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Setup Simplicity

Video technology is nothing new; it has been around for many years. The video camera is also nothing new; in fact, many people own their own video camera. The camera can be used to capture those unforgettable memories in life. Video cameras come in all styles and sizes. For example, there is the basic home video camera that is relatively easy to setup and use. The home video camera, however, has a big brother that may not appear to be as simple to setup. The Panasonic 2500 Pro is one such example. This camera is a studio-quality camera that is portable and can be setup relatively quickly. The setup of this camera can be completed in four basic steps: tripod leveling, camera mounting, equipment hookup, and color balancing.

As with anything you build, you must have a good foundation. The assembly of the Panasonic 2500 Pro is not different. The tripod is the critical piece that provides this foundation. There are many different tripods available for this particular model of camera: the Bojo 27-C, 28-P, and 28-L, just to name a few. It is very important that the tripod is level and on steady ground before any of the camera components can be attached to the tripod. The Bojo 28-P is leveled by turning the locking screws counterclockwise and adjusting the legs outward, ensuring that the tripod is stable. Once all adjustments are made, the locking screws can be turned clockwise, locking the legs in place. After the tripod is level and adjusted for the operator, you are ready to attach the camera.

The mounting of the camera is the next important step in this process. The mounting plate must be slid slowly onto the mounting bracket until the plate locks in place. The camera's

main unit attaches to this with a locking pin. The camera is clipped to the plate with the locking pin. This pin is placed through the hole directly under the AV inputs. After these steps are carefully completed, it is very important that you ensure that the camera is securely attached to the tripod. This can be accomplished with a simple upward lift. If the tripod comes up with the camera, the camera is secure and ready for equipment hookup.

The viewfinder, zoom controls, and focus controls must be added before the camera can be used properly. The viewfinder attaches to the track directly on top of the camera. The locking pin will snap when it is completely attached. The cable that sends the video signal is plugged into the video output plug above the lens of the camera. It is the only plug that the cable will fit in, so it is relatively impossible to mess this step up. The zoom and focus controls are attached to the side of the tripod through the slots marked “focus” and “zoom.” The control handles for each of these will lock in place. Next the cables must then be plugged into the inputs on the underside of the lens. As with the viewfinder cable, these connections will go in only one place. So, again, you cannot mess this step up. Finally, the camera’s power supply or batteries must be inserted in the AC or battery input plug. The camera can now be turned on, using the red power switch located on the bottom left of the camera.

Once the camera is turned on, it can be balanced and prepared for shooting. These last few steps are standard in all camera operations. The focus and brightness must be checked, using the focus adjustment on the focus handle. The brightness and white balance can be adjusted with a single press of the “auto white” button on the front of the camera. Once the camera’s focus and colors are adjusted, it is ready for shooting.

With the completion of these steps, you are now ready for the fun part, the videoing. The Panasonic 2500 Pro has many uses and can be a useful and enjoyable way to capture the memories of life.