

## Information

For more information, advice and tips concerning our products contact your photo dealer, the distributor of NOVOFLEX products in your country (have a look at "Where to buy" section at our website to find your distributor) or visit our website: <http://www.novoflex.com>

For personal advice about possible accessories which is suitable for your NOVOFLEX product please contact the following phone number or send us an E-mail.

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## Focusing Racks CASTEL-L / CASTEL-Q

USER MANUAL

**N**  
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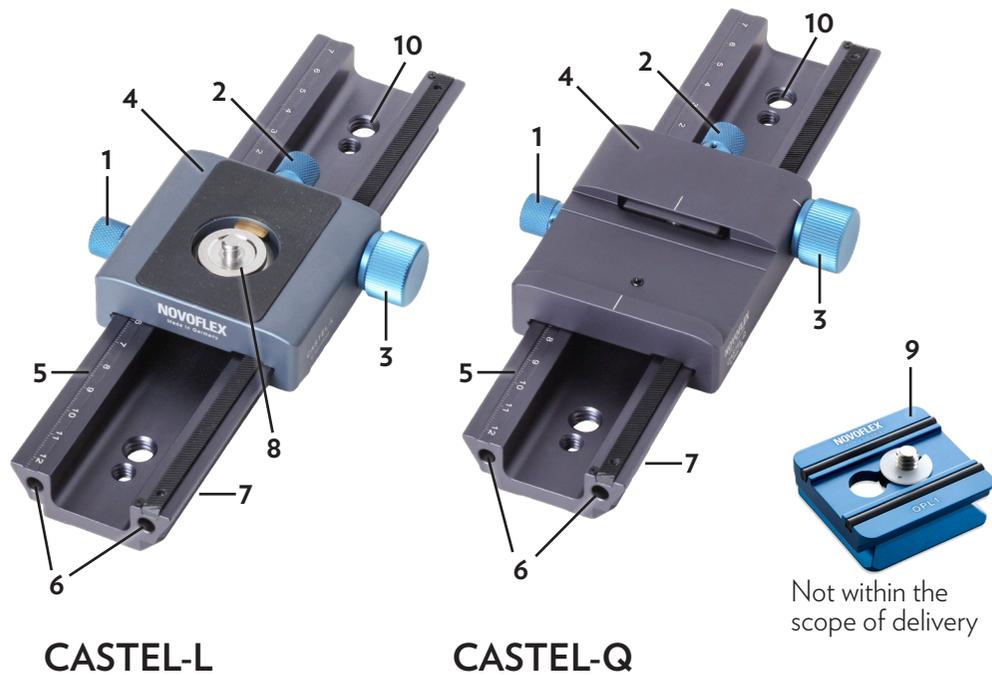
CASTEL-L



CASTEL-Q

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## Nomenclature

1	Clamping screw
2	Locking knob
3	Operating knob
4	Sliding block
5	Scale

6	Guideway holes
7	Dovetail guide (ARCA-type)
8	Coupling piece MiniConnect 1/4"
9	Clamping plate QPL1 (optional)
10	Tripod mount 1/4" resp. 3/8"

## Product description

NOVOFLEX focusing racks are indispensable accessories for macro- and stereo photography. They can be mounted on any tripod, the NOVOFLEX Universal Bellows within the BALPRO and CASTBAL series and on the NOVOFLEX MS-REPRO macro reprostand.

The **CASTEL-L** focusing rack is equipped with an integrated camera adapter for the NOVOFLEX MiniConnect® system.

The **CASTEL-Q** focusing rack is equipped with a dovetail clamp and has been designed to fit the NOVOFLEX quick release system Q (ARCA UniQ / C compatible).

## Suitable clamping plates for the focusing rack CASTEL-Q

- For your focusing rack CASTEL-Q or cross-focusing rack CASTEL-CROSS Q, NOVOFLEX offers a variety of exchangeable Q=PLATEs. Different sizes, different threaded screws and plates with anti-twist pins are available. Details can be found on our website [www.novoflex.de](http://www.novoflex.de) or at your photo dealer.



## Suitable coupling pieces for the focusing rack CASTEL-L

- For your focusing rack CASTEL-L or cross-focusing rack CASTEL-CROSS MC, NOVOFLEX offers round MiniConnect® coupling pieces. The round coupling pieces are extremely small (size of a 1 euro coin) and hardly carry on, so that they can always remain at the tripod connections of the cameras or lenses without disturbing. There are six different coupling pieces and one L-bracket for different devices and applications available.



- MC-SPECIAL 1/4 and MC-SPECIAL 3/8 comes with an extra anti-twist pin, only for metal camera bases or metal lens tripod connections. MC-1/4-LANG and MC-3/8-LANG have an extra-long thread (length = 8 mm)

- The NOVOFLEX **CAST-FINE** adjustment handle is available as an accessory to the focusing rack CASTEL-Q / CASTEL-CROSS Q. It is the perfect solution if e.g. in focus stacking even finer settings are desirable. The attachment is simply pushed onto the operation knob (3) and can be adjusted with a small hex screw if required. Not suitable for CASTEL-L / CASTEL-CROSS MC!



## Upgrading to a panoramic head VR-System III

- A classical panoramic tripod head for single-row panoramas consists of a panning base on the bottom, a focusing rack and an L-bracket. In order to use different cameras and lenses, the L-bracket should be shiftable in two directions: Forward-backward and side-to-side. This is realized in our product VR-SYSTEM III. To set up such a system, you need, beside your focusing rack CASTEL-Q the panning base PANORAMA=Q 48 and the L-bracket QPL-VERTIKAL.



