Publication number: S2153-4980/1

Original instructions: English.

We want you to receive Sachtler products that are always state of the art. Therefore we reserve the right to make changes based on technical advances.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this manual is believed to be correct at the time of printing. Vitec Videocom Ltd reserves the right to make changes to the information or specifications without obligation to notify any person of such revision or changes. Changes will be incorporated in new versions of the publication.

We are making every effort to ensure that our manuals are updated on a regular basis to reflect changes to product specifications and features. Should this manual not contain information on the core functionality of your product, please let us know. You may be able to access the latest revision of this manual from our website.

Vitec Videocom Ltd reserves the right to make changes to product design and functionality without notification.

Published by:
Vitec Videocom Ltd
Supports Technical Publications Department
William Vinten Building
Western Way
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 3TB
United Kingdom

E-mail: technical.publications@vitecgroup.com

Table of contents

Safety instructions

Read the General Safety and Operating instructions before using the product.

Hold the Ace Follow Focus securely when mounting or dismounting from the support rods.

Do not treat the Ace Follow Focus roughly or drop. This can cause damage to the transmission.

Clean regularly using a soft cloth and mild detergent.

Dry the product after use in wet conditions.

Should the product become defective, contact your local Sachtler service centre. To find your local service centre visit www.sachtler.com

Usage

The Ace Follow Focus is designed for use by professional camera operators to support high-performance lightweight cameras. The Ace Follow Focus must be mounted onto a suitable base plate, head and tripod designed to support the total payload.

Warranty

The warranty expires if:

(a) The Ace Follow Focus was operated improperly or not in line with the specified technical data.

(b) The Ace Follow Focus housing was opened by unauthorized personnel.

Sachtler reserve the right to make changes to product design and performance as technology advances.

Please register your product for an extended warranty period at www.sachtler.com

Scan Quick Reference (QR) code to view the Sachtler website.

Technical specification

Ace Follow Focus

0.41 kg (0.9 lb)

10.5 cm (4.1 in.)

7.7 cm (3.0 in.)

19.1 cm (7.5 in.) (Fully retracted)
21.6 cm (8.5 in.) (Fully extended)

Ø128 mm (5.0 in.) (Max lens dia.)
Ø39 mm (1.5 in.) (Min lens dia.)

Ø15 mm (0.5 in.) LWS rods

Friction wheel

Ø35 mm (1.4 in.)

Drive gear

50 tooth/0.8 module

Operating elements

The Ace Follow Focus has been designed to support a range of professional digital cameras and rod assemblies. The Ace Follow Focus consists of the following elements (see Fig. 1):

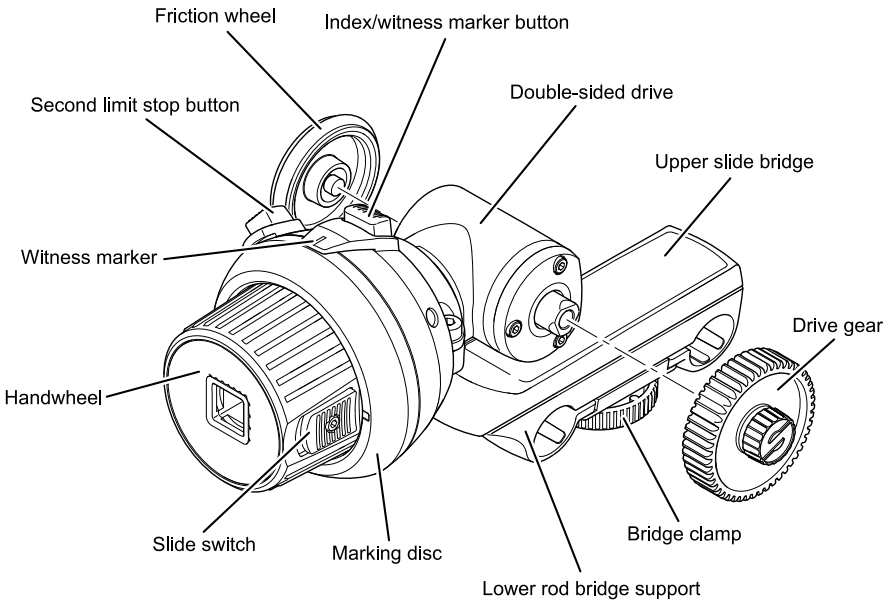

Fig. 1 Operating elements

Handwheel

The handwheel allows the operator to adjust the focus of the camera lens to desired focus points. The handwheel has a standard square socket for attachments.

