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Pico

[User manual](#)





Dear customer,

Thank you for choosing the ARCA-SWISS Pico camera. It brings us great joy to include you in our community of photographic artists, and we hope that your new camera will become a valuable tool in your photography journey. The ARCA-SWISS team has dedicated significant effort to blend functionality with straightforward design in the Pico camera, aiming to provide a reliable and enjoyable photography experience.

As you join our growing ARCA-SWISS family, you'll discover that the Pico camera reflects our commitment to delivering quality equipment that meets the needs of photographers like you. This camera was crafted with great attention to detail, balancing technical precision with ease of use.

Within this manual, you will find detailed instructions and tips to fully utilize your Pico camera. We encourage you to take some time to read through it and familiarize yourself with the camera's features to improve your photography workflow.

We're here for you if you have any questions or need assistance while you explore the capabilities of your Pico camera.

Thank you for placing your trust in us. We're eager to see the amazing work and moments you'll preserve with your new camera.

Welcome to the ARCA-SWISS community. Here's to the beginning of your photography adventures with the Pico camera!
Best regards,

The ARCA-SWISS Team

1 What is in the box ?



2 Main functions



3 How to install the rear adapters

1. Make sure the locking lever is in open position (lever against the stop)
2. Insert the adapter into the groove, ensuring it is correctly oriented with the 'Mount' inscription facing the camera's back
3. Rotate the lever clockwise until tight



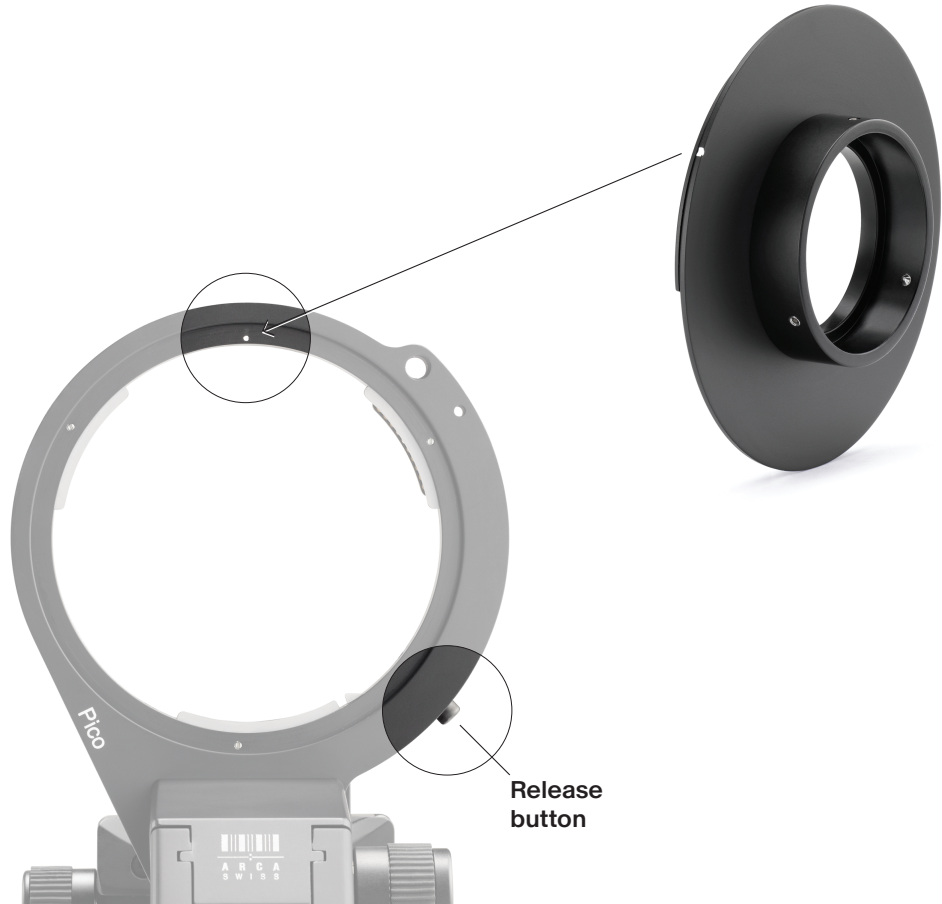
4 How to install / remove a lens on the front standard

Installation

1. Align the lens board's mounting index with the front frame's corresponding marker, white dot to white dot
2. Rotate a quarter turn clockwise.

