

MN087NW HEAVY DUTY TRIPOD



This is actually a lighting stand, however it serves well as a stable tripod for use with FinishLynx as it is capable of extending to a height of about 4 metres.

General use: -

- 1 Open the feet and tighten the locking screw
- 2 There are two legs of fixed length and one that is adjustable. On sloping ground position the two fixed length legs so that they are about level and the adjustable leg so that it is at a lower point. Now loosen the locking screw on the adjustable length leg and you can move tripod so that it is vertical. Note: When collapsing the tripod after use the adjustable leg has to be set back to equal length otherwise the tripod will not collapse properly.
- 3 The vertical pole has three sections and locking screws where they join together. Both locking screws have to be slackened off before the tripod can be raised.
- 4 The handle on the side of the tripod will raise and lower the tripod. When the required height has been achieved the lower locking screw has to be tightened first, then the upper screw, a foothold is available to reach the upper screw.

There are pluses and minuses over using a scaffolding tower.

Some of the Plusses are: -

- Faster to erect and dismantle
- Smaller footprint
- Packs away to a smaller size
- Comes a single assembly – i.e. not a kit of parts
- Easily and infinitely adjusted from a camera height of 2 metres up to 4 metres

Some of the Minuses are: -

- Difficult to use the reflex alignment viewer
- Can be effected by windy conditions
- Crowd can easily kick leg and move camera off-line

To overcome the Minuses listed above here are some suggestions: -

- 1 A step ladder may be used to allow operator to get to the camera reflex viewer
- 2 If no step ladder is available, it is not difficult to estimate the camera angle, focus and zoom whilst at a low height, then raise the camera to the required height and check the image on the computer screen. At first you may need a few attempts but after a few tries this technique works reasonably well.
- 3 Moving the camera onto the white finishline: Before the tripod extension section locking screws have been tightened the tripod pole has some rotational tolerance, this allows a fair degree of movement of the camera and with the aid of the computer screen the finishline can be found and the screws tightened. "Fine" tuning can be done by gently kicking the foot of the legs (it works).
- 4 In windy conditions guy lines can be attached to the top of the tripod and secured with tent pegs, sand bags, convenient railing etc. However, the amount of movement is not great and the images are still readable for positions, which is the major factor with cycle racing.
- 5 Control of the area around the base of the tripod to keep the public away is a good idea. Cones or those stands with tapes (like used in bank and post office queues) should work.