

# Using the Novoflex Castel-XL for absolute stability



to do professional  
macro photographs



Figure 1. If you like to take macro photographs, the Novoflex Castel-XL is one of the most important macro accessories to take this kind of photographs, the Novoflex Castel-XL providing you with absolute stability and it is easy to carry anywhere.



Figure 2.

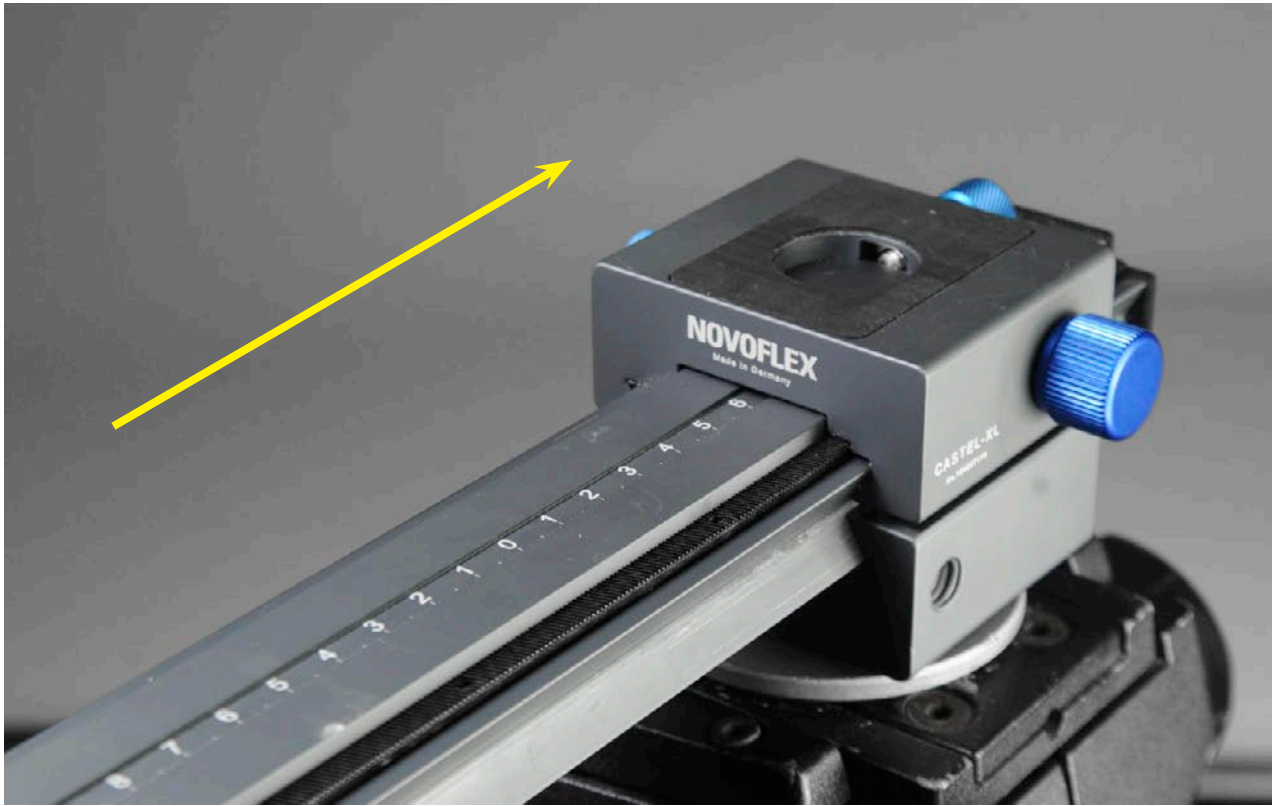


Figure 3.

