

GTP R10 Package for Sigma 8mm f/3.5 for Nikon

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Quick Reference Guide

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Nodal Ninja Ultimate R10 7.5° Tilt with lens ring for Sigma 8mm fisheye is a very portable and easy to use package for Google Trusted Photographers.

Package Contents of R10 GTP Package



Depending on resellers, the package may come pre-assembled or individually with R10 tilt head, lens ring, Rotator Mini (RM) and compass bubble level.

Installing R10 Tilt Head and Bubble Level on Rotator Mini



Place the level on RM with bubble facing up. Place R10 tilt head on the level as shown. Align for the mounting sockets. Install 2 M5 flat head screws to fix R10 head to RM.

Mounting Lens Ring Clamp on the Tilt Head



1 First of all, make sure the R10 head has an upward tilt. If not, reinstall it. Install the lens ring on the lens according to its installation guide at the back. Mount the lens on the camera. Mount lens ring on QR clamp of R10. Tighten the clamp slightly.

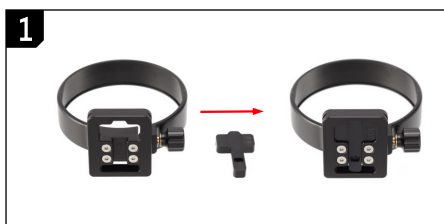


2 Slide the lens ring plate (LRP) to the NPP setting. There are 3 lines marked on the QR clamp. Use the center line for distance reading. Other lines are 1.5mm apart from the center line. Use them to assist reading to an accuracy of 0.5 mm. Use the side opposite to the QR handle for best accuracy. NPP setting for 4 shots around is 1.4. Check that the LRP has "LRP45X" labeled at the base.



3 To orient the panorama in the map, move the tripod so that the red pointer aligns with the white mark on the compass. Now the camera is pointing to the North. Look at the compass from the front for best reading accuracy. Level the R10 head by adjusting tripod legs or a level adjustment device.

Installing the Preset Integrated Stop Plate on Lens Ring



1 A preset integrated stop plate sets the lens at the NPP quickly and precisely. Verify the stop plate is marked "101". It is for Sigma 8mm f/3.5 for Nikon on R10 7.5° up tilt and 4 shots around specifically. Align the stop plate with the base of LRP. Push to snap it in place.



2 Install the stop screw (came with the stop plate) at the middle socket on the QR clamp. Remove any other safety screw installed. Mount the lens ring on the clamp. Slide until it falls into the stop. Confirm the NNP reading is 1.4.

Lens Ring for Sigma 8mm Fisheye Nikon Mount

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The lens ring consists of a metal outer ring and a plastic inner ring that fits the lens snugly. The plastic ring allows reproducible mounting of lens and protects the lens from stress by providing maximum area of contact to the lens.

Preparing the Lens for Ring Mounting



Manual focus is preferred for making stitched panos. The focus distance scale will be hidden by the lens ring. Users are recommended to use tape to fix the focus ring at around 0.5-1m on the scale and use an aperture of f/8. For best sharpness, do tests to find the optimal focus distance and aperture settings for different situations. If not taped, the focus ring is still movable with the lens ring installed. Users can use live view to set a focus distance where the distant and near objects are both in focus. Alternatively, the distance scale can be reproduced on visible area of the lens barrel with labels. Turn the focus ring to the desired distance. Place labels at the positions indicated. Put **Mark 1** on the label on the focus ring. This is the new reference mark. Then put **Mark 2** on the label above. To mark more distances of interest and add the marks. **Mark 3** and **Mark 4** are at focus distances at 1m and 0.5m respectively. A reference mark for roll angle can also be added for accurate alignment.

Installing the Lens Ring to the Lens



Loosen the knob on the outer ring until its slit is about 6mm (1/4") wide. Squeeze to take out the inner ring. Check the label on the inner ring to confirm with the lens in use and the direction of mounting. The arrow should point to the front of lens.



Align the slit on the inner ring to the left of the focus scale. Insert the lens. Stretch the ring when necessary. Move it to a position where it fits snugly. Push it against the anchor point to ensure reproducible mounting and consistent NPP settings.



Fix the inner ring with a piece of tape about 40mm (1.5") long. Stretch the tape so that the ring will grasp the lens firmly. This prevents movement of inner ring when outer ring is rotated, thus protecting the paint of lens barrel. Cut any tape that goes beyond the trimmed area of the inner ring.



Align the outer ring to the slit of inner ring. Insert the outer ring (loosen its knob further if needed) from the back of the lens. Tighten its knob slightly. Rotate the outer ring so that it snaps to the inner ring and rotates smoothly. Optionally align the notch indicated to the user added reference mark. Tighten the knob fully.



Mount the lens to the camera. Loosen the knob on the ring to align the LRP to the lens release button on the camera. The camera will be in portrait mode with handgrip pointing up. Loosen the knob on the ring to rotate to other angles. Use the notches (at 30° interval) at the back of ring and the added reference mark for accurate roll angle alignment.

Tips and Tricks

Removing Lens Cover From Sigma 8mm Fisheye



This is a potential pitfall for new users of this lens. The lens cover consists of a cap and a short hood. The **cap and hood** need to be removed in order to get enough angle of view for taking panos with 4 shots around.

Lens Ring Blocking Remote Port for Some Nikon DSLRs



It is reported that lens ring for Sigma 8mm for Nikon blocks the remote port for Nikon D200/300/700 etc.

There are 3 ways to overcome this issue.

1. Attach the remote cord to camera before mounting the lens. There is just enough clearance for the remote at the NPP setting of 1.4.
2. Rotate the lens ring plate away from the remote port if lens is already attached to camera. Install the remote. Rotate the lens ring plate back.
3. Rotate the lens ring plate to handgrip side of camera. Now the handgrip will point down when mounted on R10.