

Setup Information For The Panosaurus

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Please take the time to read all of the setup information to ensure success and ease of use of this tripod head. Much of the setup is a one time procedure which will then make it very easy to use your tripod head in the field.

Parts List

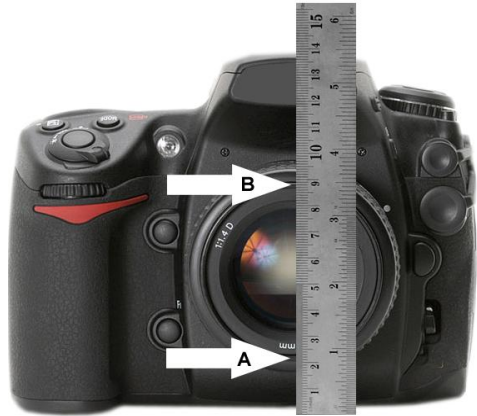
1. Upright Metal Arm
2. Offset camera mounting plate
3. Camera mounting block
4. Rotator assembly
5. Upper horizontal arm
6. Wing style clamping knob
7. Ruler
8. Large washer
9. 4 small washers
10. 2 - 1/2" screws
11. 1 - 3/8" camera mounting screw
12. 3 - 1/4" screws
13. Nail
14. Set Arm stickers
15. Large clamping knob



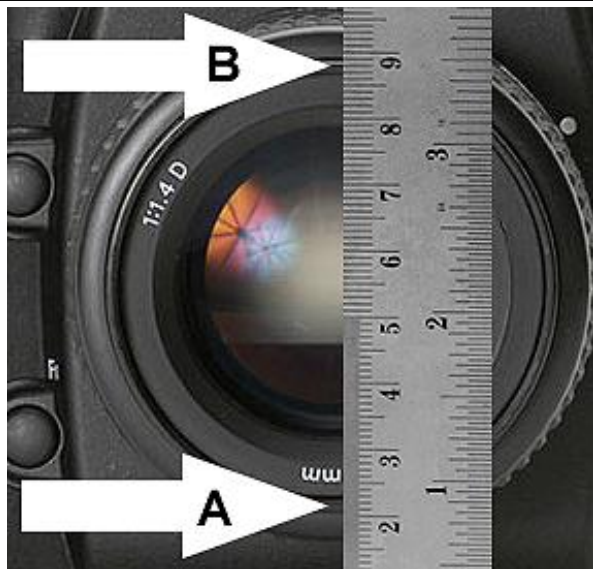
Setup - Step 1

Finding the distance from the base of camera to the center of the lens.

Important Note: This is the **MOST** important step in assuring accuracy of your Panosaurus. Please do not rely on numbers you might have found on the internet to determine this distance unless the information was provided by the camera maker because inaccurate numbers for many commonly used cameras have become widely published on the internet.



Place your camera on a hard smooth surface with the **SMALLEST** lens that you own mounted to the camera. The distance from the base of the camera to the center of the lens is always the same no matter what size the lens is. Place the millimeter ruler end perfectly flat on the table and the ruler flush against the camera lens in about the center of the lens. It does not matter if you are exactly in the center of the lens area.



Next pick **ANY** two same-type points on the lens barrel that are easy to see. One at the top of the lens and a corresponding point at the bottom. (see picture) Now measure the distance **A** and the distance **B**. In my example **A** is 21mm and **B** is 88mm. It is important that you measure as accurately as possible to within .5mm if possible.

Now using the formula below calculate the distance to the center of your lens.

B minus **A** divided by 2 plus **A**
 $(B-A) / 2 + A$

My example would be $88-21= 67$
 67 divided by $2 = 33.5$
 $33.5 + 21 = 54.5$

So the distance from the base of this camera to the center of the lens is 54.5mm



Mount the rotator arm assembly to a tripod. A ball head tripod is recommended for use with the Panosaurus if possible because it makes easier leveling possible. The Panosaurus mounts to any tripod or quick release plate with the standard 1/4"-20 bolt.



