

Ball joint arm alternatives?

I don't know about you but I have to admit that I am not, and actually never have been, a fan of ball joint arms.

Yes, I accept that they do quite a good job because they are very versatile in terms of length variety, positioning and rigidity, when tightened, but, in my defence, they need two hands to adjust them and they are highly snaggle.

Try as might (and my garage shelves are a museum of tried and abandoned attempts) I have not been able to come up with a viable commercial alternative.

All I have been able to come up with is a very simple and totally free way to make most of the existing designs much less snaggle.

The solution is to unscrew the locking lever and simply turn it round and screw it back in. This results in a much lower profile which can still be easily clamped, even with gloves.

It helps a lot but it doesn't take away

that nagging feeling that there must be a better design and with the advent of 3D printing a design that could be economic in small numbers either commercially or individually.

Does anyone feel the same and have a new design which could reinvent the wheel?

Answers on a proverbial postcard please to:

Peter@uwpmag.com

PS This works on most designs of ball joint clamp but if it doesn't work on yours try fitting a 'penny' washer



Editorial

We are guinea pigs

This UwP cover image reminds me that underwater photographers, or the desire for an underwater image of a hitherto thought dangerous marine creature, have often provided ground breaking information and images.

In the case of the American Crocodiles of Banco Chinchorro it helps if the subject has been well fed prior to a photo shoot and to be accompanied in the water by an experienced handler with a big stick to act as a barrier.

The result is never before seen images of close encounters which provide both visual entertainment and subject appreciation.

Other examples have been Leopard Seals but they still have an unpredictable capability which has led to fatalities. Then there's the Great White Sharks which have to enticed in with the smell of food and almost exclusively still observed and photographed from within the safety of a cage.

These underwater photographic pioneers are to be applauded but the resulting images must never dilute that fact that these are wild animals in their own environment.

2023 UwP Survey

A Happy New Year (and a new font!) also heralds a new UwP Survey to find out what your equipment and travel plans are - and to give you the direct opportunity to say what you want, more, less or different, in future UwP issues.

The data is anonymous unless you have suggestions you would like to discuss directly, in which case just include your e mail address and we can start a dialogue.

Your opinions are important and there are just five simple questions together with a suggestion box.

I look forward to hearing from you and hope you will respond to this survey to help UwP continue to provide what readers want.

My thanks, as always, go to Richard Watson who built the code for the website. His 'under the radar' support is a vital part of UwP.

The survey link will be on the home page and will be taken off once you have completed the survey but the direct link is

www.uwpmag.com/survey/

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