Removal

1. Press the release button on the front frame
2. While button is pressed, rotate lens counter-clockwise until the lens is free and can be removed



5 How to install the bellows

Pre-requisite: The bellows are polarized, requiring that the largest connector disk be attached to the front standard.

1. Insert the front bellows connector into the recessed ring of the magnetized front frame and ensure that it is well engaged all around
2. Carefully align and insert the rear bellows connector into the recess of the magnetized rear adapter, ensuring that it is securely engaged all around

For digital backs, ensure the flat edge of the bellows aligns with the lower flat edge of the rear connector.

Note: Grab the last pleat on the bellows using two hands, and rotate back and forth until the bellows clicks in place.

Mirrorless cameras:



Digital backs:



6 How rotate your camera / digital back for orientation change



Mirrorless cameras:

1. Press the locking lever to disengage the lock, and then turn camera to engage rotation
2. Rotate until it clicks into the detent position (at each 90° interval)



Digital backs:

1. Rotate until it clicks into the detent position (at each 90° interval)

7 How change orientation of ARCA lenses

ARCA lenses 24 mm and 50 mm feature an adjustable orientation mechanism that allows users to easily switch between tilt and swing within the lens.

To choose tilt or swing within the lens:

1. Press the locking lever to disengage the lock, and then turn lens to engage rotation
2. Rotate until it clicks into the detent position

Two positions are provided, when rotation knob is at 0° (swing position) and when the rotation knob is at 90° (tilt position).

**Locking
lever**



010524
ARCA lens 24 mm



010550
ARCA lens 50 mm

8 How to calibrate floating element lenses

1. Set up the Pico on a tripod and level the camera. Ensure all view camera movements are zeroed
2. Mount a mirrorless camera or digital back. Then, mount a floating element lens and open the lens to its full aperture.
3. Point the camera towards a target at a preset lens-marked distance, for example, the 3 meter index mark for ARCA lenses. Measure a 3 meter distance from the digital sensor to a target on a wall. Position the camera at the 3 meter distance and align the sensor parallel to the target surface, as closely as possible.
4. Set the lens to the 3 meter setting on the lens barrel. Do not touch the lens for the remainder of the test
5. Using focus peaking on the LCD, adjust the focus with the Pico's geared focus knob until the target appears sharp
6. Confirm image sharpness by checking the center and edges of the frame, using 100% magnification while fine-tuning the focus
7. Turn the Pico inner calibration ring forward until it stops. This action memorizes the position on the rail and completes the calibration. A light detent will be established, while still allowing free travel along the rail.
8. For subsequent setups, only adjust the lens for focusing, while using the capture device at the Pico's memorized detent. Make all other adjustments using the Pico's view camera movements: rise/fall, shift, swing, and tilt, as desired.

To establish a new calibration setting, you can unlock the calibration ring, refocus to a new position, and then re-lock the calibration ring.

Note: A 3 meter calibration is optimized for closer distances useful for architectural interiors. An infinity test may yield better results for landscape photography, if the lens manufacturers infinity distance is known.



