

Orion® Tritech™ CFX Carbon Fiber Tripod with 3-Way Pan Head

#40811

Congratulations on your purchase of a quality Orion product. The Tritech CFX Carbon Fiber Tripod provides solid support and smooth panning and pointing control for small telescopes, spotting scopes, binoculars, and cameras weighing up to 15 lbs. With its carbon fiber legs for weight reduction and 3-way aluminum pan head for outstanding operational versatility, the Tritech CFX makes an excellent tripod for discerning observers and photographers on the go.



**ORION**
TELESCOPES & BINOCULARS
AN EMPLOYEE-OWNED COMPANY

Corporate Offices: 89 Hangar Way, Watsonville CA 95076 - USA
Toll Free USA & Canada: (800) 447-1001
International: +1(831) 763-7000
Customer Support: support@telescope.com

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To get the most from your new tripod, please take a few minutes to read these instructions and operating tips. Refer to **Figure 1A** to familiarize yourself with the parts of the Tritech CFX tripod and pan head.

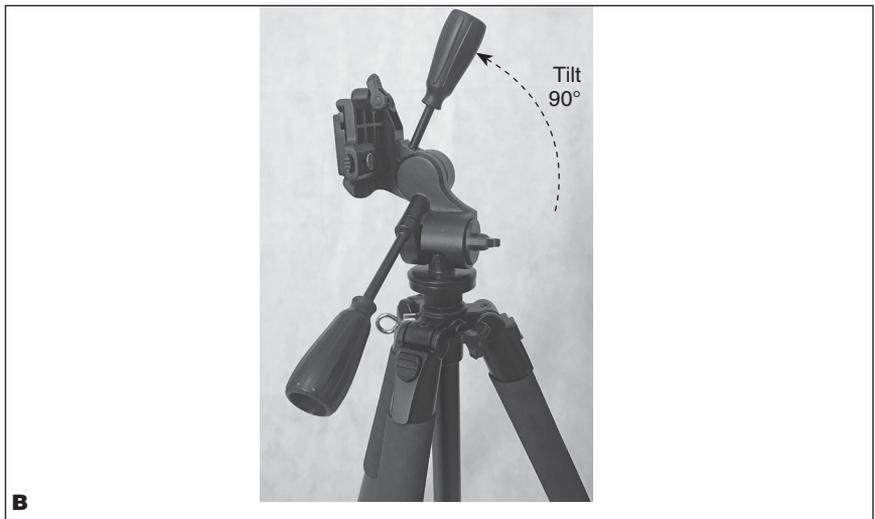
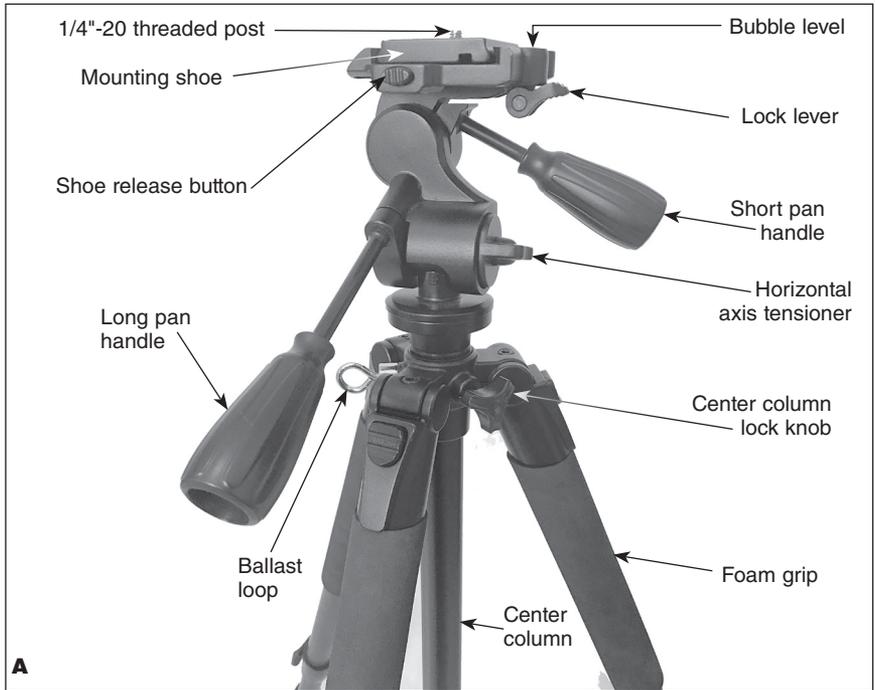


Figure 1. A) Parts of the Tritech CFX, **B)** The small pan handle controls the lateral tilt adjustment.

