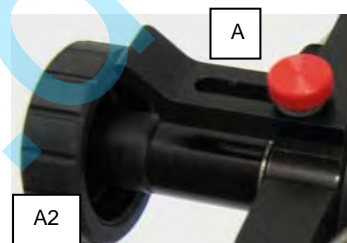


Welcome to our new top-of-the-line shoulder support system for DSLR cameras. In addition to its totally unique vertical balance offset, this system is designed to be configurable to virtually any body type or camera setup, so there are some adjustments and operational parameters to discover before you begin using the equipment. The Rig comes in a folded position, so you should unfold it to approximately resemble the picture at the right. Included are: shoulder rig, support pod, belt, camera plate, accessory mount, removable counterweight. **Please read the instructions to ensure that you don't damage the system or camera.**

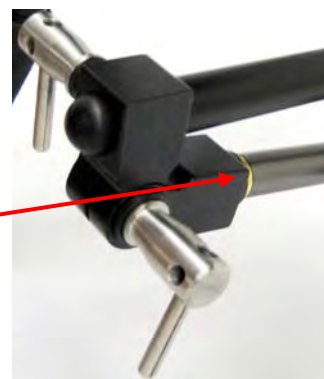


**1A** – The first and most important element to understand is the **Tilt Mechanism**. Look at the **safety lock (A)**, and notice how it slides laterally when the red thumbscrew is loose. When the tilt arm is perpendicular to the horizontal support member (w/ “VariZoom” label), the safety lock will slide into the slot of the tilt arm. Once the red thumbscrew is tightened, the safety lock prohibits the tilting action of the ZG Rig. The safety lock allows you to set the ZG Rig down without the system inadvertently tilting and flopping over, which could cause damage to your camera. Always engage the safety lock before setting the ZG Rig down. Conversely, while operating the ZG Rig, the safety lock should be disengaged so you can tilt freely.



**1A2** – Always keep the **tensioner knob (A2)** tightened close to the max – only tiny adjustments are needed. The tilt mechanism should never have any play/wobble, or damage may result. **WARNING: TENSIONER KNOB (A2) MUST BE TIGHT ENOUGH TO REMOVE ANY SIDE-TO-SIDE WOBBLE/PLAY IN THE TILT MECHANISM, OR SEVERE DAMAGE MAY RESULT!!!**

**2 - MOUNTING THE CAMERA** - Make sure the safety lock is engaged on the tilt mechanism. Attach the support belt to your waist, holster in front. Mount your camera to the camera plate, tightening the screw thoroughly. Slide the plate into the receiver and secure the plate locking lever. Insert the brass tip of the support pod into the socket at the end of the curved bar. Angle the pod roughly 30° downward and raise the entire assembly over your shoulder, carefully inserting the lower end of the support pod through the plastic D-ring and into the holster. Unlock the support pod knobs to engage spring action.



**3 - ACCESSORIES** – If you wish to use the **accessory mount (D)** for attaching lights, monitors, mics, etc., go ahead and attach it and mount the accessories before proceeding with adjustments or balancing. This mount allows you to keep accessories off your camera and aids in balancing the weight of the Rig. Four ¼”-20 holes are provided, and the mount rotates to allow fine positioning.



**4 - BALANCING** – Once it's fully loaded, you can focus on adjusting and balancing the unit. Think of the balancing as an X-Y affair. Start by adjusting the position of the camera plate so it is balanced front-to-back. Then adjust the position of the camera platform left-right by loosening the knob directly below and moving the platform until it feels relatively balanced and doesn't lean to one side. You can also affect the side-to-side balance by adjusting the **counterweight position (E)** at the rear of the shoulder arch. These are the familiar 'X-Y' adjustments.



**5 - ADJUSTMENT** – If you haven't already done so, now would be a good time to fine tune the ergonomic adjustments of the Rig. There are several points of adjustment that should enable you to wear the Rig with comfort and stability. The photos on the following page highlight some of these adjustment points.

