

How to change the shims in your Sirui tripod or monopod

Sirui tripods are high quality products that will provide many years of use – we cover the first 6 years under warranty – and are designed for professionals.

There may be a time when you find the legs may not move as smoothly as they originally did, or they may be jammed or even – strange as it may sound - fall off!

NO, there's no gremlin playing with your equipment at night! It is actually a very simple problem with a very simple solution.

Sirui tripods are designed with twist leg locks that require only ½ turn to unlock or lock the legs. If you follow this simple procedure, you will be virtually trouble free. We have personally observed photographers who think they need to unscrew several turns before they can adjust the length of the legs sections. First, this is slowing down a normally fast adjustment. And second, this can occasionally cause a loosening of the stopping shims (used to stop the legs at their longest extension and lock them in place). If the shims get dislodged – due to the over loosening – they may slide out of position and not let you fully close the legs. If you force the legs, you may damage the shims.

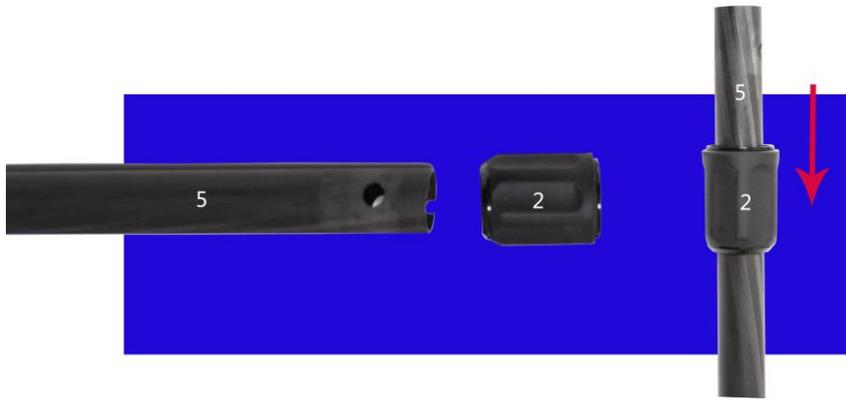
An easy solution – other than not turning more than ½ turn – is to unscrew the leg lock and reposition the shims. This is a fast, painless procedure and is illustrated below:

For this presentation, we are using a Sirui P-224 monopod. Most Sirui monopods and tripods have the same method of changing or repositioning the shim (the Sirui P-204S/224S/324S/424S have a different system that does not use a shim system).

The basic components



As you can see, there are 5 parts to the Sirui leg locking system. The upper leg section (#1), the locking knob (#2), a basic shim (#3), a shim with reference key (#4) and the lower leg section (#5).



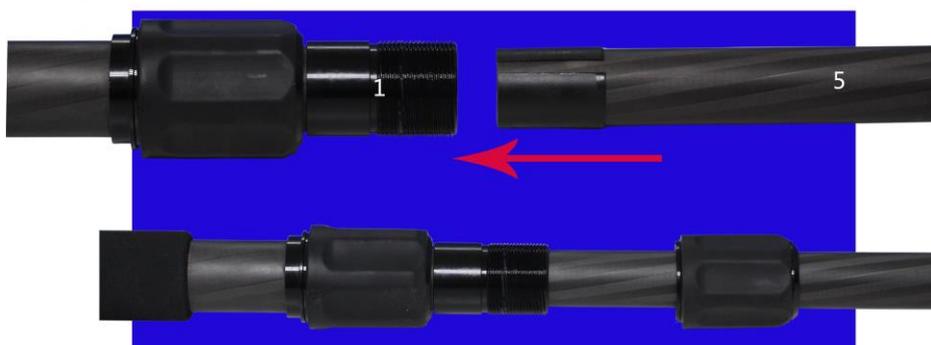
First, slide the locking knob (#2) onto the lower leg section (#5). The threaded side of the leg lock should be facing away from the leg section.



Basic shim #3 has a positioning circle that matches the hole in the lower leg section (#5). The shim (#4) has a positioning circle and reference key (a half circle on the top of the shim) that fits into the other side of the lower leg section.



The parts should fit as shown.





If you use your tripod or monopod in the water or rain, the shims may get wet. A wet shim may make opening and closing the legs very tight, since the wet shims will stick to the side walls. They should be removed and dried as soon as possible, to prevent damaging the shims and assure that your legs will open and close smoothly for years to come.