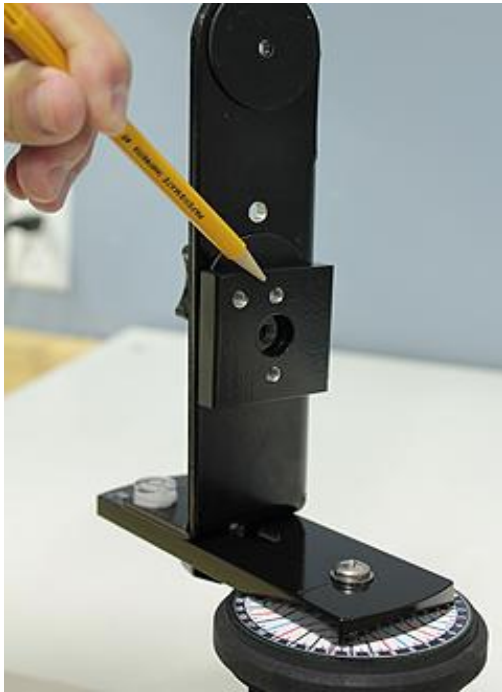
Next prepare to mount the upright metal arm to the rotator arm using the large flat washer and the small wing-style clamping knob.



Mount the metal arm in the direction shown in the picture on the left with the arm about mid-way from each end of the slot of the rotator arm.



Next place the large clamping knob through the bottom hole of the upright metal arm. You will be mounting the camera mounting block to the upright metal arm with the clamping knob in the top center hole of the camera mounting block.



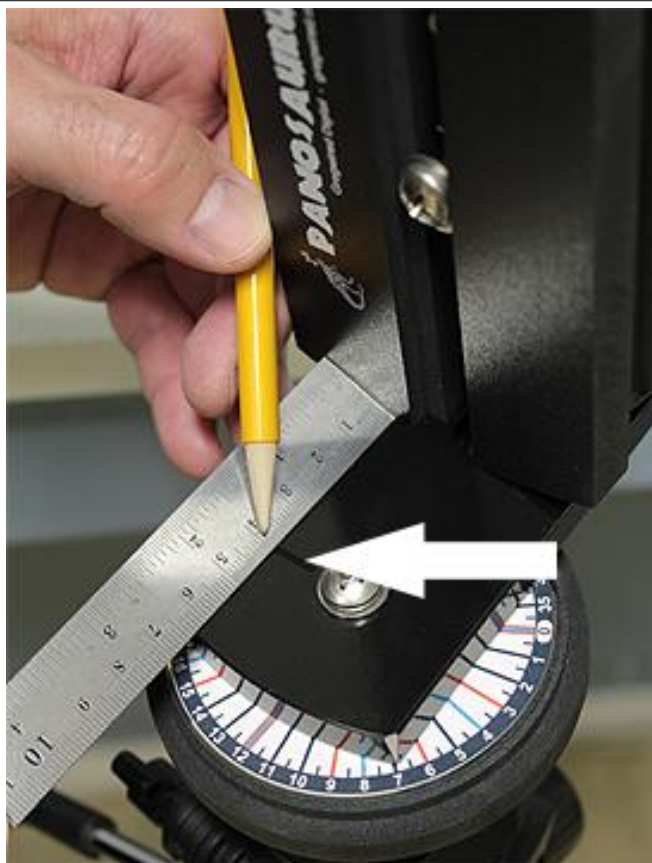
Tighten the clamping knob so the camera mounting block is tight against the rubber washer with the camera mounting block as shown in the picture on the left.



Next attach one of the 1/2" bolts along with a washer into the bottom hole of the camera mounting block. Do not thread the bolt into the block all the way. Thread the bolt in about one full turn.



Next slide the upper horizontal arm onto the camera mounting block so the washer and the bolt head are in the slot of the upper horizontal arm. Slide the upper arm all the way down so it is touching the rotator arm as shown in the picture on the left. Now tighten the bolt so the upper arm is secured to the camera mounting block.



