



The Pan & Tilt Controller Box



PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY BEFORE STARTING! SAFETY PRECAUTIONS: *Keep fingers and loose clothing away from gears and moving parts. *Always unplug VZ-MC100 Pan and Tilt Head when not in use. *Mount only on stable surfaces.

Warranty: 1 year parts and labor against defects in materials or craftsmanship

SETTING UP YOUR NEW PAN AND TILT HEAD – In addition to the parts shown on the first page, the MC100 comes with a 20' video cable, 20' extension for LANC controls, and mounting screws/washers for the head and camera.



1. Bolt the base plate of the VZ-MC100 head securely to jib or tripod mount. The base is designed to mount on a flat surface or 100mm bowl, so an adapter may be necessary for other sizes (consult jib or tripod maker). The mounting plate on the MC100 has a threaded hole, but it should never be used without the included nut and washer to ensure that the head does not fall!

Pan and Tilt Motor Attachment

2. There are two motors included, one for Panning left/right (to place at the base of the MC100), and one for Tilting up/down (to place at the top). **The Tilt motor has the larger brass gear and the Pan motor has a slightly smaller gear.** The motors are easily attached by a.) connecting the male stereo plug from the motor to the female plug on MC100 head and b.) loosening the clamp lever and sliding the clamp onto the stainless steel post adjacent to the large black arm gears. **For initial setup, leave the motors disengaged** (the small brass motor gears should be pulled away from the large black gears).



HORIZONTAL CAMERA BALANCING

3. Securely attach the camera to the mounting plate with bolt and washer. After tightening the bolt, slightly loosen it again so that the camera may slide forward and backward on the mounting plate. Move the camera so that gravity allows it to rest on the plate without tilting up or down, balancing the camera horizontally. The tilt arm that holds the adjustable mounting plate should be exactly parallel to the main arm (straight up). Now you can thoroughly tighten the camera mounting bolt(s) so that the camera doesn't slide when tilting (you may want to use multiple bolts for large cameras with tripod mounting plates).



CAMERA MUST BE PROPERLY BALANCED FOR OPERATION.

VERTICAL CAMERA BALANCING

4. With the camera now balanced and fixed securely to the mounting plate, rotate the camera to point the lens directly downward (or upward if the lens is so long that it will strike the base of the MC100). Be sure to keep the gears disengaged. Loosen the mounting plate bracket by turning the lever counter-clockwise. This will allow the mounting plate to slide freely back and forth as you support the weight of the camera (if you don't support the camera's weight, the plate mount may bind and possibly scar the arm surface).

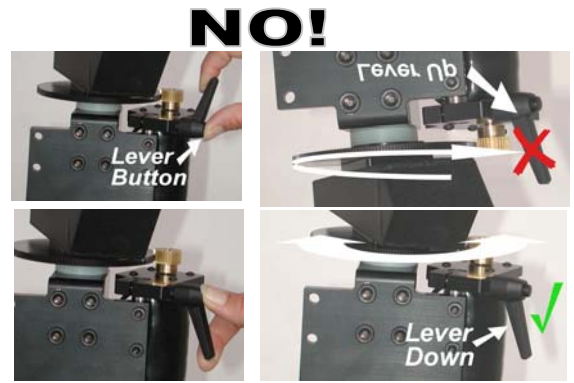
-Slide the mounting plate in either direction until the camera is balanced vertically. Gravity should keep the lens pointing straight down (or up, as the case may be) so that the camera is exactly vertical – the mounting plate should be parallel to the main arm of the MC100.

Tighten the lever. **NOTE:** If you have achieved perfect balance, the camera should remain in place at any tilt angle without drifting up or down, so tilt it at various angles to check.

CAMERA MUST BE THOROUGHLY BALANCED FOR PROPER OPERATION.



- Engage the brass motor gears to the black arm gears and tighten. Be sure the levers are pointing away from the rotating arm.
-NOTE: Once tightened, you can adjust the position of the lever by simply pulling out on it and then rotating the lever until it faces away. This will NOT loosen the fastener. *Failure to aim lever away will impede the movement of the MC100.*



YES!

Connecting the Cables

- Connect the locking 4-pin control cable to the 4-pin motor cord at the base of the MC100.



- Connect the other end of the 4-pin control cable to the MC100 Control Unit at the locking 4-pin connector.