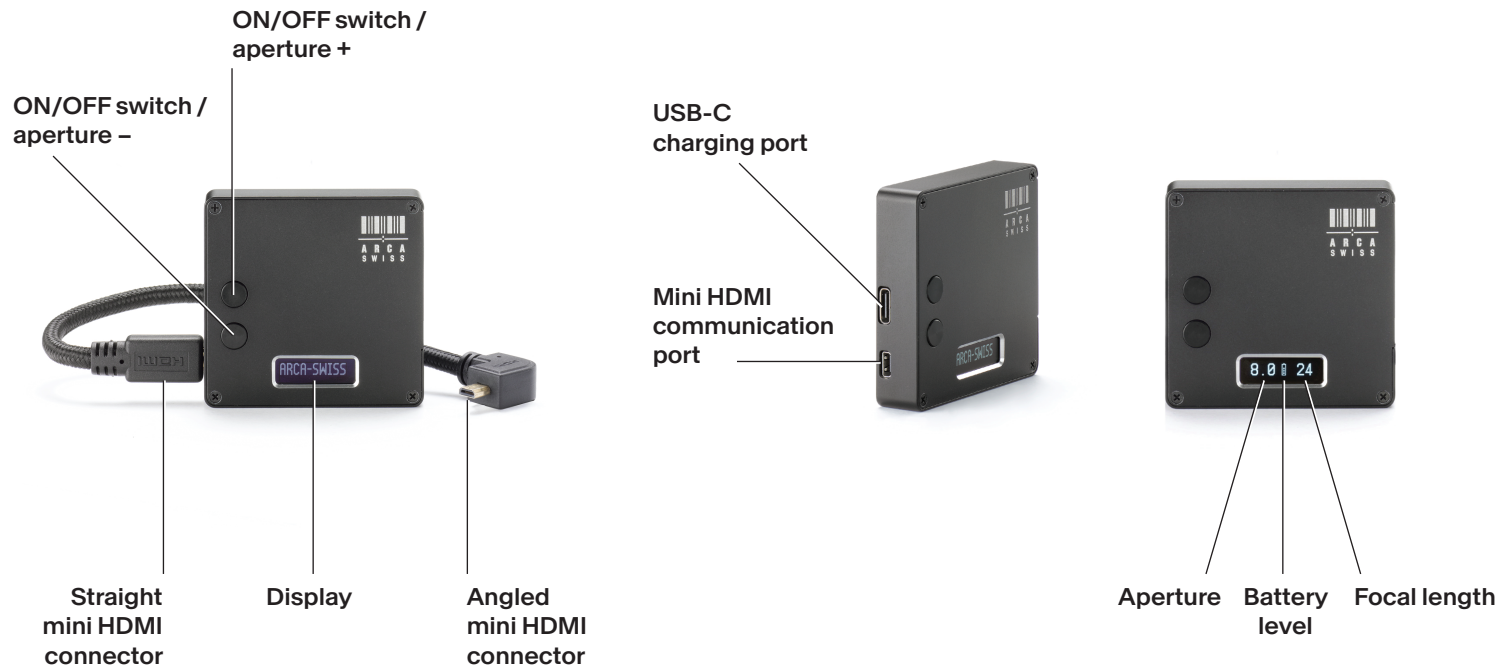
Calibration ring

9 How to exchange the focusing rail

1. Remove the front screw (2 mm Allen type)
2. Separate the front housing with front frame from the rail: begin by turning the focusing knob moving the housing forward on the rail, until the gears are disengaged. From that point, manually separate the housing from the rail
3. Remove the rear screw (3 mm Allen type)
4. Remove the rail from the rear standard
5. Install the new rail in its place
6. Install and tighten the rear screw
7. Insert the rail into the rear of the front housing, then continue to push until the gears mesh together. At that point, push the rail into the front element and turn the focusing knob clockwise to engage the gears
8. Once the gears are engaged turn the focusing knob until the rail protrudes through the front housing, allowing enough room to re-install the front screw
9. Install and tighten the front screw



10 Aperture control module



11 How to install the aperture control module



1. Align the control module with the back of the Pico by inserting the two dovetails into the corresponding slots. The module will attach magnetically once in place



2. Connect the straight mini HDMI connector to the module and the angled mini HDMI connector to the port located on the front frame. The module's height can be adjusted by sliding it, which may help prevent interference with the mirrorless camera body, particularly when positioned in portrait orientation.

12 Aperture control module display

To display the software version:

1. Press and hold the two front buttons for two seconds
2. The software version will be displayed on the screen (see example below)



To adjust the aperture:

1. Press the upper / lower button to open / close the aperture per increments
2. Press both buttons to open the lens to full aperture (see example below)



To charge the module's battery:

1. Connect the USB-C charging port to an external battery or a battery charger (This can be used with any USB-C charger or battery)

Note: The module can be used while charging. When charging, the battery icon will display. The battery is fully charged when the battery icon is fully filled.



