

# VariZoom

# SOLO JIB™

Thanks for purchasing a Solo Jib from VariZoom. This lightweight telescoping jib is very easy to set up and use, but because it's a counterweighted system that elevates your camera, you must exercise caution when operating the Solo Jib. **Without proper setup and operation, damage to the equipment and/or injury to the user and people around the equipment may occur.**

**Included items: Solo Jib, mounting stud & hand knob for bowl-mount tripods, 5.5 lbs counter weight ("2.5kg"), bar fitting and nut/spacers for mounting counterweight, carrying bag.**



Watch the video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6dRv1vBr7g#t=52>

- 1) Never remove the camera or counterweights without the appropriate support to prevent the jib from swinging up or down.
- 2) Do not extend the telescoping sections of the jib while the camera is mounted. The weight of the camera might cause a section to slide suddenly and pinch your hands or even damage the camera.
- 3) Make absolutely certain that the jib is securely mounted to the tripod and leveled so no slipping or loosening can occur. Also make sure the tripod is adequately level and stable relative to the ground.
- 4) Tighten all joints thoroughly to prevent unwanted extension/contraction.
- 5) Never swing the jib around in a crowd of people.
- 6) Set up your camera and jib exactly as you intend to use it before going out on a shoot. The main factor to dial in is the amount of counterweight needed. Unless your camera is very small, to use the jib at its longest extension, you will need additional weights. Likewise, using the jib at its shortest may require smaller weights. Standard barbell plates with a 1" hole can be purchased at sporting goods stores. We recommend buying one each 1.25, 2.5, 5 and 12.5 lbs plate for maximum flexibility. For the maximum 7lbs load at the camera platform at full extension, you'll need about 19 lbs total.

This manual covers both the aluminum and carbon fiber versions of the Solo Jib. Setup and Operation for both are identical, with the only substantial difference being the lighter weight of the carbon fiber version. If you have any questions or concerns about using your Solo Jib, please contact us [info@varizoom.com](mailto:info@varizoom.com) or call 512-219-7722.

## **Step 1 – Setting up the Tripod**

The Solo Jib can be mounted to nearly any type of industry-standard tripod, including 65mm & 75mm bowl-mount, flat base w/ 3/8"-16 stud, and 100mm bowl-mount (with purchase of optional adapter). However, if you are using a tripod from another manufacturer, please make sure it is capable of handling the load of the jib, counterweights, and camera, and that it's sufficiently stable to handle the operational demands of the jib. It may be a good idea to sandbag or counterweight your tripod to add stability and prevent tipping over, and always make sure the leg sections are properly tightened to prevent sliding and toppling of the entire assembly.

When setting up the tripod, make sure you have an adequate radius of clearance to operate the jib. You should have at least an arm-span of clearance all the way around the tripod to be safe. Set the tripod height and level the legs as best possible. Lock the legs and secure the tripod. Next you will mount the jib to the tripod.

## **Step 2 – Attaching the Solo Jib to the Tripod**

We recommend tightening the tilt brake and pan brake before attaching the Solo Jib to your tripod.

**Option A (75mm or 65mm tripod)** - If you're mounting to a 75mm or 65mm tripod (like the VariZoom VZTK75A), you will need to attach the supplied mounting stud to the jib base. Tighten the stud thoroughly, then fit the jib base into the bowl mount of the tripod and use the supplied hand knob to tighten and level the jib base. To prevent the jib from shifting, make sure you tighten the knob thoroughly.



**Option B (flat-base tripod with 3/8"-16 stud)** - If you're mounting to a flat-base tripod with 3/8"-16 stud, the jib base will thread directly onto that stud. Use the set screws on the flat base to prevent loosening.



**Option C (100mm tripod)** – If you want to mount the jib to a 100mm tripod, you will need the optional adapter plate (VZBR10075, not pictured). Then the tightening will work

Once you have attached the jib to your tripod, level it and lock it in place. It is very important that you secure the tripod and jib so nothing can slip, fall over, or collide with people or surrounding objects.

### **Step 3 – Setting the Length of the Solo Jib**

The Solo Jib has a 2-stage telescoping arm and single-telescoping tail design that allows a balance of maximum extension with good rigidity. The longer the arm (front of jib) is extended, the more you will have to extend the tail (back of jib). The jib will operate well at the shortest and longest configurations as long as it's properly set up and used within the specifications.

Start by adding the supplied counterweight to the tail of the jib. Before you can add the counterweight, you must attach the bar fitting to the tail, then add the weight itself. You can use the second spacer/nut if you add more than one weight. The jib will start a little tail-heavy, but as you extend the jib it will balance out. Decide how long you want to extend the jib, then start by extending the first stage.

Loosen the first set of twist locks (the larger set closest to the tripod), grab the camera platform (front end w/ "Solo Jib" printed) and pull out the first stage to the desired length. Note the bubble level on the camera platform (under the camera plate). Use the bubble level to even the tube lengths until the camera platform is level. You may also have to slightly twist the camera platform side-to-side to get the bubble centered and the platform exactly level. Tighten the twist locks.



If you need to make the jib longer than the max extension of the first stage, then you'll have to extend the second stage. Using the second set of twist locks, repeat the same process as before, extending the second stage and making sure to level the platform and tighten the twist locks.



If the jib is front heavy, you'll want to extend the tail by loosening the twist lock and pulling the tube out slowly until the jib stays level. **The twist lock for the tail may seem jammed on first use – do not worry, it requires more force and you won't damage it. If the twist lock initially turns a small amount but then seems stuck, you have not yet released the locking mechanism.**



**Go ahead and give it a hard twist and it will break loose, then you will feel it unthreading.** After extending the tail to the desired length, tighten the twist lock on the tail. Next you'll be mounting your camera, so we recommend using a table or stand to support the jib to prevent it from falling down.

