

Make yourself a low cost winder / rig

By Pierre Demeure



Third hand for modeling

Remove the centre spindle, the horizontal cross bar and crocodile clips from the base. You can use 2 or 3 of these devices, as you can extend them if you want a longer rig.

+/- £10



Macrophotography Slider rail

Several types are available. Choose the one you prefer, simple or 3 or 4 directional. Also, consider the height of it. The basic one (left) is flat, and the compound one (right) is a little taller (But you can separate it in order to get 2 single sliders). +/- £25

How to

Products can be purchased on Amazon and prices might vary slightly.

The average cost price for the complete set will be around of £50-60

- Fix the elevator on a support (wooden board) so that the complete set does not risk tipping over.
- With hot glue gun or strong dual face adhesive, fix the macrophotography slider rail to the top of the elevator.
- Using bolts (1/4) and articulations or simple rubber bands, attach the spindle of the «third hand» to the plate of the macrophotography rail.

Now you can fix the rig to the character or object. You'll use the buttons/knobs to move the characters precisely. The macrophotography rails have a scale for checking the amount of movement. You could also fix a rule on the side of the elevator.

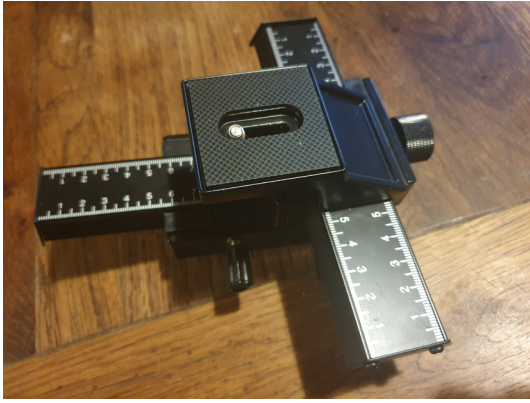


Laboratory elevator

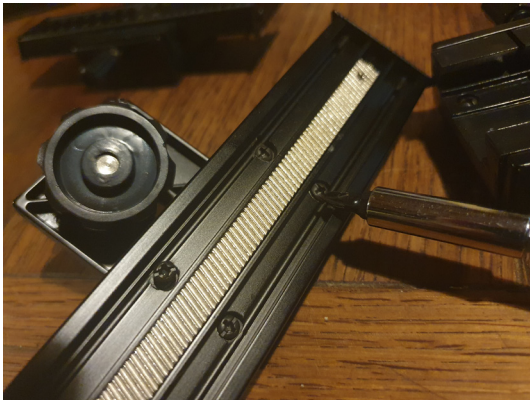
Most common sizes for elevation are 16 cm high and 20 cm.

£16 - £30

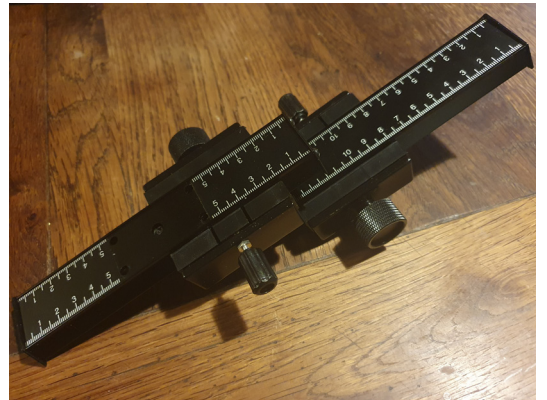
Step by step...



Turn the rail over and separate the two sliders. (a simple screw to unscrew)



You can remove the the upper support if you want a longer winder. In that case you'll just use the screw to fix one slider above the other one.

