Using the CorbraCrane I

***NOTE: this is a two person job!

COBRACRANE TRIPOD SET UP:
[ ] After you have pulled out the legs, extend them to the desired height. Note that if you turn the leg locks clockwise it will lock the leg extensions; if you turn them counter clockwise they will loosen and you will be able to adjust the length.

[ ] Use the bubble level to make sure that the tripod is level.

[ ] For use with the CobraCrane, do NOT crank up the center column to adjust the height (use the legs) as it doesn't handle the weight.

[ ] Lock the pan and tilt on the panning head before you put the CobraCrane I on; you want this flat/level.. (Once the crane is mounted you will want to unlock and adjust the tension for the pan and lock the tilt).

COBRACRANE SET UP:
[ ] Set up the CobraCrane tripod (do NOT use any other tripod with this crane).

[ ] Unzip CobraCrane bag. Note that the end with the quick release plate should always be facing towards the top of the bag and not at the bottom of the bag.

[ ] Fully lock the tilt lock knob on the tripod (maybe lock the pan knob, but make sure to unlock after if you plan to pan). Mount the CobraCrane onto the tripod by sliding the plate on the center bracket onto the tripod release system. Make sure to lock the nut to keep it in place. Use the arrows to help in this process

[ ] Remove the quick release plate from the system on the U bracket and thread it into your camera. Make sure that all batteries, mics, lights, etc. that you plan to use that will be mounted to camera are affixed to it as this will be important when balancing the crane.

[ ] Slide camera/quick release plate onto the U camera bracket on the crane. Because one end of the crane now has the camera weight on it, you MUST have someone hold the camera end, rest it on a table/chair, or use a spare tripod to rest it on, put it on the floor, etc.. Make sure that you use the lock nut on the quick release system to lock your camera on.

[ ] Remove the weight handle, star nut, and washer at the rear of the CobraCrane. Add weight until your camera raises and the crane is perfectly balanced. Put on the washer, use the star nut to lock the weights down, and put the weight handle back on. *Use the wrist weights to add a smaller amount of weight. The typical formula is camera weight x2 + 20%...trial and error works well. For the 60D with 50mm lens the 10lb weight should be good. It is balanced when you crane up to the center, let go, and the camera end or weight end don't move up or down.
[ ] Remove the monitor and articulating arm from the case. You will need 9 **RECHARGEABLE AA batteries** (we have these in Room 18). Do **NOT** use regular AA batteries. Thread the articulating arm into the bottom of the monitor so it’s snug and tighten the center knob (the center knob locks the articulating arm). Tighten the clamp end of the articulating arm securely to the pan handle of the tripod. Once secured you can loosen the center knob and fully adjust the monitor so you can see it; tighten center knob once you’re happy with the position. Lastly, plug the phono cable at the back of the crane into the monitor and the plug the stereo A/V cable in the camera bag into the phono coupler near the U bracket (you may want to wrap the A/V cable around the U bracket or use gaffer’s tape so you don’t have so much slack). Turn the camera on and then the monitor on and you’re ready to go. **When you’re not shooting, shut off the monitor to conserve battery energy.**

You are now ready to shoot!

*Make sure the pan knob on the tripod head is loose when using the crane.*

*Typically, tighten the tilt function on the tripod head so it’s flat. If you want to change the angle of the camera for a crane move, loosen the knob, adjust using the pan handle on the tripod, tighten the tilt knob.*

**BREAKDOWN AND PUT AWAY:**
[ ] Reverse the set up process. Unplug jack from your camera’s A/V output and cable from monitor. Release the articulating arm clamp holding the monitor and remove from the pan handle. Thread off the monitor and take out the batteries and place them in the case.

[ ] With the camera end braced or being held, remove the weights. Do **NOT** remove the camera first. Make sure you re-affix the star nut, washer and weight handle.

[ ] Remove camera from quick release system. Make sure that you take off the quick release plate on the bottom of the camera and put it back on the crane.

[ ] Tighten the pan lock on the tripod first (this will keep the fluid head from moving around during dismount). Loosen lock nut on tripod head. Using two people, slide the CobraCrane off of the fluid head of the tripod.

[ ] Put the CobraCrane back in the padded bag with the camera quick release system and U bracket at the top of the bag and folded inwards.

[ ] Break down the tripod. Fold in legs and tighten locks. Turn the panning handles back to correct position. Fold down fluid head/panning handles and tighten the tilt lock.

[ ] Make sure that you have put the release plate back onto the tripod and onto the crane.
IMPORTANT NOTES:

1). Do not use this in the rain or let it get wet (duh).

2). Put everything back in proper fashion. Make sure that U bracket end of the crane is pointing upwards

3). Never keep this in your car.

4). Be careful with this. It’s expensive and you’re responsible for it. We only have 2. Don’t be that person.