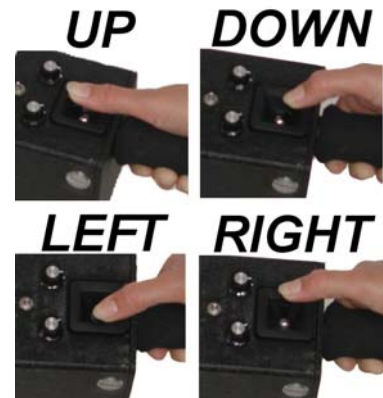
- Connect the 4-pin XLR power cable from the AC adapter to the 4-pin XLR power connector located on the MC100 Control Unit.



OPERATION OF MC100 CONTROL UNIT

- The joystick controls camera movement in a fashion similar to airplane controls. Joystick Forward: camera points down; Joystick Backward: camera points up; Joystick Left: camera points to the left; Joystick Right: camera points to the right. (assuming the silver toggle switch is in the normal position – to the left).

*NOTE: The UP/DOWN joystick directions will depend on how the camera is mounted – you can reverse the UP/DOWN by turning the camera 180 degrees to face the opposite direction. For normal operation, mount the camera so that the left side (viewfinder/LCD panel side) faces out away from the rotating arm.



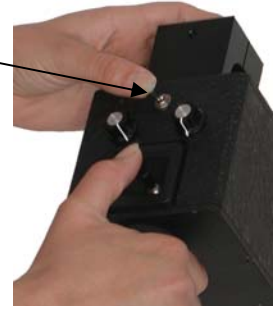
Underslung Operation

- 1a. When the camera is underslung, your left / right controls are reversed, so you need to flip the silver toggle switch on the control box to keep the joystick controls consistent. This way joystick-left will result in camera-left and joystick-right will result in camera-right. *The toggle switch does not reverse up/down controls because they remain consistent when the MC100 is underslung. The normal position for the toggle switch is to the left. Flip the switch to the right for underslung operation.*

underslung

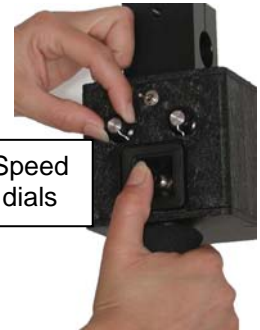


toggle switch



2. In addition to the joystick, which is pressure-sensitive for speed control, these dials enable the operator to set the maximum speed of each motor, allowing for a higher degree of control. Turn the dials completely clockwise for maximum speed. The most effective way to vary the speed of the panning and tilting is by using the joystick, so you may find it best to leave the dials turned up all the time. **ALWAYS OPERATE THE CONTROL UNIT WITH THE DIALS TURNED UP AT LEAST ¼ TO ½ THE WAY TO MAX. OPERATING THE CONTROL UNIT WITH THE DIALS TURNED ALL THE WAY DOWN MAY RESULT IN ERRATIC BEHAVIOR.**

Speed dials



IMPORTANT NOTES *

* STORAGE

We recommend removing the motors from the Pan/Tilt head when storing the MC100 unit in the case. You can do this by loosening the clamp levers and sliding the motors off the stainless steel mounting posts – they can be placed in one of the supplied compartments of the MC100 case. Likewise, you should disconnect all extension cables from the unit and store them in a properly coiled position. When storing the unit, do not subject it to excessive heat, moisture or dust – store in a cool, dry place for optimal long-term performance.

* TRIPOD MOUNTING

We recommend mounting the MC100 on a 100mm bowl-type tripod since it will fit snugly and enable you to thread the supplied bolt through the MC100 mounting plate and down through the bowl of the tripod. Using the supplied oversize washer and nut, you can securely bolt the MC100 onto the tripod bowl. Although the MC100 can be mounted to a standard center-post tripod, the mounting bolt on such tripods isn't long enough to enable you to secure the mount with a washer and nut. If the tripod/MC100 mount were suddenly jarred or disrupted, there is a possibility the mounting bolt might bend or shear, so be very cautious about this type of setup. **VARIZOOM DOES NOT RECOMMEND MOUNTING THE MC100 ON ANY TRIPOD OTHER THAN A 100 mm BOWL TRIPOD.**

* 360-DEGREE PANS AND TILTS

The MC100 is capable of 360-degree turns on either axis, and the only limitation is in the twisting of your cables. Typically, you can go at least 360 degrees before the cables become severely entwined, but you should always be aware of the stress you place on the cables when going past 360 degrees – cable damage may result. Furthermore, improper cable management may result in damage to the camera's connectors, *so be aware of cable twist when rotating beyond 360 degrees of movement.*

* **FOR PROFESSIONAL CAMERAS**

Since professional shoulder-mount cameras typically use a quick-release tripod plate of some sort, it is important to note that in some cases the friction between the camera's mounting plate and the mounting plate of the VZ-MC100 may not be sufficient to ensure a secure mount when tilting. You may want to line one or both of the surfaces with electrical tape, gaffer's tape, or something to provide a more slip-resistant contact. Of course, you'll want to securely tighten the mounting bolts, as well. Some quick-release tripod plates also have a lot of 'play', so you may need to shim or even eliminate the plate to sustain proper balance, because if the camera shifts at all it will throw off the balance.

