

How to choose the right Tripod and Ball Head

With so many tripod and ball head products available in the market, it is important to select the tripod and ball head combination that is right for you.

- 1. Choose your application:
 - a. **Discipline:** Tactical, competition, hunting, general practice etc.
 - b. Distance: Short, medium, long range
 - c. **Mobility:** carry long distance or stationary
- 2. Consider your budget

Consider these Options when making your choice:

- 1. Standalone Tripod to be used with various static rest system (Hog, Pig, SM-76, SM-86), Tripod with integrated ball head, Tripod and ball head
- 2. Heavy vs light
 - a. Lighter tripods are easier to carry long distance
 - b. Lighter tripods are easier to move around during competition stages
 - c. Heavy tripods are more stable while shooting and during adverse climate
- 3. Tripod load bearing
 - a. Generally larger diameter base and legs provide a higher load capacity
 - b. Generally Higher load capacity tripods are more expensive
- 4. Ball head size and load bearing
 - a. Generally larger diameter base and ball provide a higher load capacity
 - b. Generally Higher load capacity ball heads are more expensive
- 5. Carbon Fiber vs Aluminum
 - a. Generally Carbon Fiber tripods with the "same diameter leg tubes" are lighter than aluminum
 - b. Generally Carbon Fiber tripods are more expensive than aluminum
- 6. Folded dimensions
 - a. This is a consideration for backpack carry during long hike or up the stairs
- 7. Tripod Min and Max supported heights
 - a. This is a consideration for positional shooting (Prone, sitting, knelling, standing)
 - b. Shooters heights requirement (Short, average, tall)
- 8. Leg locking type (Lever vs twist)
 - a. Personal preference
 - b. Ease and speed of deployment
 - c. Quietness of the operation