BAS Test Berlebach Tripods

Berlebach Tripods are wooden tripods made from ash wood. Workmanship standards are excellent and extremely accurate, and the tripods show an immaculate finish. Tripod head and fittings are made of metal; they give an outstanding, highly stable and sturdy impression, which was confirmed during the course of the tests. Another key advantage of the wooden tripods is that they are not electrically conductive.

The **REPORT 8023** model is a three-piece tripod with a retracted length of 68 cm. With fully extended legs, it measures 124 cm. Carrying capacity is given as 8 kg. The tripod also has a central column of metal tubing. Including the standard central column (50 cm), the overall length comes to 170 cm. The central column can be reversed for near-ground level exposures, macro shots, reproduction work etc. The tripod weighs 2.6 kg (excluding the additional pan head). A lightweight professional tripod.

REPORT 2042 is a stronger and hence slightly heavier model (3 kg). This is a two-piece tripod with legs that are easy to pull out. Its retracted length is 80 cm. With the legs fully extended the tripod measures 120 cm. This model also has a pull-out central column made of metal tubing, which when extended gives the tripod a length of 165 cm. This model has a special feature. The central column is seated in a built-in ball bearing and can be swiveled in all directions up to an angle of 30°. Carrying capacity is given as 12 kg. The central column of the REPORT 2042 can be reversed, like that of the REPORT 8032 (see above). This tripod conforms to a professional tripod for the demanding user. Spreading of the legs at about 23° is locked securely on both tripods.

Rating Criteria:

1. Manufacturing. We assess the quality and functional reliability of the individual tripod components such as tripod legs, fittings, metal parts etc. For this purpose the tripod is put to the test in practical operation under particularly severe conditions. Rating is con ducted by a points system (maximum of 100 points).

2. Stability. Shake-free performance under load is a crucial element of tripod quality. In a test setup, the tripod is placed on a firm, practically shake proof surface. It is then subjected to 70% of its specific maximum load capacity and a uniform degree of shake (corresponding approximately to that caused during shutter release of an SLR camera). Deviation from steady state and the duration are recorded electronically. The diagram then shows precisely at which point this shudder will lead to blurred photographs or shaky camcorder results. Special attention is focused on the "reverberation effect," or in other
words, how long shudders are still visible after the actual "primary shake".

Therefore, in this case, the quality of a tripod depends on the visible strength of the primary shake and the time needed before that shake has returned to zero as well as the degree of reverberation. We have gained some very accurate values from experience, and these are being supplemented over and again by results furnished during practical photography. We show the effective values. The first figure is a diagrammatic view of the behavior of primary and reverberating shakes. It is merely for information purposes and has nothing to do with the tripods we tested.

The second diagram demonstrates the behavior of the two Berlebach tripods we tested, i.e. REPORT 8023 and 2042. The dot next to the figure 2 on the Y-axis shows the intensity with which the tripods were shaken, and the line above with arrows shows the maximum mean value for metal tripods based on numerous tests conducted in our laboratory. Values below 2+0.4 s are practically irrelevant (2=0.02 g). Therefore Berlebach wooden tripods guarantee shake-free exposures.

Signed by Barnim A. Schultze,
Engineer

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TRIPOD SHAKE DIAGRAM

Diagrammatic Level of Shake

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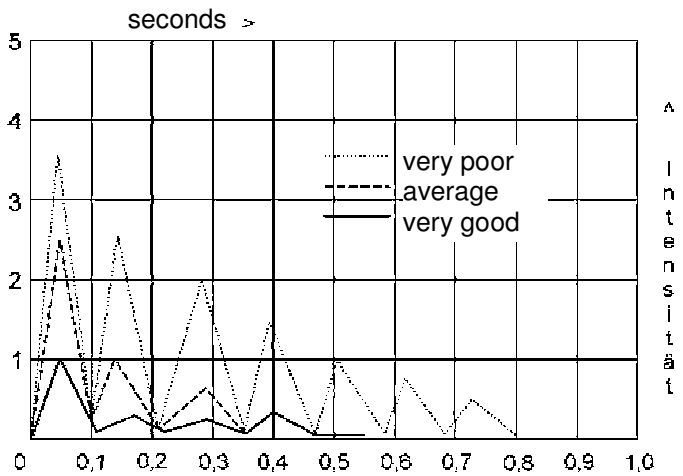
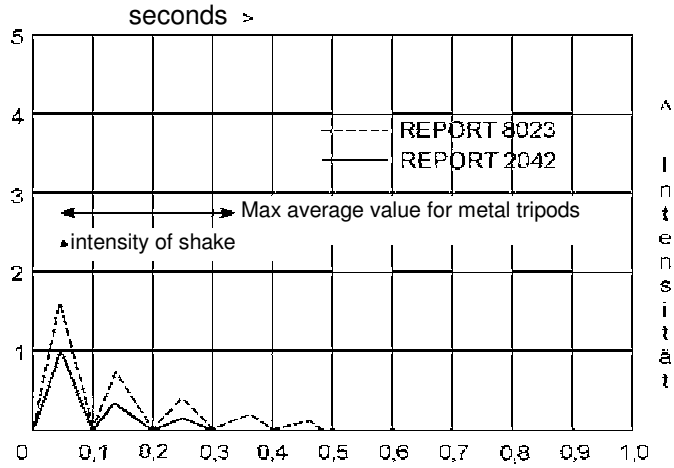


TRIPOD SHAKE DIAGRAM

Berlebach Report 8023/2042

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