

# FMC-100

## Counterbalance-Kit

### User Manual



# FORNAX MOUNTS

[www.fornaxmounts.com](http://www.fornaxmounts.com)

# Assembly

1. After mounting the LighTrack on your tripod, fix the FMC-100 counterweight set to the LighTrack  $\frac{3}{8}$ " thread without any weights, cameras, telescopes etc.
2. After securing the FMC-100 counterweight set to the LighTrack, you can CAERFULLY begin to apply weight to the system. First, mount the telescope/camera. If help is available ask someone to hold the set. If there is nobody to help, hold the camera/telescope while using the other hand to mount the counterweights. The quantity of counterweights depends on the useful weight of the equipment. Try applying weights one by one.
3. Only release the telescope/camera if you are 100% sure that they are appropriately secured. Also make sure that the counterweights are tightly secured and that the security screws at the end of the counterweight pole is installed. Falling counterweights can cause serious injury!

## Using the Vixen Clamp:

There are three grub screws on the Fornax Vixen Clamp that can help adjust the distance between the clamp jaw and the clamp body. These screws are factory set, but before use make sure they are appropriately set or there is a chance of the vixen plate (not included) sliding out of the vixen clamp. In such case use an Allen wrench to tighten the three grub screws. Do not overtighten the grub screws so as not to tilt the clamp jaws. This step must be performed only once, but the tightness of the jaw has to be examined before each use. Each Vixen plate's size can be a little different! Depends on the manufacturers. If you use different Vixen plates please make sure your clamp can hold safely each plates.

## Balancing

Once the system is securely fixed, balancing can start.

1. First, carefully loosen the two tightening screws of the FMC100 set, then balance the camera/telescope towards the optical axis (push the vixen clamp into a position where the equipment is not tilted in either direction).
2. Second, the other axis must be balanced following these steps:
  - 2.1. Define the position of the counterweight axis, ie. how far the telescope/camera is from the counterweight axis, that is the same as the LighTrack axis.
  - 2.2. Define the quantity of weights to be applied on the counterweight axis.
  - 2.3. Define the position of the counterweights on the counterweight axis.

Performing these steps allows polar alignment (see LighTrack manual for further details).