Assembly

Remove the tripod and two pan handles from the carrying bag. Thread the handles into the threaded receptacles on the altitude (longer handle) and lateral tilt axes, turning them clockwise until lightly tightened (see **Figure 1A**).

Adjusting the Legs

Each tripod leg can be independently angled to one of four positions. This comes in handy if you need to set up on an uneven surface. Press the leg angle adjustment tab at the top of the leg (**Figure 2**) and lever the leg upward to the next detent point.

Adjust the leg length by flipping up the leg lock on one or both leg sections and sliding the leg section to the desired length. Then re-clamp the leg lock.

Dual Rubber/Spike Feet

The Tritech CFX is equipped with dual-purpose feet that consist of a retractable rubber boot and a metal spike (**Figure 3**). The rubber feet are intended for use of the tripod indoors or on a smooth surface. The metal spikes are desirable for achieving a firm grip on soft surfaces. To use the rubber feet, thread the boot counterclockwise until the metal spike is recessed below the rubber. To expose the spike feet, thread the rubber boot clockwise until the spike protrudes from the rubber. In some instances you may wish to remove the rubber boots altogether so more of the metal spike is exposed. This can be done by just pulling the rubber boots off their anchors. They can be pressed on again at any time.

Approximate leveling of the tripod should suffice for use with binoculars or spotting scopes. For photographic use, the built-in bubble level on the pan head aids in achieving more precise leveling.

Using the Pan Head

The Tritech CFX's precision aluminum pan head has three axes of rotation: horizontal, vertical, and lateral tilt. Use the long pan handle to move the head in the horizontal and vertical axes, and the short pan handle to adjust the lateral tilt (see **Figure 1B**). Twist the long pan handle grip counterclockwise to loosen the tension on the altitude axis for panning, and twist it clockwise to lock it in position. Do the same for the short pan handle to adjust and lock the tilt. Use the long pan handle

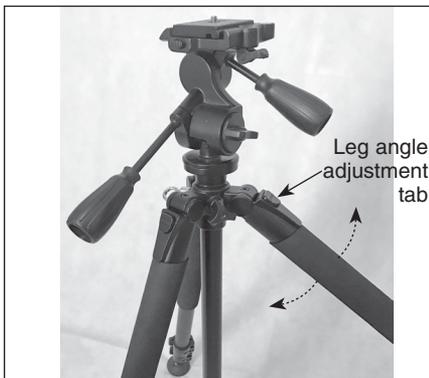


Figure 2. Press the leg angle adjustment tab and lever the leg up or down to one of four position angles.

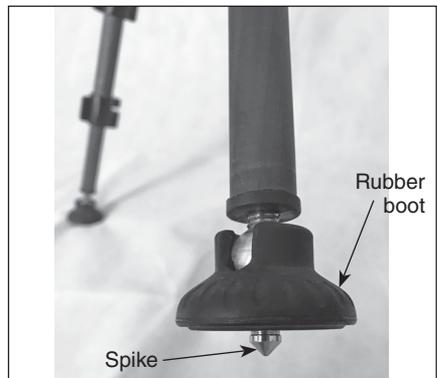


Figure 3. The tripod feet have a retractable rubber boot and a metal spike.

also to move the head in the horizontal plane. The tensioner for the horizontal axis is the large knob on the side of the pan head.

Note that with your instrument mounted normally – pointed away from the long pan handle -- you cannot achieve a zenith (straight up) orientation. However, it is possible to point to the zenith by mounting the instrument so that the front of it is pointing in the same direction as the long pan handle (**Figure 5**). This way the handle will not contact the tripod itself and hinder the tilt. The ability to point straight up is especially useful when using the tripod for astronomical observation.

The removable mounting shoe allows quick attachment and removal of your instrument. The shoe has a 1/4"-20 threaded post and a cork grip mat, and is retained by both a detent pin and a quick-release lock lever. When mounting an optical instrument, you must first remove the shoe from the head by releasing the lock lever and pressing the shoe release button (**Figure 1A**). Attach the shoe to the instrument by turning the D-ring of the 1/4"-20 post under the plate, then replace the shoe on the head. Make certain the shoe is locked securely in place before releasing the instrument from your grip.

