

Agno's Mrotator A — Nikkor Fisheye FC-E8 183° 8mm Fisheye lens and an assortment of Nikon Coolpix 950/ 990/ 995/4500/ with adapter rings for other Coolpix cameras like the Coolpix 5000.
Test Report: June 2006 (The Agno's Mrotator B is similar for the FC-E9)



Introduction: This pedestal shaped panorama bracket collar and rotator base are designed to accommodate the Nikkor FC-E8 183° Fisheye lens. It provides a method for capturing circular spherical panoramic images. This report uses the Nikon Coolpix 990 and Nikkor Fisheye FC-E8 183° 8mm lens.

Specifications: Agno's Mrotator A Kit. The kit includes click stop rotator base (180° -2 and 120° -3 images) and a lens collar. Height is 150 mm or 6 inches. The combined rotator and lens collar weight is 400 grams or less than 1 lb. The head is made from non-magnetic material. The Allen wrench screw tightens the collar around the lens. It has a black protective paint finish. There is no need for a dimension scale because when the lens is installed it is already at the nodal point and the correct position to remove left/ right parallax. A round yellow/green leveling spirit level is located on top of the device.



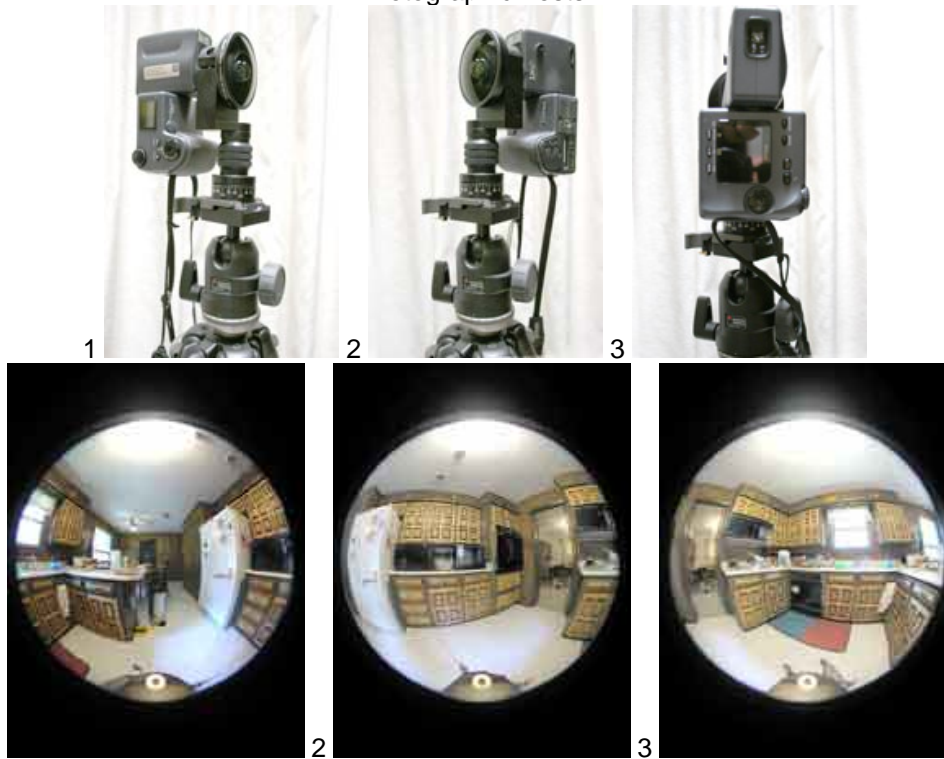
Design Features: The 1 piece fabrication allows for easy travel storage.

Setup Procedure: We used a Manfrotto 3001d tripod and Manfrotto 488RC2 ball head. Place the Mrotator A on the optional ball head quick release plate and you are ready to take your images.

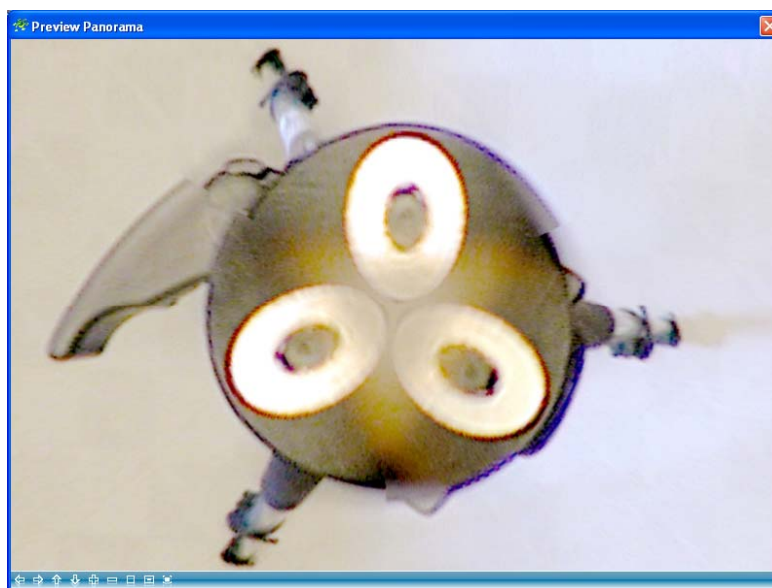
Find Entrance Pupil [Nodal Point – No Parallax Point NPP] location and removing left/right parallax. Not required.

Level the tripod and use the spirit level to level the Mrotator A bracket. Now it is time to take your imaging. Take 3 images at 120° intervals. The Nikon 990 sensor shows the full circle image data fits on the sensor.