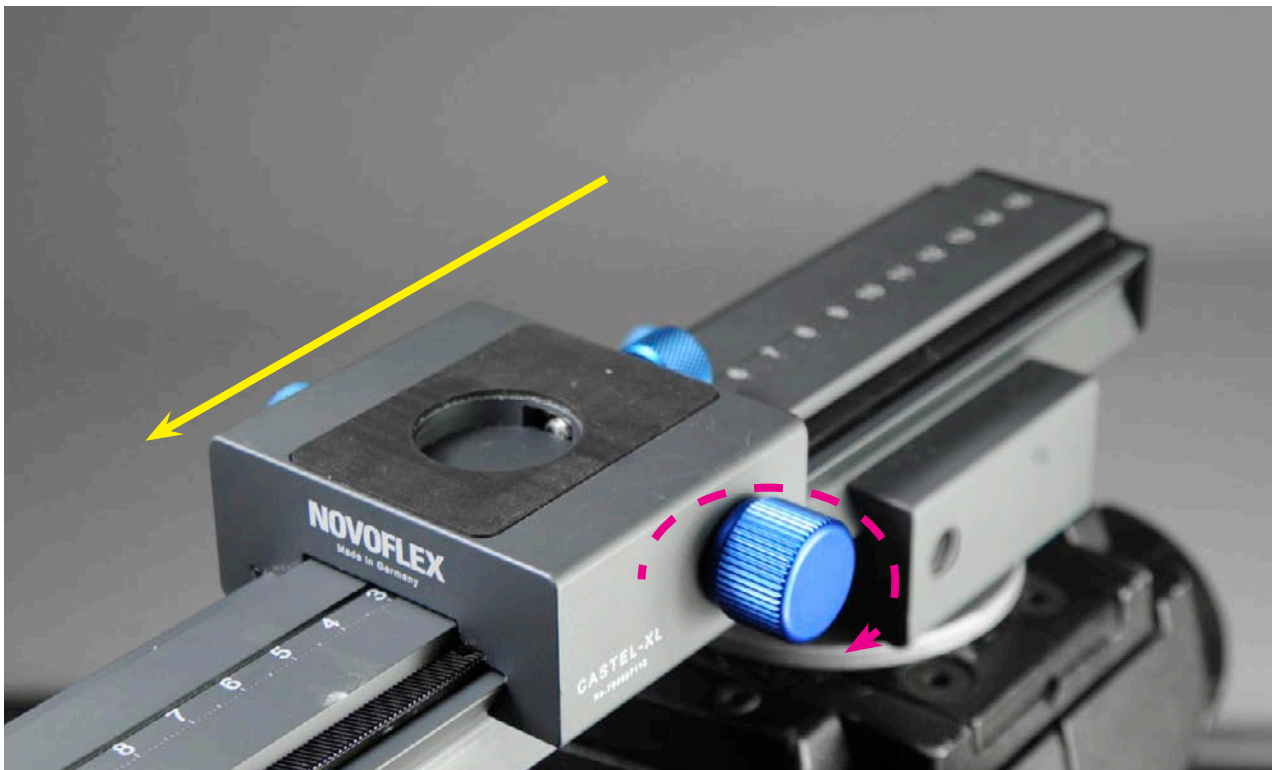


Figure 4. This is the Castel-XL focusing rack, you can move it forwards to get closer and backwards to move away from the object. You have to turn the blue screw to make this movements.