#### **Step 4 – Setting up your Camera on the Solo Jib**

Before attaching the camera, it's a good idea to have some sense of the amount of counterweight needed to balance the jib. Make sure the jib is level, too. You may need to support the front of the jib (e.g., a chair or lightstand) while attaching the camera. Make sure all the twist locks are tightened before attaching the camera. Use the appropriate screw to fix the camera plate to your camera, then slide the plate w/ camera attached back into the receiver on the camera platform. Tighten the slide plate lock.



#### **Counterweighting guide**

Because the arm and tail length can be adjusted continuously, giving a precise figure for "Camera X requires Z lbs of weight" is not really possible. Instead, we'll offer some examples. At the maximum load of 7lbs (e.g., Sony PMW-EX3) with the jib fully extended, the jib can be counterbalanced using 19.25 lbs (weights: 1.25 + 5.5 + 12.5) and the tail just an inch short of full extension. So here's a quick guide along those lines (numbers are not exact, for comparison only). Use the second spacer/nut when adding extra weights:

### Fully-Extended Jib

Camera 3 lbs requires 9.25 lbs counterweight w/ tail extended almost fully

Camera 4 lbs requires 13.75 lbs counterweight w/ tail extended almost fully

Camera 7 lbs requires 19.25 lbs counterweight w/ tail extended almost fully

### Half-Extended Jib

Camera 3 lbs requires 6.75 lbs counterweight w/ tail extended almost fully

Camera 4 lbs requires 9.25 lbs counterweight w/ tail extended almost fully

Camera 7 lbs requires 13.75 lbs counterweight w/ tail extended almost fully

### Compact Jib (not extended at all)

Camera 3 lbs requires 6.75 lbs counterweight w/ tail NOT extended OR 3.75 lbs counterweight w/ tail extended almost fully

Camera 4 lbs requires 9.25 lbs counterweight w/ tail NOT extended OR 5.5 lbs w/ tail almost fully extended

Camera 7 lbs requires 13.75 lbs counterweight w/ tail NOT extended OR 8lbs counterweight w/ tail extended almost fully

Attach the counterweights using the supplied hardware. Once the camera is attached and the counterweights are added, fine-tune the balance by sliding the tail section in or out. When the jib is level (parallel to the ground), it should float in place once the balance has been perfectly set. **Note: at full extension, you may notice the jib wants to move when tilted all the way up or down – tighten the tilt brake slightly to hold position.**



### **Adding a fluid head**

You can attach a flat-base fluid head to the camera platform of the Solo Jib (the ChickenHead from VariZoom is an example). Use the larger screw (3/8"-16) supplied with the slide plate to attach the fluid head and then reinsert the slide plate and lock it. The only difference in adding a fluid head to your setup is that more counterweight will be required and the maximum camera capacity will be reduced by how much the fluid head weighs. Make sure to fully tighten the fluid head to the slide plate to prevent loosening during operation.

## Step 6 – Operating the Solo Jib

**Warnings: 1) Never remove the camera while the jib is counterweighted without proper support and assistance, otherwise the jib might catapult and cause injury or damage. 2) Never swing the jib around carelessly or in a crowd. 3) Do not operate the jib on sloping ground. 4) Never leave the jib unattended. 4) Do not adjust the forward telescoping section of the jib arm with the camera mounted, or if you do, use great caution and grasp the camera platform, as the weight of the camera may cause the camera platform to flip down and pinch your hands severely.**



The jib will only be as steady as the tripod on which it is mounted, so use a sturdy tripod, and when possible, add sandbags or other stabilizing mass to prevent the tripod from moving and flexing.

You can attach video monitors to the jib's pan/tilt base using an articulated arm threaded into the 1/4"-20 or 3/8"-16 holes on the vertical support plates.

You can achieve smooth sweeping shots from left-to-right, arcing elevation shots, and floating perspective shots from a variety of angles. We recommend shooting some practice footage before taking the jib on a live shoot to ensure your comfort and familiarity with the unit.

Essentially, using the Solo Jib is a fairly intuitive process. Because the Solo Jib is so lightweight, in order to achieve smooth moves, you need to operate the jib with a soft touch. If you make sudden moves, it will show in your images, so it's important to start and stop gradually to achieve smooth results. This becomes more important the longer the jib is extended, as any bumps or unwanted movement will be exaggerated.



Mounting holes for optional articulated arms, etc.



If you keep your hands on the jib, you may be able to operate it without the tilt or pan brakes tightened. If you need to take your hands off the jib, you may want to tighten the tilt and/or pan brakes to hold position. These brakes are not hard-stop mechanisms, they are soft-stops that can be pushed-through.



The most important thing to always remember when operating the jib is safety. Make sure all camera, jib and tripod mounting and adjustment points are tightened. Do not swing the jib over the heads of people or through crowds. If you have any questions, contact us. Thanks!

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

#### Accessories for the Solo Jib

SOLOGRIP – accessory grip for tail of Solo Jibs, also allows mounting lens controller

VZ-TK75A - tripod

SOLOSLIDERDOLLY – track dolly system

VZ-M7 – monitor

VZ-MICROARM – articulated mounting arm

CHICKENHEAD – fluid pan/tilt head

*Optional Solo Slider Dolly and VZ-TK75A shown to right*



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