Next place the end of the ruler flush against the bottom of the upper horizontal arm. From the **center** of the point of rotation mark read the ruler (the arrow in the picture points to the point of rotation mark)

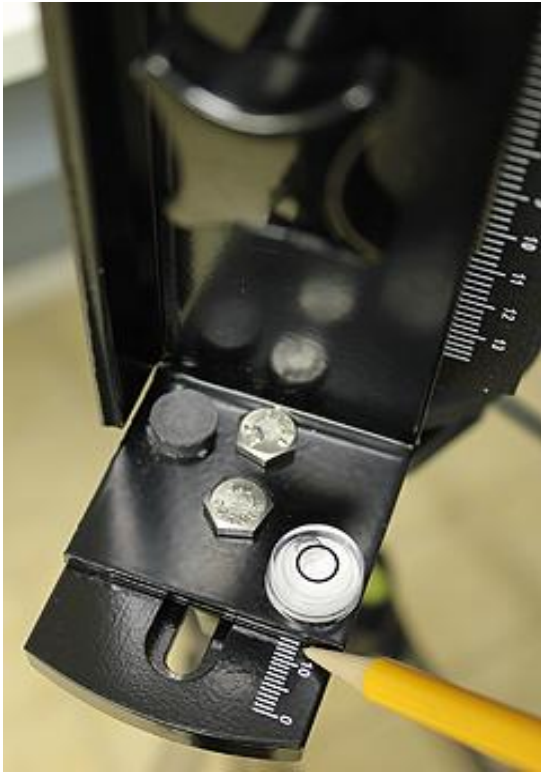
Your goal is to keep moving the metal arm forward or backward on the rotator arm until the the arm is positioned so the ruler displays the number representing the distance from the base of your camera to the lens center. (see step 1)

In the example picture I have set the arm at 39mm - the distance from the base of my Canon XTi camera to the center of the its lens.

Very Important Note:

If your camera is **not** a DSLR style camera and has a tripod hole not inline with the center-line of the lens you need to add 1.5mm to the number you derived in step one. So if you determined your camera's height to be 22mm to the center of the lens your final height would be 23.5mm for this

step.

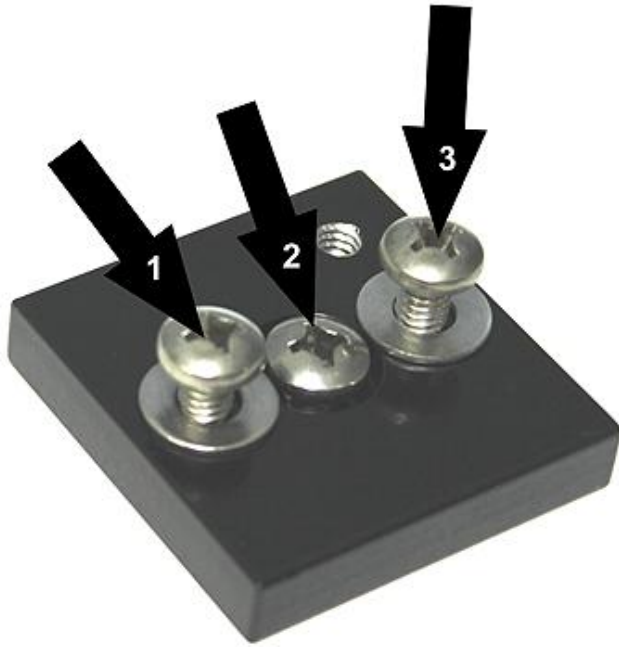


Next read and remember the setup mark number from the back edge of the upper metal arm. This setup mark is where the metal arm must be placed each time you use the camera you have just calibrated for.

Note: To help you remember the setup mark position you may want to cut and attach one of the "Set Arm" stickers included in the parts bag to cover the exact location of your setup mark. The stickers are removable. The peel and stick paper on the back of the sticker is removed by bending the sticker in half and removing the 2 pieces of backing paper.

Step 3

Preparing to mount a camera



Remove the upper horizontal arm and camera mounting block from the upright metal arm.

Next thread 2 - 1/2" bolts with washers about one full turn into the camera mounting block as shown (Arrows 1 and 3).

If your camera is a DSLR style camera or any other camera that has its tripod hole inline with the center of the lens then place a 3/8" bolt in the recessed part of the camera mounting block as shown by arrow 2.

If your camera is a Non-DSLR style camera with an offset tripod hole do not put a bolt into the center hole of the camera mounting block.



Next slide the camera mounting block onto the upper horizontal arm as shown in the picture on left. Secure the camera mounting block by tightening the two 1/2" bolts.



Next attach the upper horizontal arm to the bottom hole of the upright metal arm using the large clamping knob.



IF you are using a DSLR style camera you are ready to attach your camera to the camera mounting block. Using the provided screw driver carefully thread the 3/8" bolt that protrudes from the camera mounting block into the base of your camera. **BE VERY CAREFUL** not to cross thread the bolt into your camera. Always make sure the bolt goes in smoothly and with no resistance or you can damage the treads of your camera's tripod hole insert.