Photographic Tests



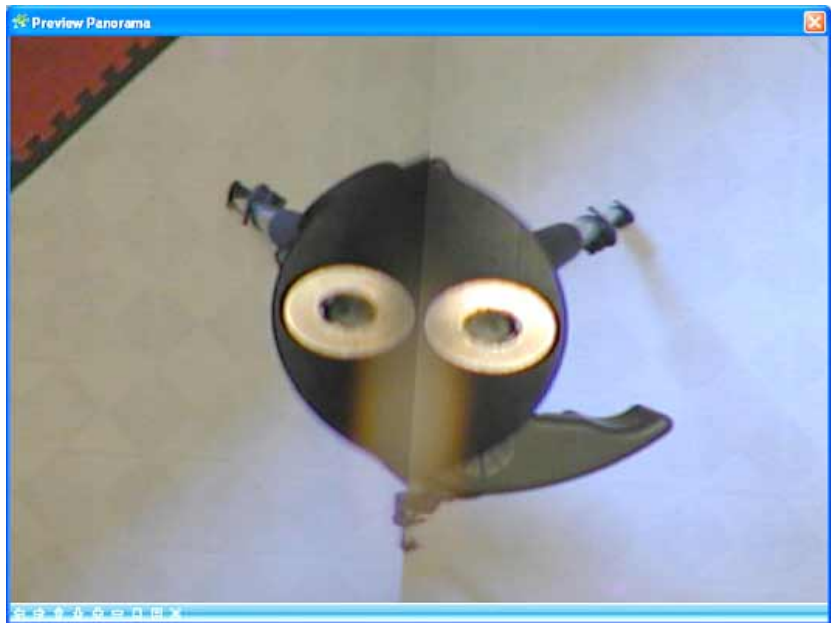
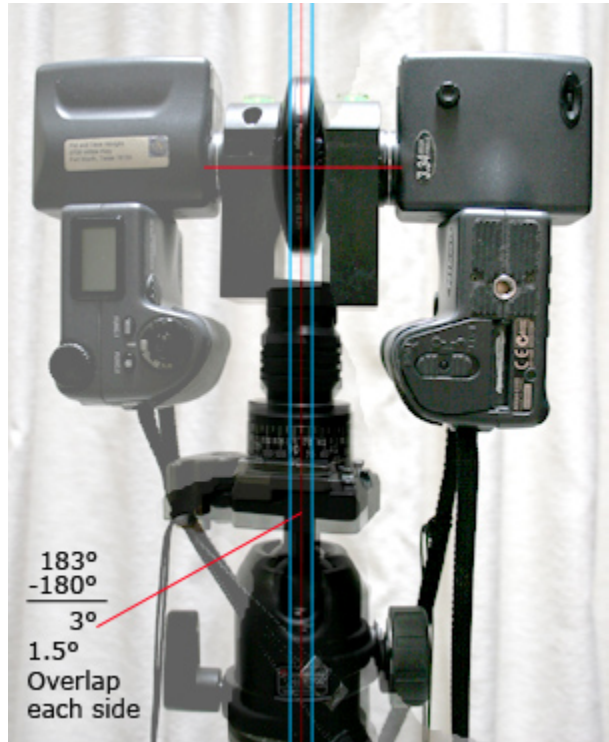
Stitch the 3 images with your favorite stitching software. Then while viewing it on screen tilt down. The tripod cap should look like this:



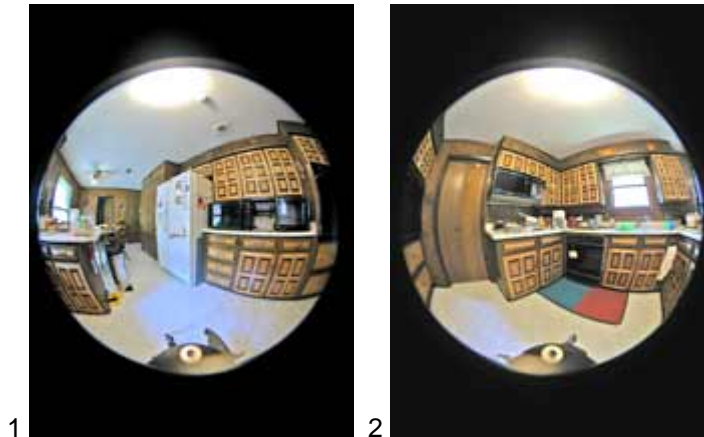
The Mrotator A design keeps all the bracket parts outside the Nikkor FC-E8 8mm 183° lens viewing area. This pan head has a very small footprint. Your stitching should be near perfect.



Two Image test:



Two images with 3° degrees (1.5° left side + 1.5° right side) overlap.



Our testing equipment:

Camera: Nikon 990

Compact Flash Card: 128 MB SanDisk

Prime Lens: Nikkor 8mm Fisheye Adapter

Images: JPEG file type

Pan Head: Agno's Mrotator A

Support: Manfrotto/ Bogen Ball Head 488CR2

Tripod: Manfrotto/ Bogen 3001d

Conclusion

Qualities:

The Mrotator A design makes it easy to align the camera and lens so that you will get "repeated NO error" type stitched images. Take precision single photo's the first time and your stitched panorama should be almost error free.

Rotating through the click stops is very easy. You can feel and hear the click stops.



We used our Manfrotto Quick Change Plate adapter (base and camera plate) which easily permitted removing and re-mounting the Mrotator A on the tripod ball head.

Suggested Improvements: Need a simple way of taking apart the MRotatorA head, fisheye lens and camera. Suggest using 1 piece “wing screw” to replace the 2 piece Allen screw and wrench.

Recommendation: Excellent addition to our panoramic hardware.