Using the CorbraCrane II

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

**COBRA CRANE 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 II, it's best to loosen the dual panning handles and turn them upsidedown. Retighten them after. (this is a personal touch, not necessary)

[ ] For use with the CobraCrane II, 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 II 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).

**COBRA CRANE SET UP:**

[ ] Set up the CobraCrane II tripod (do NOT use any other tripod with this crane).

[ ] Unzip CobraCrane II 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/pan lock knobs on the tripod. Mount the CobraCrane II 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. Make sure that all the velcro strips are facing upwards; this is where you will affix the monitor.

[ ] 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, use a spare tripod, or rest it on floor. Make sure that you use the lock nut on the quick release system to lock your camera on.

[ ] Remove the monitor and monitor battery mechanism from its case. Using the velcro, affix the monitor and battery (battery should go on the inside of CobraCrane II rails where you see that larger velcro strips). Plug the stereo AV cable in the camera kit into the barrel cable near U and plug the 1/8” (3.5mm) cable at back of crane to the monitor (this is important to the next step since the monitor/battery add weight to the back of the crane). We recommend that you
flip the LCD on the camera around and get your exposure and focus before you plug the stereo AV cable into the camera (this will override the LCD screen and make it hard to get focus and exposure).

[ ] Remove the weight handle, star nut, and washer at the rear of the CobraCrane II. 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.

[ ] Plug the stereo A/V cable into the output of your camera and turn on monitor.

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.

[ ] With the camera end braced or being held, remove the monitor/battery and 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 II off of the fluid head of the tripod.

[ ] Put the CobraCrane II 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.