If you are **NOT** using a DSLR style camera and your camera's tripod hole is offset from the center-line of the lens go to step 4.



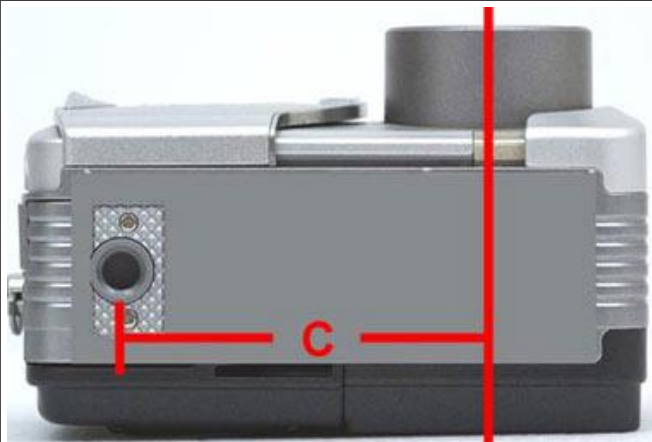
After mounting your camera you will need to visually inspect to see that the camera lens face is parallel to the white line at the very end of the upper horizontal arm (see arrow in picture). This is the proper position your camera needs to be in to ensure the most accurate shooting.

Most DSLR style cameras have an LCD screen on the back of the camera. If the LCD screen is parallel to the back edge of the camera mounting block then it is very likely that your camera lens face will also be parallel to the white line. Take some time to look at your camera's physical properties so you can easily attach the camera each time with the lens face in its proper orientation.

You are now ready to go to step 5

Step 4

For Offset Tripod hole cameras only



Most offset tripod holes of cameras are on the left side of the lens - as the picture on the left shows.

If your camera's tripod hole is **NOT** on this side of the lens then continue the steps but take note of the changes you will need to make in the special notes section at the end of each explanation.



Lay the upper horizontal arm with the camera mounting block attached on a flat surface. Now attach the offset mounting plate as shown in the picture on the left using 2 - 1/4" screws and washers.

Note: If your tripod hole is on the right of the lens simply flip the offset mounting plate over and attach it to the camera mounting block

with the open slot part of the bracket facing the top of the upper horizontal arm rather than the bottom. In some very rare cases you may need to flip the camera mounting block over so the top mounting hole for the offset bracket is at the bottom rather than the top in order to obtain enough offset to accommodate your camera's offset distance.



Next loosen the bolts holding the camera mounting block to the upper horizontal arm just a bit and slide the camera mounting block and offset mounting plate off the upper horizontal arm.

Now attach your camera to the offset mounting plate with a 1/4" bolt. Tighten the bolt - but not real tight because you are going to need to be able to shift your camera slightly while it is attached to this plate.



Next slide the camera mounting block back onto the upper horizontal arm with your camera now attached to the offset bracket.

Now check to see if the face of the camera of your lens is parallel with the bold white line at the end of the upper horizontal arm. If it is not then shift the camera on the offset bracket until it is.



Your goal now is to try to put the center of your camera's lens so it is directly in line with the O mark at the end of the upper horizontal arm.

This is accomplished by holding the ruler at some arbitrary same place on each side of the lens and letting the ruler rest flush on the upper arm to point to the hash marks on the upper arm.

When the ruler drops down and touches the hash marks in the exact same place on each side of the lens then you will know that the lens is now centered.



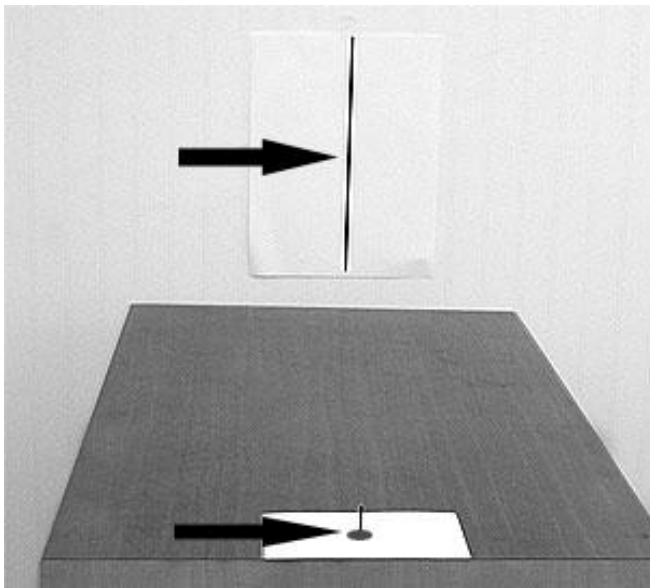
You must loosen the 2 screws slightly of the offset mounting plate in order to shift the camera from side to side.