Raising and Lowering the Pan Head

The Tritech CFX has a center column that allows up to 10-1/4" of additional height. To raise or lower the pan head you must loosen the center column lock knob (**Figure 1A**).

Secondary Mounting Base

One of the nifty features of the Tritech CFX tripod is the secondary mounting base at the bottom end of the center column (**Figure 5**). Particularly for photographers, it allows attachment of an optional ball head mount to its 3/8" threaded post in order to position a camera low to the ground, as shown in **Figure 6**. It can be removed for easier camera attachment and removal by pressing the two spring-loaded detent pins inward, then pulling off the base piece (**Figure 7**).

Another way the secondary mounting base can be used is as a replacement for the entire center column and pan head, when a low (but upright) instrument position is desired. This removes the center column from getting in the way when you need to get really low. Basically, you remove the secondary base as described above, then pull the pan head and center column out of the tripod. Then insert the secondary mounting base in the tripod where the center column had been (**Figure 8**). You can mount the pan head directly onto the secondary mounting base (by first unthreading it from the center column), or attach an optional ball head, as shown in **Figure 9**. Now with the center column removed, you can widen the tripod stance to achieve a very low position of your camera or instrument.

Ballast Loop

You'll notice that the Tritech CFX tripod has an eyebolt at the top of the tripod (**Figure 1A**). It is a "ballast loop," which allows you to hook or hang a heavy object on the tripod to help stabilize it in windy conditions.

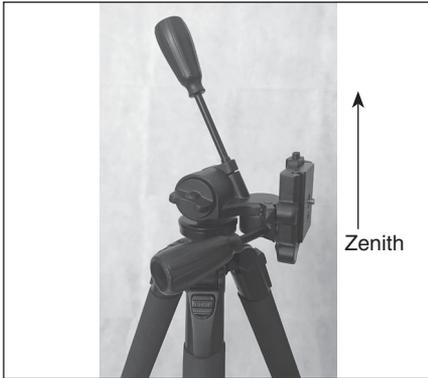


Figure 4. Pointing your instrument to the zenith is possible by mounting it “in reverse,” so it points up along with the long pan handle.

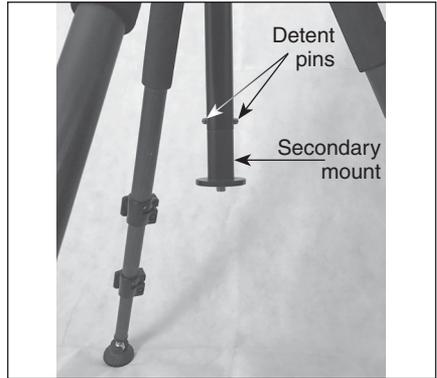


Figure 5. A secondary mounting platform with a 3/8" threaded post is at the bottom end of the center column.



Figure 6. A camera and ball head mount (not included) are shown mounted on the secondary mounting platform, to get low to the ground.



Figure 7. The secondary mounting platform can be removed for easier attachment of your camera or scope.



Figure 8. The secondary mounting platform can be inserted in place of the center column to allow a low-profile tripod stance (see also **Figure 9**).



Figure 9. A ball head and camera (not included) are shown in a low-profile stance, made possible by replacing the center column and pan head with the secondary mounting platform.

Specifications

Load capacity: 15 lbs. (6.8 Kg)

Height fully extended, center column extended: 64-3/4"

Height fully extended, center column retracted: 54-1/2"

Length folded: 29"

Center column travel: 10-1/4"

Pan head type: 3-way

Mounting attachment: 1/4"-20 threaded post

Secondary mounting platform: 3/8" threaded post, bottom of center column

Maximum leg diameter: 1.1" (28mm)

Case: Water-resistant fabric, padded, with zipper and shoulder strap

Weight: 6 lbs., 2.3 oz. (2.78 Kg)



One-Year Limited Warranty

This Orion product is warranted against defects in materials or workmanship for a period of one year from the date of purchase. This warranty is for the benefit of the original retail purchaser only. During this warranty period Orion Telescopes & Binoculars will repair or replace, at Orion's option, any warranted instrument that proves to be defective, provided it is returned postage paid. Proof of purchase (such as a copy of the original receipt) is required. This warranty is only valid in the country of purchase.

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Toll Free USA & Canada: (800) 447-1001
International: +1(831) 763-7000
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