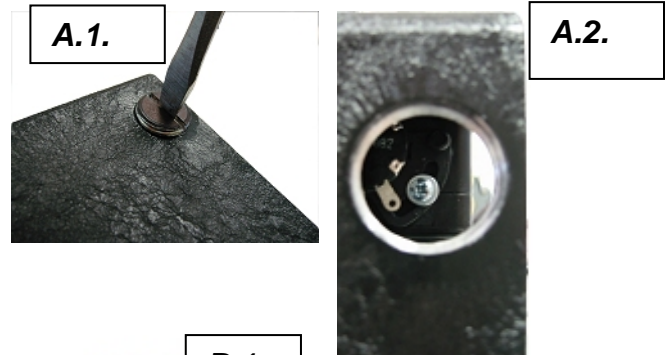
TROUBLESHOOTING: UNWANTED CAMERA MOVEMENT

First, make sure your camera is perfectly balanced by disengaging your motors and tilting the camera at various angles – it should not move at all if the camera is in balance (if necessary, re-balance – see Page 1).

If you are satisfied that the camera is balanced and the motors appear to move on their own, you may have *motor drift - do not worry!* To find out if you have motor drift, do the following: **turn the speed dials all the way up for both pan and tilt**, and with all of the power and control cables connected (a mounted camera is not necessary), disengage the motors so that the brass gears on the motors can spin freely. If the brass gears turn on their own, without your command, the motor control joystick needs to be calibrated (**if they don't move, the drifting must be attributed to bad balance**).

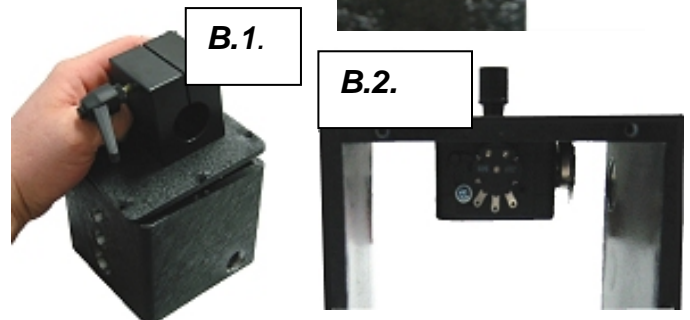
If Tilt Motor Drifts:

Remove the large plug-screw on the side of the control box (A.1.) and you will see a small, curved plastic collar with a single Phillips screw and washer (A.2.). Loosen this screw and slide the curved plastic collar until the brass motor gear becomes completely still – then tighten the screw again. (*do not overtighten*).



If Pan Motor Drifts:

Remove the 6 hex screws (using a 5/64" hex key) located on top of the MC100 Control Unit (B.1.). Remove the lid, and on top of the joystick housing you will find a small, curved plastic collar with a single Phillips screw and washer (B.2.). Loosen this screw and slide the curved plastic collar until the brass motor gear becomes completely still – tighten the screw carefully. (*do not overtighten*)



TROUBLESHOOTING: ERRATIC CONTROL UNIT

Make sure the speed dials are turned up at least ¼ to ½. If they are turned down all the way or very nearly all the way, the control unit may not function properly. Erratic control unit behavior may also result from damaged cables.

MAINTENANCE:

The MC100 should not require much maintenance, but over time wear and tear may take its toll. The most common wear and tear issue is damaged cables, which are relatively easily replaced. After much use, the bearings in the base may need light lubrication. These bearing are the two sets of thin triple washer-like assemblies above and below the base block (where the rotating shaft fits). If you lubricate these bearing, just use light oil and don't add very much or you will simply attract more dust. As long as the unit pans smoothly, you shouldn't worry about this. Most other maintenance should be performed by the factory.

REMINDER: KEEP FINGERS, LOOSE CLOTHING, AND HAIR AWAY FROM MOVING PARTS AND GEARS! ALWAYS UNPLUG MC100 PAN AND TILT HEAD WHEN NOT IN USE! WHEN IN DOUBT ABOUT SAFETY, ASK QUESTIONS FIRST!!! 888-826-3399 / www.varizoom.com