

Vertex Photographic

Big Lens Bag TM - Product Instruction Sheet

PLEASE READ THIS BEFORE USING

Using the Big Lens Bag

The Big Lens Bag is designed to be used in any vehicle seat. It is designed to be positioned in an empty seat in the vertical position and is supplied with four long adjustable straps to secure the bag to the seat. There are four attachment points located on each side of the bag which will allow you to wrap the straps around the car seat and secure the bag. There are also attachment points on the bottom of the bag in the front and back. These attachment points will allow you to wrap a strap under the seat and attach to the front bottom and back bottom of the bag. Some seats will not allow you to go under the seat. You may still be able to secure the bottom of the bag by attaching a strap, bungee cord, or a separate piece of cord to the attachment point on the bag and then to any appropriate place inside the car. All of the attachment points have quick release buckles and D rings. Some people prefer to use bungee cords which may be a faster way of securing the bag. Bungee cords can be attached to the D rings.

Once the bag is secured, test it's stability by simulating the movement of a rough road. You can push and pull on the bag to test the stability. Make sure it can not rock enough in any direction to possibly hit the window, dash or a seat in front of the bag. You can use any combination of the straps supplied, or bungee cords and any strong cord you obtain. The bottom line is you don't want your gear damaged because the bag was not secured properly. I would suggest always taking cord or bungee cords with you in case the supplied straps don't work with a vehicle you have never seen or are not familiar with.

Your lens/camera will probably be loose inside the bag. When you place your camera/lens in the bag, rotate the tripod foot so it is in either corner of the bag next to the back part of the bag. Tightening the tripod foot in that position will help stabilize the camera/lens in the bag. As of February 2008 I have added a Velcro strap inside the bag that can wrap around the lens to help stabilize it when you are carrying the bag on your back. Since this strap is somewhat hidden by the camera body you will probably try to pull the camera / lens out of the bag and think something is hung inside. Then of course, you will remember you have not released the strap.

There are two adjustable straps on the front of the bag that can be tightened to stop the lens/camera from wobbling around inside the bag. The top strap has a quick release buckle which will need to be released when you unzip the bag and withdraw your lens/camera. Most photographers will leave the bag completely zipped up and closed until they need to use it. Leaving the bag open will expose the camera to more dust.

The Big Lens Bag has four zippers on the front of the bag. These zippers allow you to access the bag from the right or left side and from the front. By pulling down two zippers on the same side next to you, you can extract the lens/camera without having to pull it up vertically. It would very difficult in some cases to withdraw your lens/camera vertically because of the car ceiling clearance. The Big Lens Bag zipper arrangement allows you to extract the lens/camera with a sideways motion.

ONE NOTE OF CAUTION

Do not stand your bag up with your lens/camera in it without securing it. Your lens/camera in a vertical position is inherently unstable. **It can easily fall over.** Always lay it down in a horizontal position. Your investment in your big lens/camera is in the thousands of dollars. Don't take a chance on ruining a great trip by damaging your camera gear.

Pockets

The Big Lens Bag has an external pocket for your flash. If you look inside the pocket you will notice there is a padded divider which will allow you to place an additional item like a flash cord behind the divider. On the other side of the bag is a zippered pocket. It is designed to hold a 2X, 1.4X extender, and both 12mm and 25 mm extension tubes. The double zippers will allow you to remove any item without the necessity of removing all the items to get to the item in the bottom of the pocket. Put the longest extender or tube in the bottom of the pocket. On the front middle of the bag there is a large flat pocket that is designed to hold a Better Beamer Tele flash. You can also put a modular Wimberley flash bracket extender in that pocket. On the upper sides of the bag are two small flat pockets. They are designed to stow the long straps when they are not being used to secure the bag to a seat. You will also notice behind the bottom three pockets there is a space you can use to stow other items like bungee cords. If you stow bungee cords there leave the hooks out.

You can carry the bag by using the padded shoulder straps or by using the 1 ½" strap on the front of the bag.

Care and Handling

The Big Lens Bag has plastic stiffeners in the back and bottom of the bag. These stiffeners can be removed for replacement or if you need to fold the bag up. If you look on the bottom of the bag you will see a tab for a Velcro closure. If you open the Velcro you will be able to withdraw the small bottom stiffener or if you open the other Velcro closure you will be able to withdraw the longer stiffener that runs up the back of the bag. The stiffeners are there to give the bag some rigidity which makes withdrawing and inserting your lens/camera in and out of the bag easier. I do not recommend removing the stiffeners.

Do not leave the bag in the sun unless it is necessary. UV rays deteriorate nylon. If you need to clean the bag try to spot clean dirty areas using a soft rag and soapy water. Wipe the soap off with a clean moist rag. If the entire bag needs to be washed, do it by hand in your bathtub with lukewarm water and any mild soap. Rinse the bag thoroughly with clean clear water. Repeat the rinsing if necessary to get all the soap out. Air dry the bag indoors or outdoors in the shade - not in the sun. Excessive dust will make the zippers stop working properly. Washing the bag will clean the zippers and help them work properly.

Good shooting - I hope your bag serves you well.

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