When you are satisfied that the camera is parallel to the bold white line and also centered then tighten down the two screws of the offset bracket very tightly and take note of exactly where the back of your camera rests in relation to the offset plate.

You may want to make a mark on the offset plate tracing the outline of your camera body, so you can ensure you will always mount in

Step 5

Finding the optical centers of your lenses

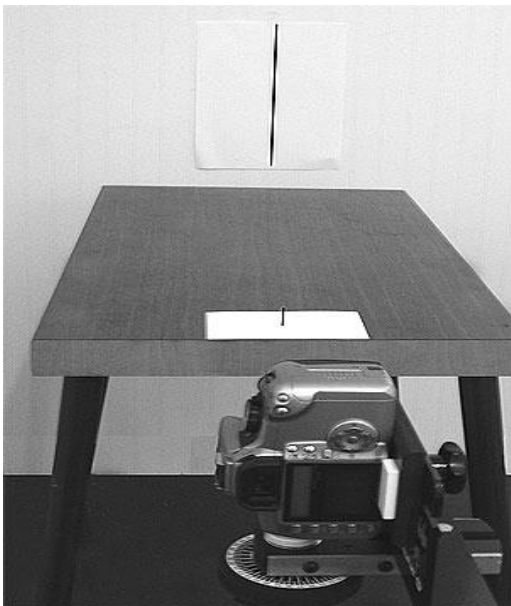


There are several methods you can use to find the optical center of lenses.

The picture to the left shows one setup to find the optical center of lenses with focal lengths of **less than 70mm**.

Place the little nail from the parts bag on the front edge of a table or counter somewhere. Then tape a piece of paper onto a wall about 30-36 inches behind the nail. Draw a very dark straight line on the paper.

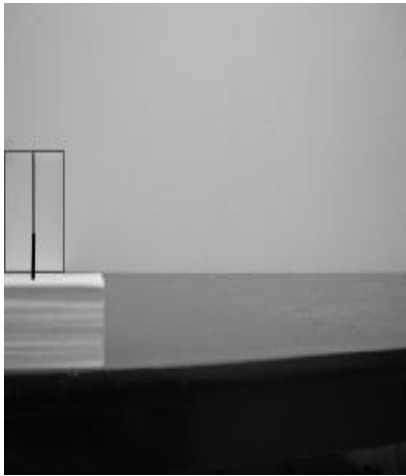
A dark line is on the last page of these instructions.



Next set your tripod with your Panosaurus and camera mounted directly in front of the nail so the height of your tripod has the lens level with the nail.

The front of the camera lens should be about 4-12 inches from the nail – or as close as you can possibly get to the nail and still be able to focus the camera fairly well on both the line and nail at the same time.

Note: picture shows a Panosaurus Rex.



STEP A: Position the tripod so that when you look at the LCD screen or viewfinder this is what you see. The nail needs to be aligned with the line on the paper and in the **EXTREME** left hand area of the frame.

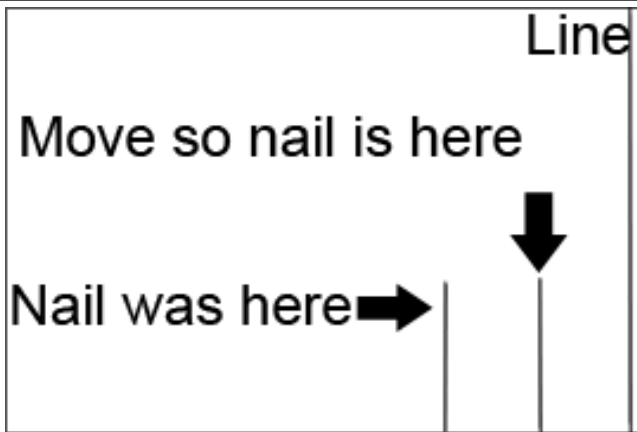
VERY IMPORTANT: This is ALWAYS the starting point of the procedure. You will probably have to move not only the rotator of the Panosaurus but also the **tripod** in order to get into this starting position.