Slide switch

The slide switch, when engaged, allows the operator to rotate the handwheel between set hard stops. When the slide switch is disengaged, the handwheel has infinite rotation. The slide switch is located on the handwheel.

Marking disc

A marking disc is supplied with the Ace Follow Focus to enable the operator to mark focal reference points. The marking disc is fitted over the handwheel.

Index/witness marker button

The index/witness marker button, when pressed, allows the index ring to be rotated through 360 degrees in either direction. When the slide switch is engaged, the operator can set the end focal point. When the slide switch is disengaged, the index only functions as a witness mark for the marking disc.

Second limit stop button

The second limit stop button, when pressed, allows the second limit ring to be rotated through 360 degrees in either direction. When the slide switch is engaged, the operator can set the start focal point. When the slide switch is disengaged, the second limit stop has no function.

Witness marker

The witness marker allows the operator to accurately align with the focal reference points on the marking disc.

Double-sided drive

The double-sided drive is mechanically driven by the handwheel and accommodates a friction wheel/drive gear on the front or rear shaft. The double-sided drive can be unscrewed and rotated through 180 degrees to allow the mechanism to move in the opposite direction, depending on the operators preference.

Friction wheel/drive gear

A friction wheel/drive gear can be attached to the front or rear of the double-sided drive. When attached, the friction wheel/drive gear engages with the camera lens to allow the focus to be set as desired.

Upper slide bridge

When the Ace Follow Focus is mounted on the support rods, the upper slide bridge can be adjusted to accommodate a variety of lens diameters. When the upper slide bridge is in the required position, it is secured in place using the bridge clamp.

Lower support rod bridge

The lower support rod bridge allows the Ace Follow Focus to be mounted onto Ø15 mm support rods. When the Ace Follow Focus has been adjusted to the required position, it is secured in place using the bridge clamp.

Bridge clamp

The bridge clamp has two functions. The first function is to act as a support rod clamp and the second function is to allow the upper slide bridge to be adjusted. The bridge clamp is located on the underside of the lower support rod bridge.

Ace Follow Focus mounting

The Ace Follow Focus can be used with any set up conforming to the Ø15mm LWS rod standard. When using the Ace Base Plate, mount the Ace Follow Focus and position on the support rods until the friction wheel or drive gear is aligned with the camera lens gear. The upper slide bridge is then adjusted to enable the friction wheel/drive gear to engage with the camera lens gear, the n secured in place with the bridge clamp. After mounting the Ace Follow Focus, the Ace Matte Box can be mounted to interface with the camera lens.

Assembly

Assembling the marking disc

The Ace Follow Focus comes supplied with a marking disc that is easy to remove and replace. The marking disc clicks into place over the handwheel.

To assemble the marking disc onto the Ace Follow Focus (see Fig. 2):

Ensure that the cut out on the marking disc [A] is aligned with the point on the handwheel [B].

Slide the marking disc over the handwheel and it push into position until an audible click is heard.

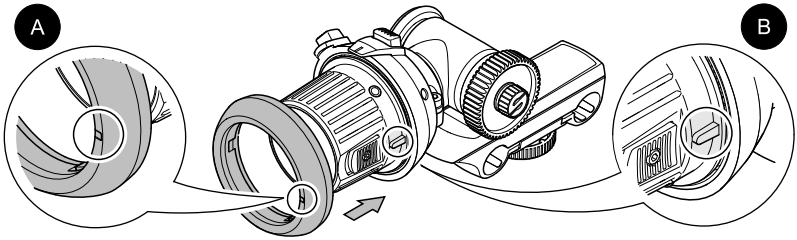

Fig. 2 Assembling the marking disc

Assembling the friction wheel/drive gear

The Ace Follow Focus comes supplied with a Ø35 mm friction wheel and a 50 tooth drive gear. The friction wheel/drive gear is secured to either the front or the rear of the double-sided drive.

To assemble the friction wheel or drive gear (see Fig. 4):

Select either the friction wheel or the drive gear for the lens in use.

Ensure that the key-way on the friction wheel/drive gear aligns with the key-way on the double-sided drive shaft and push into place [A].