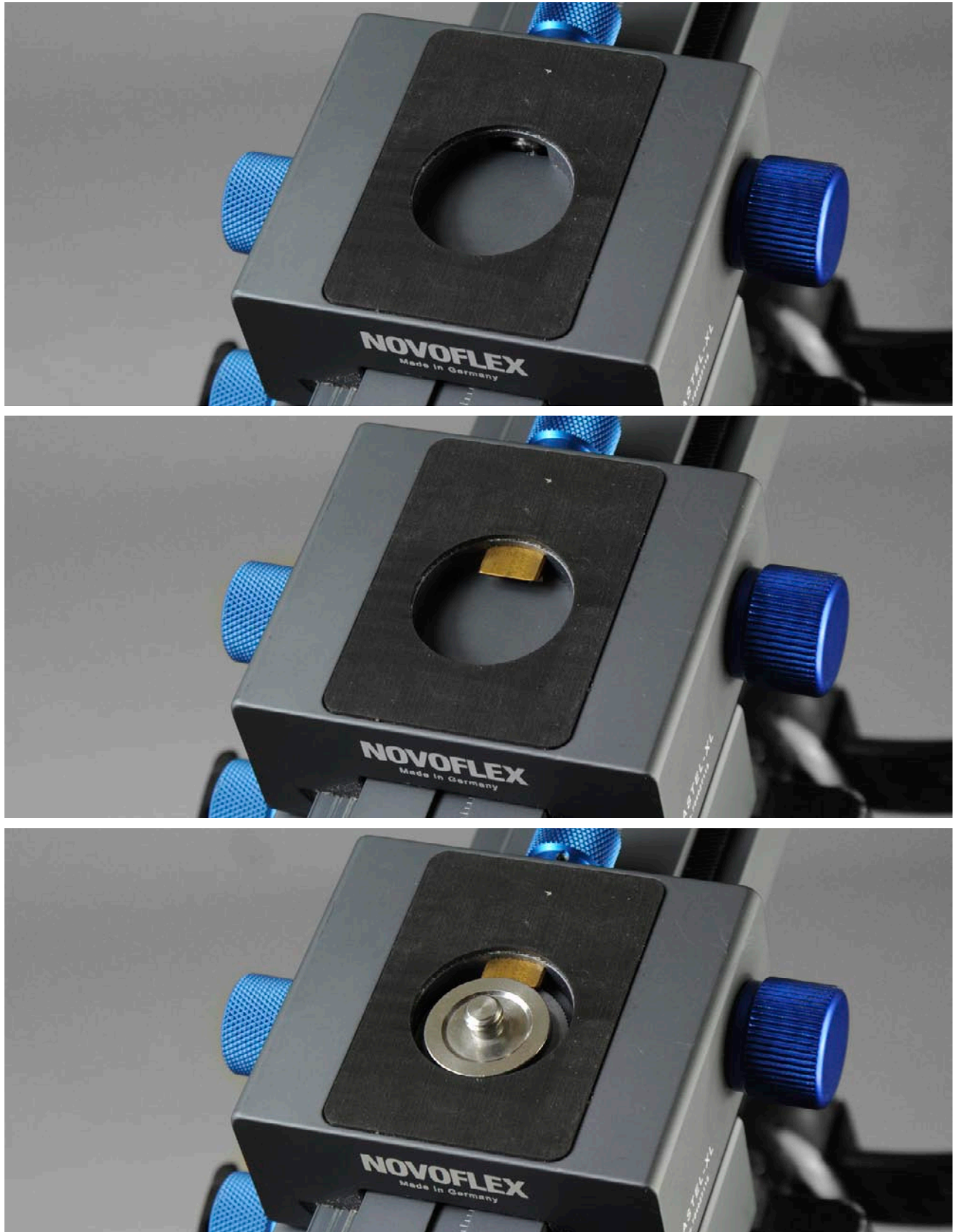


Figure 5. The Novoflex Castel-XL with an attachment bolt, which is for the 35mm and medium format camera.



Figure 6. Here you can see the sequence of how to set up the camera in the Novoflex Castel-XL.



Figure 7. The Novoflex Castel-XL has numbers to help you keep track of where you are focusing when you are taking macro photographs.



Figure 8. Jaime Leonardo doing macro photography with Nikon D300 using the Novoflex Castel-XL focusing rack.



Figure 9. Here you can see the results when you are using the Novoflex Castel-XL. This is the Monarch butterfly metamorphosis process, the caterpillar takes a few minutes to transform into a cocoon butterfly.



Figure 10. This is the Nikon D300 with the Novoflex Castel-XL.



Figure 11. To get a good focusing point you will want to turn the screw to left or to the right.



Figure 12. The Novoflex Castel-XL is a good choice to take successful professional macro photography, here you can see the Monarch butterfly cocoon taken with the Canon EOS 5D, Macro 65 mm lens.





Figure 13. After 15 days, the cocoon has been transformed into a monarch butterfly.