Now rotate the rotator of the Panosaurus (**DO NOT MOVE THE TRIPOD**) until you see the nail and line in the extreme right hand of the frame. The nail and line will **probably** now be out of alignment - either to the right or left of the line. If the nail is to the right of the line this "probably" means the camera needs to be moved further forward on the upper horizontal arm. (This depends on the design of the lens)

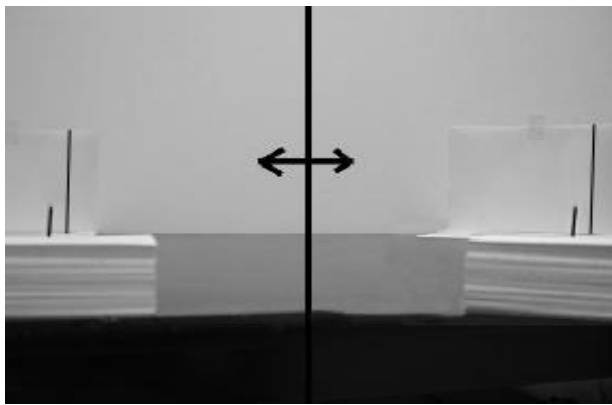


The nail in this picture has moved to the left of the line when it was rotated from the left side of the frame to the right side of the frame. This means that you will probably need to move the camera back toward you on the metal arm. (This depends on the design of the lens)



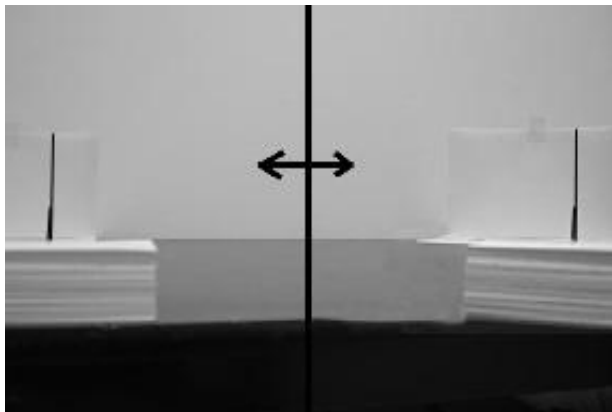
Now slightly loosen the 2 screws that secure the camera mounting block to the upper horizontal arm of the Panosaurus and **slowly** move the camera forward or backward on the upper arm until you see that the nail is about **HALFWAY** from the distance it currently is from the line - as in the picture on the left - then tighten the screws back down.

Note: If the nail had been on the right of the line to begin with then move halfway in other direction closer to the line.



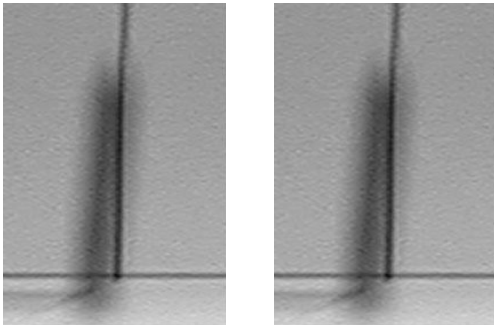
Now rotate the rotator of the Panosaurus back so the nail and line are in the left side of the frame.

Now the nail and line should now be out of alignment on the left side of the frame by the same amount that it is out of alignment on the right side of the frame and you may have come close to finding the optical center point.

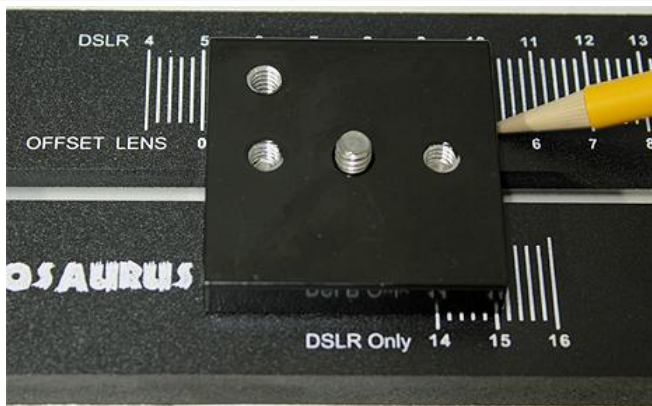


Ultimately you are striving to achieve the results seen in the picture on the left. The nail is aligned in the left of the frame and as you pan the camera with the rotator to the right of the frame the nail remains aligned with the line.