Rotate the knurled screw on the friction wheel or drive gear in a clockwise direction to secure to the double-sided drive [B].

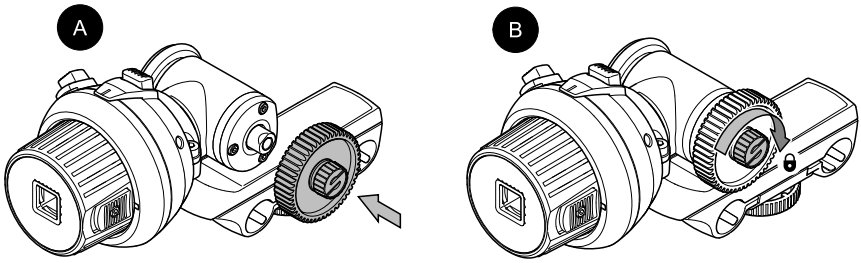

Fig. 3 Assembling the friction wheel/drive gear

Rotating the double-sided drive

The double-sided drive can be rotated to allow the gear mechanism to move in either direction.

To rotate the double-sided drive (see Fig. 4):

If fitted, loosen and remove the friction wheel/drive gear that is attached to the shortest side of the double-sided drive [A, B].

Using the 3mm Allen key supplied, loosen the screw securing the collar [B].

Rotate the double-sided drive 180 degrees, until an audible ‘click’ is heard [C].

Using the 3mm Allen key supplied, tighten the screw to secure the double-sided drive in place [D].

If required, install and secure the friction wheel/drive gear to the shortest side of the double-sided drive [D, E].

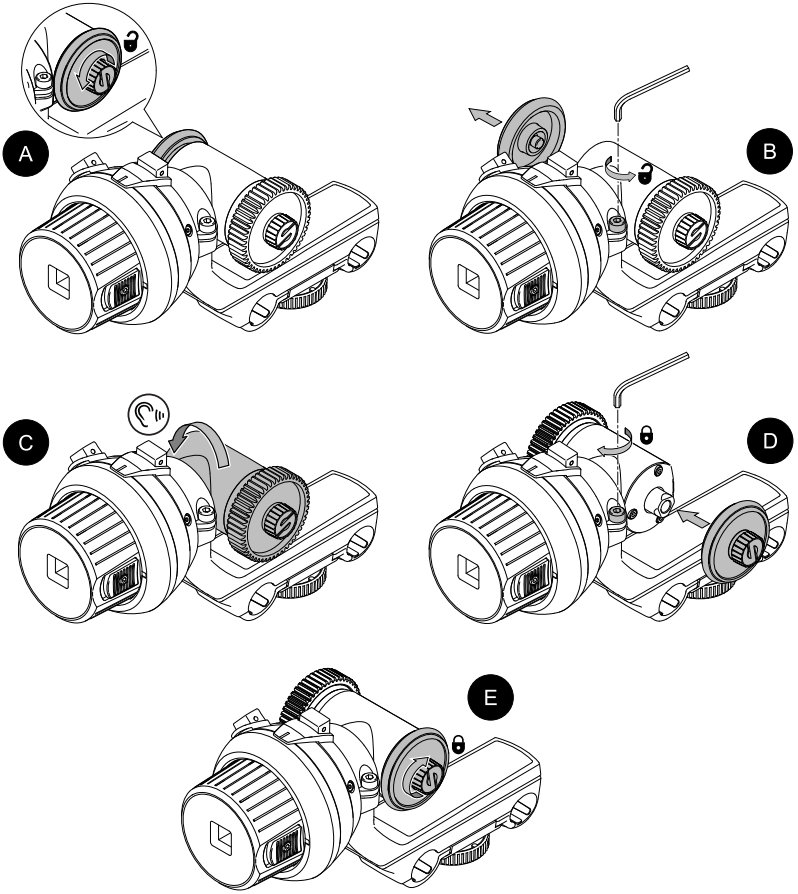

Fig. 4 Rotating the double-sided drive

Operation

Mounting the Ace Follow Focus

To mount the Ace Follow Focus onto camera rods (see Fig. 5):

Ensure that the head platform is level and apply both the horizontal and vertical brakes [A].

If required, rotate the bridge clamp clockwise to loosen the lower support rod bridge [B].