The most commonly used adjustments:

**(F)** = slide up/down, pivot side-to-side; ALSO: reverse tightening lever R/L.

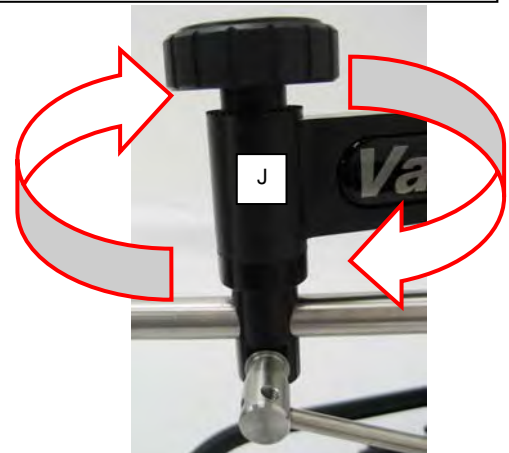
**(G)** = adjust position of camera mount closer/further and also adjust the angle of the shoulder arch relative to body centerline

**(H)** = adjust the in-out position of support pod socket to change the relative height and angle of the Rig, as well as the relative loading of the spring pod



**(I)** = ADVANCED: shift the tilting pivot point in or out, depending on preference; further out gives more tilt range and distance to camera, while closer in brings camera closer and reduces tilt range; to shift pivot point, simply remove protective plastic cap (and SAVE IT) from unused hole, revealing a radial bearing; remove tensioner knob with external bearing/washer assembly, then remove entire tilt assembly (it is a tight fit, so it will take effort), finally insert tilt assembly axle through alternate bearing, pressing firmly until large black washer is flush, then thread tensioner knob assembly back through, tightening firmly; finally, move safety lock mechanism to the corresponding spot and cover unused bearing hole with plastic cap

**(J)** = serrated clutch allows locking incremental adjustment of angle at which stainless rod intersects horizontal support member to allow greater freedom in positioning and bring camera extremely close in some configurations; ADVANCED: clutch can be separated and inverted so it mounts to the top instead of bottom, creating a 3.25" downward shift of the entire forward assembly (for lower camera mount)



**6 - OPERATION** – Overall, operating the ZG Rig is pretty intuitive. Because there are so many different ways to configure the Rig, it's mostly up to the user to determine good shooting habits. One thing to keep in mind is that the spring-loaded support pod can be used with one or two sections locked. In other words, if you need less spring action (e.g., for a lighter camera), leave one of the sections locked, or if you want no spring action, leave both locked. You may even decide that you need to hold the entire unit up high for an extended period (such as shooting over a crowd), and in this case, fully extending the pod sections and locking them in place could be your best move. For most shooting, however, you will probably use a single configuration, so spend some time figuring out the most comfortable and functional setup for your needs.

**7 – STORAGE/TRANSPORT** – We recommend folding the unit and storing it in the supplied carrying bag to keep it clean and protected.

### **TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS**

- When using a heavier camera setup (over 8lbs), try to keep the camera closer to the tilt arm, make sure the tensioner knob is adequately tightened, and experiment with the position of the support pod socket.
- If you have any questions or problems with the ZG Rig after reading the instructions, please contact VariZoom directly (512-219-7722).

### **WARNINGS:**

**1 – DO NOT OPERATE THE ZG RIG WITH ANY OF THE LOCKING JOINTS LOOSE, AS DAMAGE OR INJURY COULD RESULT.**

**2 – ALWAYS STORE AND HANDLE THE SPRING-LOADED SUPPORT POD IN A FULLY LOCKED STATE (KNOB TIGHTENED THOROUGHLY). ONLY LOOSEN THE KNOBS WHEN THE SUPPORT POD IS MOUNTED UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE ZG RIG.**

**3 – DO NOT RUN WHILE OPERATING THE UNIT.**

**4 – EXERCISE CAUTION WHEN ADJUSTING THE POSITION OF THE POD SOCKET (fig. H) – DO NOT LOOSEN THE LOCKING SCREW MORE THAN ½ TURN, AS THE TIP OF THE SCREW ALSO ACTS AS A SAFETY STOP, AND IF YOU BACK THE SCREW OUT TOO FAR, THE POD SOCKET COULD SLIP OFF THE END OF THE SUPPORT BAR.**