

Vertex Photographic

Molar Bean Bag V2 Plate™ - Product Instruction Sheet

This optional plate allows you to attach a ball head or gimbal type head like the Wimberley Head version I or II to the V2 Molar Bean Bag. You can attach a ball head and mount your lens directly to the ball head or you can attach a Wimberley Sidekick™ to the ball head. You can attach any gimbal head that has a 3/8 inch 16 thread screw hole. You can also attach a quick release clamp to the plate. We recommend the Really Right Stuff B2 LLR II or PLC-1 clamps.

Attaching Ball/Gimbal Heads

To attach these heads:

1. Remove the cap on the 3/8 bolt. Save the cap in case you want to store the plate without a head on it, the cap will protect the bolt threads.
2. There is a small storage place for the thread cap inside the nylon cover where the pile Velcro closes the cover. Grasp the two nylon tape tabs to open the Velcro closure exposing the plate. You will see a small space under the 1" Velcro where you can store the thread cap when you have a head mounted on the plate.
3. Now simply screw on your ball head or your gimbal head. Screw it on just like you would put the head on a tripod. It should be snug but hand tightening is all that is necessary.
4. Be careful not to cross thread the bolt threads and the threads on the head. You may find it easier to turn the gimbal head upside down and screw the plate on instead of attempting to turn the gimbal head.

Attaching Really Right Stuff B2 LLR11 Clamps

To attach these clamps:

1. Take a straight slot screwdriver or a quarter, and remove the 3/8" bolt from the center hole. Save the bolt.
2. Place the clamp on top of the V2 Plate and push the two supplied 1/4 20 screws through the plate and carefully screw them into the threaded holes on the clamp.
3. Be careful not to cross thread the screws or thread holes in the clamp.
4. Tighten the screws with a screwdriver or quarter.

Attaching Really Right Stuff PLC-1 Clamp

1. The plate comes with an installed 1" long 3/8 bolt, which you need to first remove.
2. Next install the 3/8 bolt that is 3/4" long, it is shipped with the 1/4 20 screws.
3. Once you have the 3/8 3/4" long bolt installed carefully mount the PLC-1 clamp on top of the V2 plate.
4. You will need to tighten the small knob in order to tighten the clamp snugly to the 3/8 bolt.

Attaching the Plate to the Bean Bag

Once you have your ball head or gimbal head attached you can easily attach the plate and head by laying the plate on top of the bean bag and securing the 2" Velcro on each side of the bean bag. You may find it easier to attach one Velcro side first and then pull the plate tight across the bean bag and attach the other Velcro side. You may get a tighter snugger fit of the plate if you attach it after you have rolled the window down in your vehicle and placed the bean bag on the car door. You want the plate to fit snugly on top of the bean bag in order to have a stable platform for your camera/lens.

Using the Plate

After the bean bag and plate are mounted on your vehicle door frame grab the ball head or gimbal head and give the whole set up a good shake to test the stability. That will help the bean bag fill settle in and wrap around the door frame. Readjust the Velcro if necessary. If everything feels solid, attach your lens to the ball head or gimbal head. You may need to move the lens forward or backward to balance the lens on the bean bag.

Obviously the height of your viewfinder on your camera will vary according to the vehicle you are in. Some vehicles have higher or lower doors and seats which will affect where your eye meets your viewfinder. If you are using your own vehicle test that at home and consider a height adjustment in the seat by using some sort of seat cushion or anything you can sit on like a folded blanket. How tall of a person you are will also affect where your eye meets the viewfinder. You can raise the window if you need to get your camera/ lens higher but having the bean bag on the door frame is the most stable option.

A Note of Caution

Any time you put your lens/ camera up on any bean bag on a car door or window you risk the chance of it falling out and causing serious damage. This is especially true when you attach a gimbal head or ball head with a Side Kick because your camera gear has a higher center of gravity and more weight up higher than resting directly on the bean bag. With that in mind, please be very careful and pay attention to the stability of your camera gear. You may find that when you are driving around in a photographic area you will be tempted to leave the bean bag on the car door and maybe even your lens/camera on the bean bag. Often, we only have seconds to get a picture of a bird or animal so having your camera gear ready to go is sometimes desirable.

If you do decide to leave your gear on the car door while you are changing location make 100% sure you have a firm grip on your camera gear and realize there is a risk involved. You may want to consider attaching a piece of cord or bungee cord to the 1" tape carrying handle on the bottom of the bag to some point inside the vehicle to help stop the bag from falling out of the vehicle. Finding a place to attach a cord or bungee cord is more difficult these days now that electric windows are more prevalent. If you go to a foreign destination like Africa and want to leave your bean bags installed on the vehicle please consider lashing them to something on the vehicle. The roads in Africa are very rough and if you don't secure the bean bag it could easily bounce out of the vehicle.

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