Align the lower support rod bridge mounting holes with the support rods and slide the bridge onto the rods [C] until the friction wheel or drive gear is aligned with the camera lens gear [D].

Adjust the upper slide bridge until the friction wheel or drive gear engages with the camera lens gear, then turn the bridge clamp counter-clockwise to secure [D].

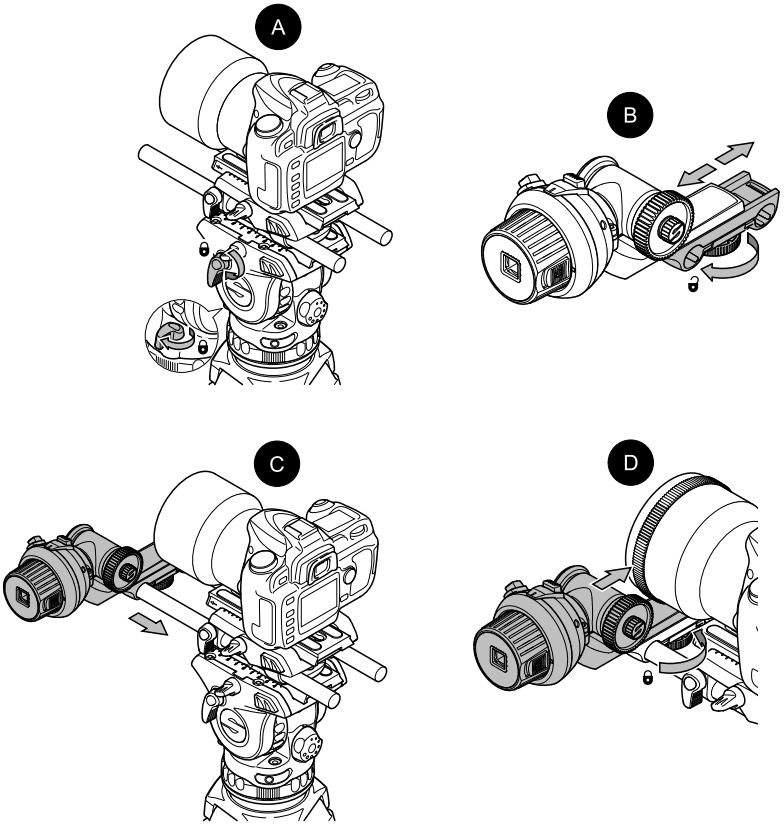

Fig. 5 Mounting the Ace Follow Focus

Setting the hard stops

Reference points for the maximum and minimum focal distances can be marked on the marking disc. Hard stops allow the operator to set mechanical limits for lenses without them.

To set the focal distances (see Fig. 6):

Rotate the handwheel to find the start focal point. Mark this point on the marking disc [A].

Rotate the handwheel and establish the end stop point of the focus pull. Mark this point on the marking disc [B].

Press the index/witness marker button and move to align with the marked end stop point [C].

Press the second limit stop button and move just beyond the marked start focal point [D].

Rotate the handwheel so that the hard stop slider button is between the start focal point and the end stop point. Engage the hard stop slider button [E].

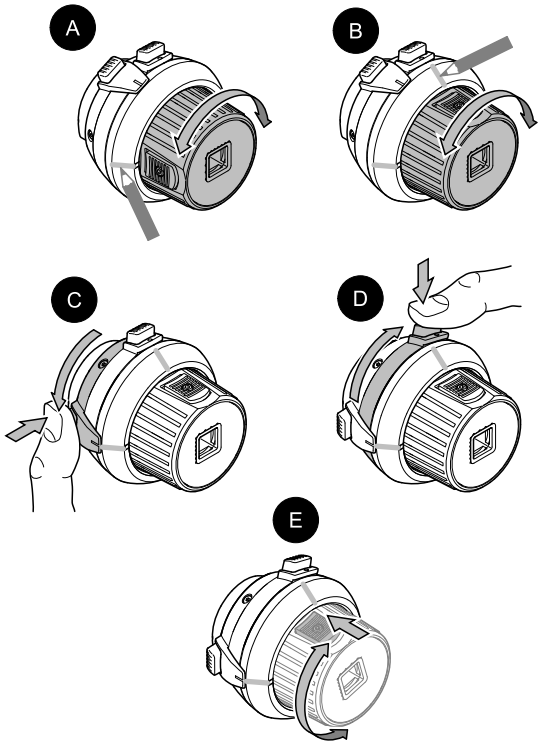

Fig. 6 Setting the hard stops

Removing the Ace Follow Focus

To remove the Ace Follow Focus from camera rods (see Fig. 7):

Ensure that the head platform is level and apply both the horizontal and vertical brakes [A].

