

Building a Chain Pod

The chain-pod and it is a simple lightweight substitute for a monopod. I have successfully taken photos at a 1/15th of a second with this tool. You will need a 1/4 X 20 thumbscrew; you can get this at any hardware store. 1/4 X 20 is the size of the tripod socket in your camera. The threads on the thumbscrew should be about 1/2 inch long. You will also need about 6 feet of chain, more if you are very tall. Drill a hole through the flat part of the thumbscrew and attach the end of the chain into the hole. You may want to glue a nut on the thumbscrew to prevent over tightening the thumbscrew into the camera. You have just made a chain-pod!

Now in order to use this, attach it to the tripod socket of your camera, step on the chain, and pull up. The tension you create on the chain serves to stabilize your camera. This project only requires a drill to complete. Another consideration is how you hold the camera. The camera lens should be cradled in the left hand with the index finger and the thumb closest to the front of the lens. The elbow is braced in against the body. This will give you more control and stability than trying to hold the camera with the right hand.