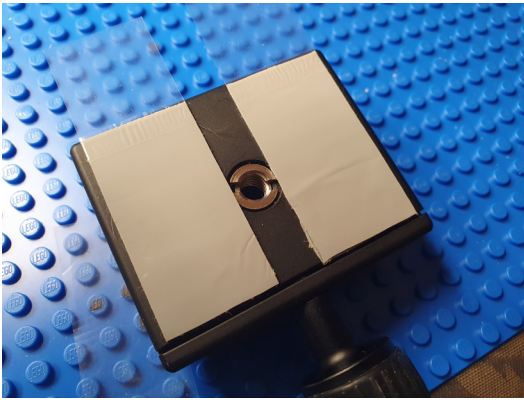


Separate all parts of the «third hand». Keep the articulations which will be used to fix the spindle to the macro-photography rail upper support. If the screws are to short for a good fixation, just use longer screws.

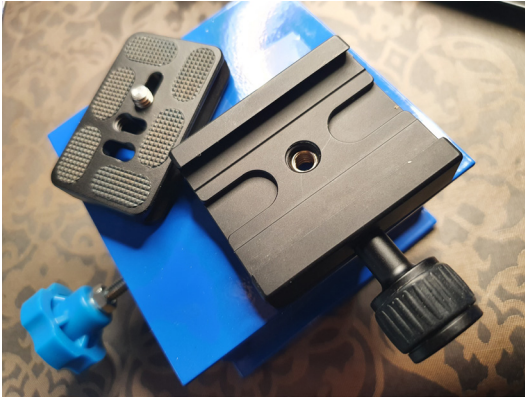


Congratulations, you have built a good rig. If you need of a longer one, get a second «third hand» and using an articulation, join it to the first spindle.

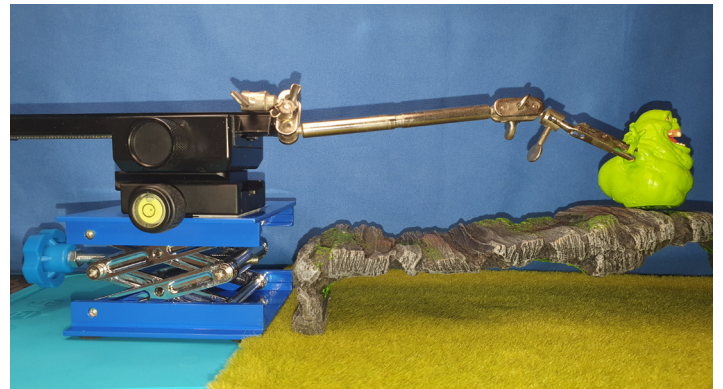
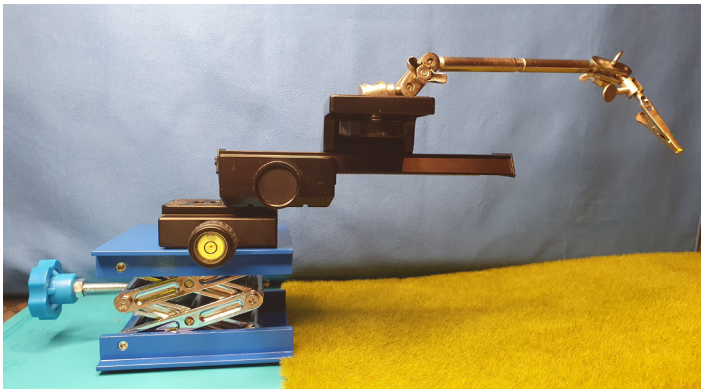




You can fix directly the Macro photography rail to the top of the elevator.
But it is also a good idea to use an Arca Swiss or compatible Quick release plate (+/- £ 15)
This quick release plate allows the assembly to be dismantled for easy storage or to interchange the sliders.
The base will be fixed to the top of elevator with strong double sided tape.



The removable part with the screw will be screwed to the base of the rail/slider. You can easily change it for another slider.



The complete set in two configurations : on left with the upper support, and on right with the slider without support. Note that in the configuration with above support, as this one is fixed on the middle of the rail, the working distance is half (5 cm) of the config without it (10 cm).



The elevator allows to place subjects «in the air» and you now can move them very precisely in both 2 dimensions.