Rotate the bridge clamp clockwise to loosen the lower support rod bridge [B].

Pull the upper slide bridge outwards so that the friction wheel or drive gear move away from the camera lens gear [B].

Carefully slide the Ace Follow Focus away from the support rods [C].

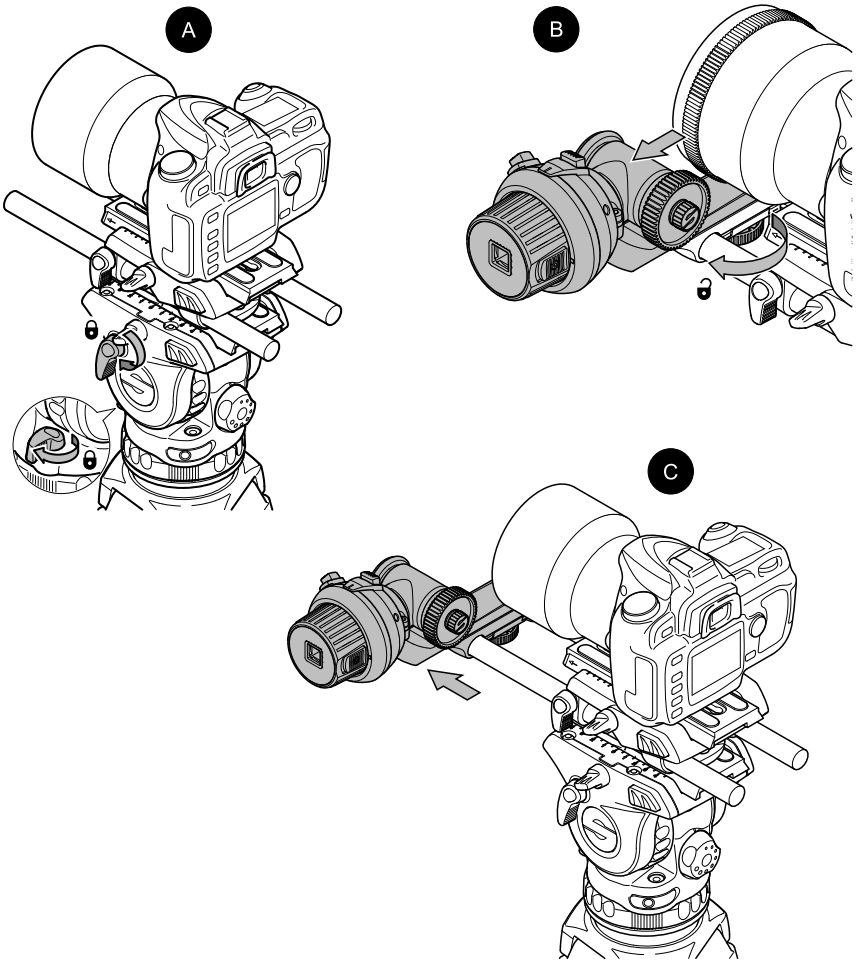

Fig. 7 Removing the Ace Follow Focus

Maintenance

Cleaning

During indoor use, the only cleaning required should be a regular wipe over with a lint-free cloth. Dirt accumulated during storage may be removed using a semi-stiff brush or vacuum cleaner. Particular attention should be paid to the lower support rod bridge, the double-sided gear drive spindle and the end stop bezels.

The marking disc must be removed from the Ace Follow Focus before cleaning. Follow the instructions supplied with the marking pen when cleaning the marking discs.

CAUTION! **Do NOT use solvent or oil-based cleaners, abrasives or wire brushes to remove accumulations of dirt, as these damage the protective surfaces. Use only detergent-based cleaners.**

Use out-of-doors under adverse conditions will require special attention. Salt spray should be washed off with fresh clean water at the earliest opportunity. Sand and dirt acts as an abrasive and should be removed using a semi-stiff brush or vacuum cleaner.