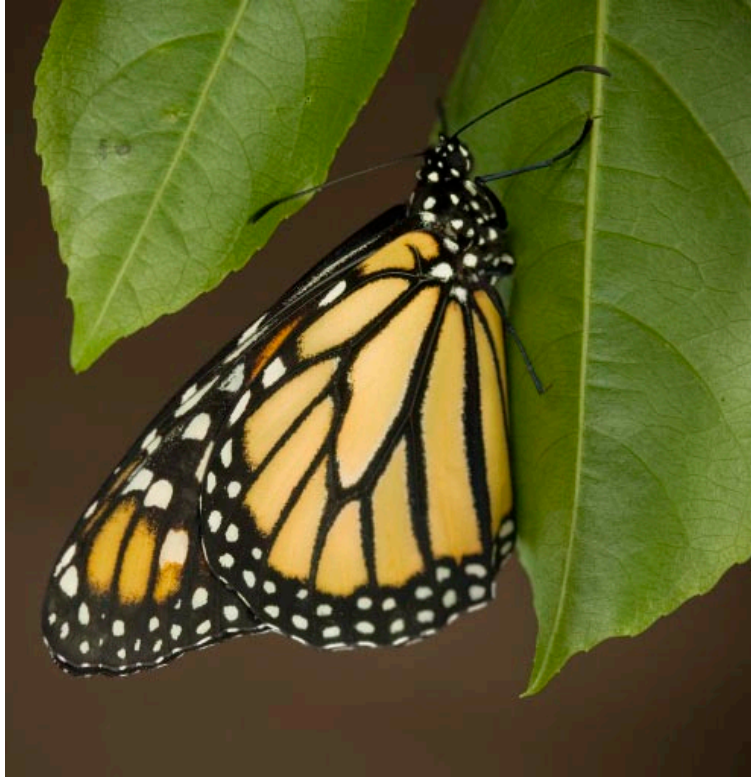


Figure 14. This is the monarch butterfly after leaving the cocoon.



Figure 15.



Figure 16. You can use the Novoflex Castel-XL for both outdoor or indoor photography, it can be fixed on most tripods and most tripod heads.

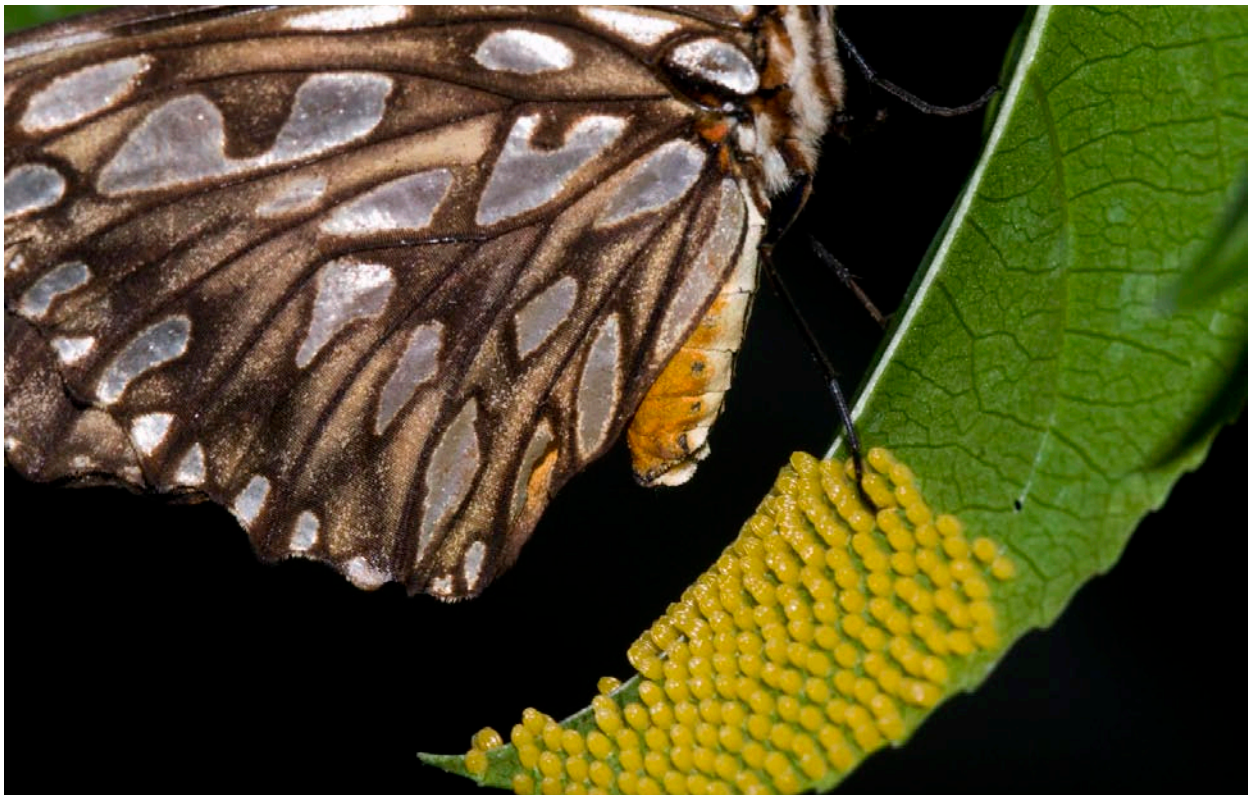


Figure 17. Photo by Jaime Leonardo, FLAAR Mesoamerica, with the Nikon D300, using the Novoflex Castel-XL. This is a butterfly in the process of aligning eggs in the mariposario maintained by FLAAR Mesoamerica in Guatemala.

