

DIY project – create a photographic monopod from a handyman's telescopic paint-roller handle

The project takes a painter's telescopic paint roller handle, removes the original paint roller fitting to be replaced with a circular platform and the traditional 1/4-inch thread used by cameras. The brand of handle shown here is "Shurline", sold widely across Australia. It has a double-extending operation so that as the user extends the locking device away from the baseplate, it extends both upwards and downwards at the same time.



There are two versions sold here –

- a) from 75cm / 28" closed to 150cm / 60" when open, and
- b) from 106cm / 42" closed to 212cm / 82" when open.

The retail price of each is around \$40 to \$45

Note- The completed unit is strong enough to easily handle a 600mm lens for a sporting / nature photographer

- Step-1** Remove the original head from the handle-tube. Punch out the locking pin (if exists) and pull the male threaded roller head from the tube. [it is a tight fit – do not twist, just pull straight out of its grooved slots]
- 1b) Cut the moulded thread and discard, keep the grooved core itself
 - 1c) Drill a 1/4" hole from bottom to top of the remaining grooved core and insert from below a 30mm / 1-1/4" long bolt with 1/4" Whitworth thread to suit the camera.
 - 1d) Araldite the bolt into place, then glue assembly back into paint roller handle.
 - 1e) Re-insert the locking pin [if exists] into the device



- Step-2** Using a conventional circular Hole-Saw, cut a disc about 60mm – 70mm / 2" to 2-1/4 inches diameter, using 10mm / 3/8" thick plywood. Place over the threaded bolt and Araldite onto the paint roller head



- Step-3** Glue some non-slip material to the upper surface of the plywood for the camera base to grip when in use. [the sample shown here has been used for a year or so and could do with replacing]

Test the device by screwing it into the camera's tripod socket. If the screw 'bottoms' before tightening fully, you will need to grind or file 1mm or so off the 1/4" bolt and test again.

- Step-4** The original paint roller handle has self-locking holes at 100mm / 4 inch spacing. Drill a series of 1/4 inch holes equi-spaced into the original spaces so that you can adjust the height into approx 33mm / 1-1/4 inch increments



The completed conversion with the telescopic head in the closed position
It then can be fitted with a suitable ball & socket head.
Mine came from B&H Photo, USA for about \$50.