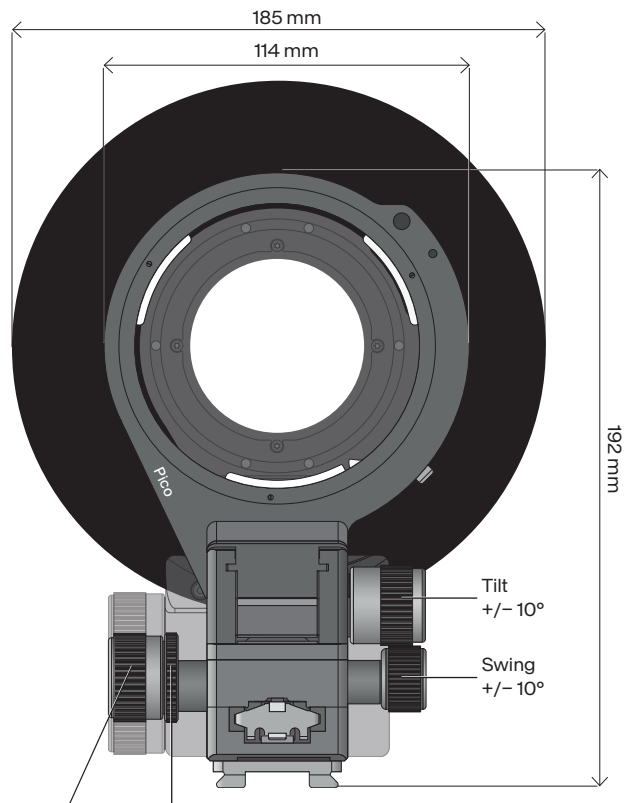
To switch the module ON:

1. Press and hold either one of the two front buttons for three seconds
2. This action will power up the module and automatically detect the focal length of the lens and display it on the screen, provided the mounted lens is part of a list of lenses programmed in the module. For unsupported lenses, the module will display only "ARCA-SWISS" and there will be no aperture control

To switch the module OFF:

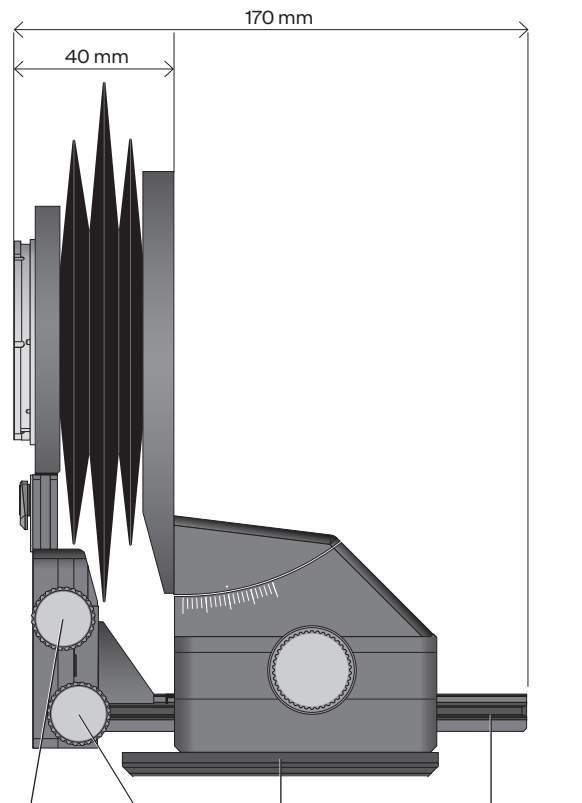
1. Press and hold either one of the two front buttons for two seconds

15 Technical specifications



Focus

Programmable
calibration click



Vertical shift
+/- 20 mm

Horizontal shift
+/- 20 mm

Camera plate
Classic & monoballFix

Rail
10 & 15 cm



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