## Mounting the camera

- Screw the MiniConnect coupling piece (8) respectively a Q=PLATE clamping plate (9) onto the device to be mounted (for example a camera or tripod collar).
- CASTEL-L: Place the coupling piece (8) into the opening of the sliding block (4) and fix it in with the locking knob (2).
- CASTEL-Q: Insert a Q=PLATE, e.g. the QPL1 (9) into the dovetail clamp of the sliding block (4) and fix it with the locking knob (2).
- To release the mounted device, proceed in reverse order.

## Notes

- The stronger the locking knob (2) is tightened, the better the device is attached to the sliding block (4) by pressure.
- The operation of the locking knob (2) is most comfortable when the sliding block (4) is at the end of the guide rail.
- Before use, make sure that the coupling piece (8) respectively the clamping plate (9) fits snugly into the sliding block (4) and that the mounted device is firmly in place.
- Suitable MiniConnect coupling pieces and Q=PLATE clamping plates are available in various versions as accessories.

## Operation

- The operating knob (3) moves the sliding block (4) smoothly and precisely forwards and backwards. The clamping screw (1) locks the sliding block (4) in the desired position.
- The focusing rack has a scale (5), which serves as an adjustment aid in stereo photography. In addition, the sliding block can be reproducibly moved to certain positions, important e.g. in panorama photography.

## Safety instructions

- The clamping screw (1) is used only for clamping the sliding block. It is not suitable for setting a friction (braking). If the operating knob (3) is moved in the clamped state, this can damage the cograil!
- Do not try to drive beyond the end stop with the sliding block (4). This can also lead to damage to the cograil!

## Maintenance

- The focusing racks are maintenance-free, no special care is required. Please do not use grease for lubrication. It is recommended to keep the racks clean from sand and dirt.

## Technical data CASTEL-L

Dimension	200 x 100 x 33 mm (7.9 x 3.9 x 1.3")
Weight	420 g (0.9 lb.)
Travel	140 mm (5.5")
Tripod connection	3 x 1/4", 3 x 3/8" and NOVOFLEX Q-profile
Camera connection	MiniConnect system (1/4" coupling piece)

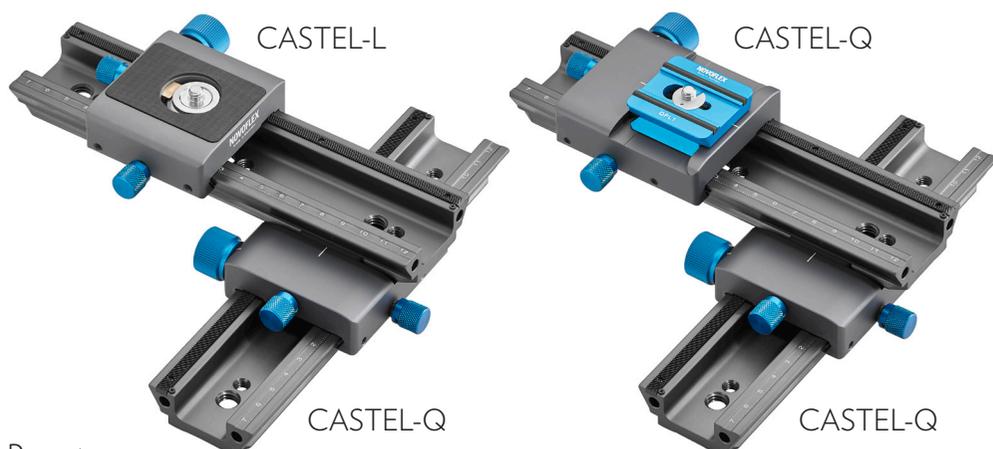
## Technical data CASTEL-Q

Dimension	200 x 100 x 33 mm (7.9 x 3.9 x 1.3")
Weight	450 g (1 lb.)
Travel	125 mm (4.9")
Tripod connection	3 x 1/4", 3 x 3/8" and NOVOFLEX Q-profile
Camera connection	Q-profile (ARCA-UniQ/C-compatible)

The adjustment path for a full rotation of the operating knob (3) is 15 mm for both devices.

## Setup a cross-focusing rack

- The use of two focusing racks, which are mounted offset by 90°, gives the functionality of a cross-focusing rack. Ideally, the CASTEL-Q is used for the lower focusing rack because a right angle is guaranteed by the transversely mounted dovetail clamp. This clamp picks up the upper focusing rack with the dovetail profile on its bottom.



- The cross-focusing rack **CASTEL-CROSS MC** is a combination of the CASTEL-Q and the CASTEL-L. The camera coupling piece MC 1/4" is included.
- The cross-focusing rack **CASTEL-CROSS Q** is a combination of two CASTEL-Q racks. The camera plate QPL 1 is included.
- Both CASTEL-CROSS cross-focusing racks allow pinpoint positioning of the camera in two different directional axes. The design meets the highest demands on precision and stability and allows a sensitive and jerk-free adjustment of the camera position.
- The adjustment path for the CASTEL-CROSS MC in the X direction is 275 mm (11") and in the Y direction 125 mm (5").
- The adjustment path for the CASTEL-CROSS Q is 260 mm (10") in the X direction and also 125 mm (5") in the Y direction.

## Recommended accessories

- For digitizing framed slides, the slide duplicator NOVOFLEX **CASTEL-COP-DIGI** is being offered. It is the ideal tool for a fast and easy copying of your originals from 24 x 36 mm up to the medium format 6 x 7. All NOVOFLEX focusing racks have guideway holes (6) to attach this slide copying device.

