



Q-Ball Q3



Q-Ball M10



Q-Ball M20

Users Guide
and
Technical Data Sheet - EN

Markins Q3, M10, M20 Users Guide



V1.10

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Your new ball head

Thank you for choosing Markins. The Markins Q-Ball head is designed to fulfill the needs of demanding photographers in all situations. It is a fine product, built with an uncompromising craftsmanship. We offer our best wishes that the Markins ball head may enhance your photographic life. Make sure you read through this guide thoroughly before you start using your new Markins Q-Ball head. It will not take much of your time and it will make you more comfortable with the system. Keep this guide and other documents in a safe place for future reference.

New QR-48 and QR-60 clamps

The new M10 and M20 2006 Q-Ball heads come with the new integrated Markins QR-48 and QR-60 quick release clamps respectively.

- Made of the highest quality duraluminum, light weight but strong.
- Hard-anodized surface is smooth and extremely resistant to scratches, chips or corrosion.
- With built-in spirit level
- Patented spring loaded stop pin to prevent costly accidental drops
- Captive knob with smooth silicone rubber sleeve
- Completely enclosed mechanism to keep dust out
- Rounded corners and edges for added safety and ergonomics
- Compatible with standard dovetail mounting plates (Arca, Foba, Kirk, Wimberley, etc).



Using your ball head

1. Start with mounting a Markins camera plate, or a compatible Arca Swiss type plate on your camera. For many modern bodies, the Markins PG-30U, PG-34N, PG-80, or PG-50 is the right choice.



Screw the plate tight. Do not use a coin, but a screwdriver with the right dimensions. Newest plates are shipped with an improved hexagonal head cavity screw for a 5/32" Allen wrench.

On most bodies and battery packs, the best fit for the camera plate is when mounted with the anti-twist flange ("dove tail") pointing forward.

2. Attach the ball head tightly onto your tripod. In addition to the 3/8" UNC tap, many tripods have one or more locking screws, pressing against the bottom of the base of the ball head to prevent it to rotate. If your tripod has such locking screws, you may use them, but be careful not to screw them in too tight. If you do, you may damage the panorama base of the ball head or at least make it difficult or even impossible to pan.

3. Adjust the clamp to horizontal position and turn the main control knob clockwise so that the ball does not move.

4. Open the Quick Release clamp to accommodate the plate mounted on your camera

5. Attach your camera on the ball head by sliding the plate into the Quick Release clamp

6. Turn the Quick Release clamp knob clockwise to lock the plate and camera.

7. Adjust the main control knob to the minimum desired friction, where your camera wont flop, or creep, but you can still move it.

8. Turn the small friction limit adjust dial all the way in, making the current friction setting the lowest friction you will use. This prevents the main control knob from being unscrewed to a point where the camera may flop. **IMPORTANT:** Do NOT use a screwdriver to turn the friction limit adjust dial, but use the tip of your finger and press firmly against the small dial. If the dial seems stuck, all you need to do is to turn the main friction control knob clockwise. The first time the friction limit adjust dial is used, you may have to apply some additional force to screw it in.

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9. You can now easily lock and unlock the camera movement with less than a single turn of the control knob when you think you must.

10. With practice, you should be able to find a "sweet spot" where your camera will move to any position desired without creeping and without having to touch the ball head friction controls at all.

Note: Do not over tighten the panning lock knob. It is supposed to have some minimal play to better help absorb vibration, especially under windy conditions.

▲ Basic Maintenance Guide for the Markins Ball Head

Markins ball heads are assembled with high precision parts. To function well even in extreme environments (especially in very low temperature) regular maintenance of the ball head system is recommended:

1. Keep the surface of the ball head and ball housing free from dirt, dust, sand, etc.
2. Avoid exposing the ball head to adhesive agents, paint etc. Chemical reactions will destroy the finish and may damage the ball head.
3. If the interior of the ball head becomes wet, fully dry and clean the ball head system.
4. It is advisable to keep it covered with a MP-4 ball head protection cover when not in use and when traveling in the field.

Note: Being wet does not affect the performance of the ball head. All the parts are made to be corrosion, rust and stain resistant. However, the mechanism should be kept dry to ensure smooth operation in freezing temperatures. Please, follow the cleaning procedures as described below.

▲ How to Clean the Ball Head

There could be situations that the ball head feels not as smooth as usual, especially in a freezing weather. It is mainly because of frozen moisture or a contaminant inside the contact surfaces of the ball and housing. In such cases, follow this cleaning procedure:

1. Unscrew the friction limit adjust dial with your finger and turn the main knob of the ball head counter clockwise to loosen the ball completely. Further adjust the friction limit dial screw counter clockwise if necessary to allow full loosening of the main knob.
2. Place 2 to 3 drops of WD-40® or equivalent lubricant on the surface of the ball and rotate it thoroughly to cover the whole surface of the ball. After rotating the ball many times (about 10 times), clean the surface with a lens cleaning cloth or other suitable lint-free cloth. (A very thin film of WD-40® left on the surface will not affect the performance of the ball head.)
3. The above maintenance will restore the ball head to its initial condition of smoothness. It might be advisable to apply one or 2 drops of WD-40® with cleaning before using it in extreme cold weather. WD-40® displaces moisture that could freeze and interfere with ball operation.

▲ Keep the fastening knob of the quick release shoe tightened while carrying or storing the ball head for any significant time or distance. The 2007 Quick Release clamps QR-60 and QR-48 all have captive knobs, spring loaded stop pin and integrated bubble level.



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Markins Q3, M10 and M20 Q-Balls Technical Data Sheet




Markins Q-Ball M10	
Weight (g / lbs)	498 / 1.1
Max. load (kg / lbs)	40 / 88
Height (mm / inch)	98 / 3.86
Housing diameter (mm / inch)	62 / 2.44
Ball diameter (mm / inch)	44 / 1.73
Camera connection type	Quick release QR-48
Friction control	Progressive, Bi-Axial
Tripod winding	3/8" UNC
Standard color	Black



Markins Q-Ball M20	
Weight (g / lbs)	568 / 1.25
Max. load (kg / lbs)	45 / 99
Height (mm / inch)	101 / 3.98
Housing diameter (mm / inch)	68 / 2.68
Ball diameter (mm / inch)	48 / 1.89
Camera connection type	Quick release QR-60
Friction control	Progressive, Bi-Axial
Tripod winding	3/8" UNC
Standard color	Black



Markins Q3 Ball Head	
Weight (g / lbs)	385 / 0.84
Max. load (kg / lbs)	30 / 65
Height (mm / inch)	91 / 3.58
Housing diameter (mm / inch)	48 / 1.89
Ball diameter (mm / inch)	38 / 1.5
Camera connection type	Quick release QR-48
Friction control	Progressive, Bi-Axial
Tripod winding	3/8" UNC
Standard color	Black

 For more product information, please visit

<http://www.markinseurope.com>

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