

Bitesized Review

By
John Hallett Photography



Bitesized Review: Vanguard GH-100 pistol grip tripod head

I bought this some time ago and when I first tried it I wasn't sure that I'd done the right thing - it was so different from using a 'normal' ball & socket head. However, over time, it has grown on me to an extent that I rarely use anything else. It seems to be coming more popular too - with even Amateur Photography magazine giving it away as main prize for its Readers Spotlight feature.

Fitting to a tripod is as easy as with any tripod head - it simple screws on. The Vanguard comes with a 1/4 inch female thread and a 3/8 inch adapter. So it should fit on any tripod.

Once fitted it looks pretty cool - and it is certainly sturdy.



A plate fits to the bottom of your camera into the tripod bush. It has a handy foldable handle so you don't need to ferret about trying to find a coin to fit a slot every time you want to tighten it up or take it off.



A spigot automatically locks the plate onto the pistol grip as soon as it is fitted. The top of the grip also has a useful spirit level for alignment before taking panoramas (more on that later).



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Allowing the grip to move around on its 40mm diameter ball-head is easy - just press the trigger.



The amount of friction on the ball is simply adjusted by turning the large knob at the rear of the handle.



This tripod head is perfect for panoramas. Just loosen the concentric lever at the side and the top-plate rotates through 360 degrees with an audible click every 5 degrees. By using the built-in spirit level it does make panoramas simple to set up.



The head easily turns by 90 degrees for portrait shots.



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You can also adjust the position of the handle itself by using the pull-back collar. As easy as 1,2,3:

1..



2..



..3



Removal of the camera & top-plate is easy. Just press the orange safety catch and flick the silver lever.



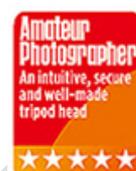
There is now a further version - the GH-300T - which has the addition of a remote shutter release built-in to the trigger - ideal for wildlife & sports photographers. Just make sure you get the correct version for your camera - the shutter release plug needs to be the correct one. They are available for Canon, Nikon, Sony, Pentax & Samsung.

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At about £85 (Sept 2016) the Vanguard GH-100 is no cheap option - but nowhere near the dearest either. It's a great piece of kit and it certainly makes you stand out from the crowd. Hardly surprising then, that it's been awarded the following:



2012

Pro's

- Well built
- Easy to use & adaptable
- Locks up well
- Great panorama functionality

Con's

- Trigger grip makes it a bit awkward to fit into a tripod bag

Similar products from other manufacturers may be available.

If you found this review useful please let me know by leaving a comment on my Facebook page (or just 'Like' it) at <https://www.facebook.com/johnhallettphotographs/> . Thanks