

Considerations before you attempt to remove the quick release shoe from your Markins ball head.

Consider that removing the original clamp requires the application of heat and not only it needs some skill and care, it voids the warranty of the complete ball head, not only of the clamp. You may want instead, to purchase a M10-NQS or M20-NQS (NQS = No Quick Shoe) so you can mount on it the clamp of your choice.

If you persist in wanting to remove the original Markins Quick Release Shoe or clamp, to replace it with other, make certain the replacement has a 3/8" center hole thread.

How to remove the quick release shoe from your Markins ball head

To take off the existing clamp on a Markins ball head you first need to remove the glue that is used to lock the clamp. This is done using heat. The instructions below describe how to remove the clamp using a vise. There is also a possibility to remove the clamp without using a vise (see further below).

Materials:

1. A manual gas torch.
2. Small pieces of wood to clamp the ball head top bolt on a vise.
3. A vise.
4. A large piece of wood that you should be able to attach to the QRS or clamp - In case you may be discarding the original clamp altogether, a good pipe wrench would do, but it can mar its finish.
5. Working leather gloves.
6. Locktite red glue (if you will not change clamps again) or blue (if you may change).

Procedure:

1. Attach the ball head to the vise through the upper bolt using the 2 pieces of wood to avoid marring it. Put the ball in the drop-notch channel position before trying the above procedure. Otherwise when you try to loosen the clamp, you will likely cause the ball head to turn on its panning base. You can't tighten the panning lock firmly enough to prevent this, so don't even try to over tighten it severely; that could ruin the pan knob.
2. Turn on your torch and apply heat in a slow circular motion around the bolt area on top of the QR clamp or platform. It takes about 4 minutes to get the glue to release the bolt.
3. Use the wooden lever (or the pipe wrench) to unscrew the quick release shoe or clamp. The clamp loosens in the usual counter clockwise direction, it's not reverse thread. If it doesn't give in, it needs more heat and don't be shy about it.
4. Remove all melted glue residue with a sharp knife from the bolt.

5. Let it cool.
6. Apply new Loctite glue on the bolt
7. Screw in the new clamp.
8. Let it cure for 18 to 24 hours.
9. You are all set to go.
10. Your warranty melted with the old glue, but now you have a brand new clamp on your head.

An alternate procedure to remove the clamp is not using a vise.

You must remove the glue as described above though.

With the ball at a right angle, you can leave the ball head on the tripod.

Hold your tripod for leverage as you use your lever/wrench to turn the clamp.



Good luck!