cover repairs due to customer abuse or negligence, impact or any modifications made by the customer.

Warranty service is available by returning the RotaCam to Mamiya America Corp 8 Westchester Plaza Elmsford, New York 10523.