

Advantages of Using a Tripod and Commercial Tripods

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Using tripods or commercial tripods is an absolute must for any photographer wishing to make the best of their photos and avoid ruining a potentially great shot, and for anyone seeking to improve their work dramatically. Tripods are primarily advantageous for use throughout the many different occasions on which a photographer needs to minimize the amount of movement by their camera, which, even if very delicate, can cause a photographed image to blur or slip slightly out of focus — which can be especially disastrous in one-off or spectacular situations.

Despite the fact that in many cases, holding a camera by hand to take a picture seems adequate, it is in fact always better to use tripods. That said; there exists an important rule of thumb for knowing when the use of tripods is absolutely necessary. That is: Note the focal length of your lens (easily found in its labeling) and, in working out the reciprocal (the fraction given when you divide 1 by the focal length), you are left with the maximum shutter speed after which it is essential to use tripods.

If you have a 50mm lens, therefore, any exposure time of more than 1/50th of a second definitely requires a tripod. But furthermore, if you want to shoot photographic scenes in any form of lighting other than bright daylight, such as darker evenings or stormy skies, the long exposure times required to take such photos well means that the use of tripods is essential for the best results and steadiest, most pin-point shots.

Commercial Tripods: In the world of photography, there are all sorts of tripods for all sorts of photographers in all sorts of situations. There are unipods and tabletop tripods and lightweight aluminum tripods for the mobile photographer and plastic amateur models and a host of other options to fit more or less any need.

But for professionals, a higher standard of quality is required. Professional photographers depend on having solid, crystal clear images — and with heavy SLRs and telephoto lenses, the only way to get a perfect image is to use a good commercial tripod. Commercial tripods are usually more expensive than amateur or cheap models, and can range in to prices in the several hundreds.

The most common style commercial tripods are built in is the heavy duty full sized tripod. Built for stability and durability, full sized professional tripods allow a smooth, full range of motion and a rock-solid base — perfect for the telephoto photographer. The downside, of course, is that these tripods are usually also rather heavy and large, making them difficult to carry from shoot to shoot without a good carrying bag or, of course, a vehicle.

Whatever you decide on in terms of a tripod, keep in mind that the commercial versions will be more reliable and last far longer than the lightweight amateur models — though both have their uses. Many photographers keep a heavy commercial tripod for studio and still shoot use, but also keep a lighter, cheaper model for those times when they need to move fast and can't worry too much about damaging their tripods. Ask yourself what your needs are, and make your purchase based on that.