In order to ensure that you have achieved this goal you now return to **STEP A** and precede to this point again and again until the goal is achieved.

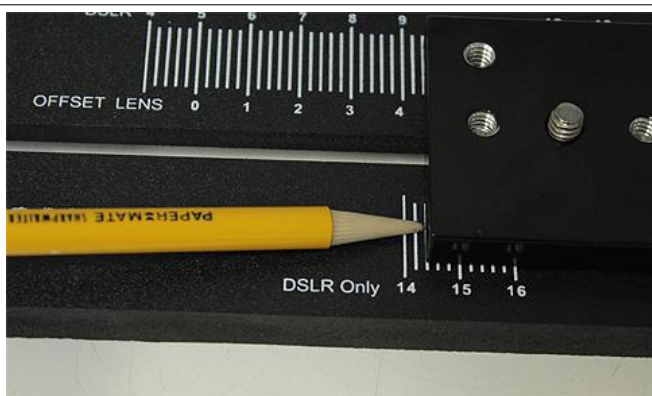


To ensure that you are perfectly calibrated you may want to take a picture of the left frame area and then pan to the right frame area and take another picture. Load the two pictures into your image editing software and greatly enlarge them. (If your camera allows you to enlarge in your LCD playback screen this is a good method also) If the two pictures are very similar (as are the two pictures on the left) then you have reached the optical center. Otherwise you will need to keep fine tuning the position of the camera on the upper arm.



Once you are satisfied that you have reached the optical center be sure to note where on the metal Arm the Camera Mounting Block rests. This will be the position you always place the camera on the metal arm when you shoot at that particular focal length.

The back of the camera mounting block is used to point to the ruled lines on the upper horizontal arm. The top set of numbers represents the distance from the tripod hole of a DSLR camera to the point of rotation on the rotator. (The optical center of the lens) The bottom numbers of the top set of lines represents the distance from the tripod hole of an offset tripod hole camera to the point of rotation on the rotator.



If the camera mounting block has been pushed as far back as possible on the upper horizontal arm then the front of the camera mounting block points to the ruled lines to show the distance from the tripod hole of a DSLR camera to the point of rotation on the rotator arm or the optical center of the lens.

Finding the optical center for longer focal length lenses.



To find the optical center of a lens with a focal length of over 70mm you will probably need to set up your camera outdoors.

The picture on the left shows how I have set my camera to align with a pole and the edge of a window in the left of my frame. The pole is about 5 feet from my camera and the window is about 50 feet from the camera. The focal length of my lens is 100mm.



The picture on the left shows what my alignment looks like when I then pan the camera to put the pole in the right side of the frame.

I will follow the same procedure as with the nail and the line on paper to perfectly align the pole and the edge of the window in both sides of the frame.

Shooting and Maintenance.



The upper horizontal arm of the Panosaurus can be tilted a full 180 degrees. When shooting in the top hole of the upright metal arm the amount of vertical tilt is displayed directly above the top of the metal arm.



When shooting with the upper horizontal arm mounted in the lower position the amount of vertical tilt is displayed through the hole directly above the clamping knob.



The rotator arm points to the degrees of rotation on the degree marking platform. The platform is color coded to enable shooting of 30, 40 , 60 or 90 sequence shots to be made easily without having to remember or count numbers.

The tension of the rotator arm is controlled by the screw running through the rotator arm into the platform. You can adjust this tension with a screwdriver. Be very careful. It only takes the smallest of turning to greatly effect the tension.

Important note: Never unscrew the rotator screw all the way as this will ruin the tension device inside the platform.



The Panosaurus is designed to give long years of service without any maintenance. However care should be taken not to leave the upper horizontal arm in a hot car in the summer time. Heat reaching 120 degrees can warp the plastic arm.

Happy shooting.

