

# Varsity's Choice



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flexible tripod made of plastic that you can attach on virtually any surface.

Instead of having conventional collapsible tripod legs, Gorillapod's legs are octopus-like. They are made of a continuous series of ball-and-socket joints that can bend and rotate 360 degrees for easy manipulation. The rubberised edging and foot grips prevent it from falling as you coil its legs around a surface. The lock ring provides extra security to ensure your camera is firmly attached.

It may resemble a mini version of *E.T. the Extraterrestrial* but, once you get the hang of it, the possibilities of having fun with it are limitless. You can coil its legs around a tree branch and let it cling like a tree-swinging ape, or attach it to the back of a chair, a post or a door knob for a group shot. You

Weighing in at 45 grams and measuring six inches in length, it is the ideal camera accessory for photographers on-the-go. Gorillapod is water-resistant and can withstand high humidity environments. It is made primarily for



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## Gorillapod:

# TRIPOD GONE APE

Photography, either as a profession or hobby, is a lot of fun but it can be daunting for the amateur, especially if you are a stickler for details. You can find yourself frustrated as your shaky, tired hands struggle to get a sharp and clear shot on a rugged terrain, or at an interesting angle. Or you may wonder how to take a picture of your pets at their level without crouching too low on the floor. Then, there are the times when you actually want to be *in* the picture.

Sure, a standard tripod can solve all these problems and perhaps more. But why put up with a boring, stiff, three-legged aluminium assistant that weighs a lot more than your camera when you can actually use something lighter, more functional and way cooler?

Gorillapod - one of the latest innovations and the most versatile gadget for shutterbugs today - is not an MP3 device made out of or shaped like a primate. Rather, it is a pocket-sized

can perch it on a dune or jagged rock during a hike to capture the panoramic view or take more common shots by straightening its legs on a flat surface. Simply press the self-timer button and you can get in the shot. What's more, these all-terrain gadgets come in a variety of colours, including blue, pink, red, green and white.



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compact digital cameras and mini video cameras that weigh about 325 grams but there are bigger and sturdier models for larger equipment.

However, with all its versatility and uniqueness, only time will tell how long its lifespan is. One other glitch is that because it has limited capacity, it can shift its position without warning. The only way to avoid this is to make sure you mount suitable equipment to avoid damage to your camera. The rubberised foot grips do not necessarily grip the surface and the tripod tends to slide down on steeper angles so make sure it is in a well-braced position and not overloaded.

The Gorillapod flexible tripods cost around \$180 and are available at small electronic shops or computer centres, or you can visit the official website <http://joby.com> to find out more about upcoming flexible tripods. Belle Frejillana Ramirez