When you are doing macro photography, the stability is very important and the focus too. That's the reason you need to practice Focus stacking, to have a good picture.

Focus stacking is a technique that combines multiple images taken at different focus distances to give you a greater depth of field than any of the single photos. In the nexts photos you will see how to create this kind of photos with the Novoflex Castel-XL.



Photo number 1.



Photo number 3.



Photo number 2.



Figure 18. In this photo you can see the final result using the Novoflex Castel-XL. This image was made with 41 photos. You can merge all the pictures using Helicon software, or Photoshop CS4.

This sequence shows you the correct procedure to do Focus stacking.

First you have to focus the object as close you can, then focus in the middle and finally focus on the farthest edge of your object.



Photo numer 1.



Photo numer 2.



Photo numer 3.



Figure 19. This is another example of Focus stacking with the butterfly eggs.

If you want to create this kind of photo, first you have to download the software on the internet, you will find many of this on the net, then take the pictures using the Novoflex Castel-XL to have an exelent estabily and good close-up's.



Figure 20.



Figure 21.



Figure 22. Here you can see when the caterpillar goes out of it's egg.



Figure 23.



Figure 24.



Figure 25.



Figure 26.

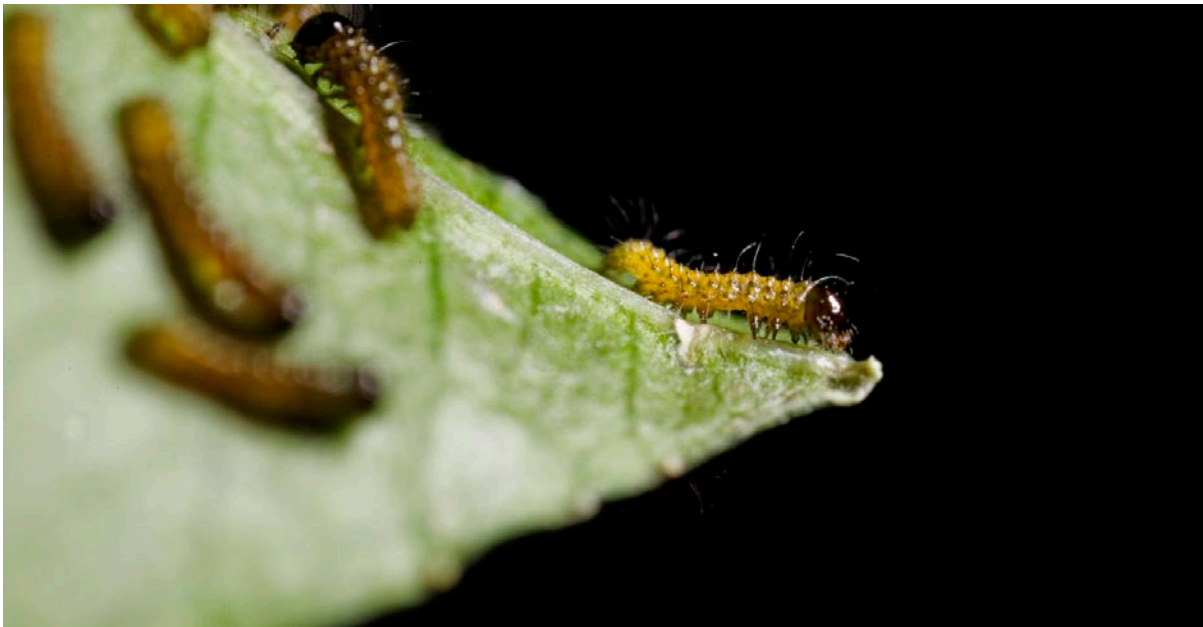


Figure 27.

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