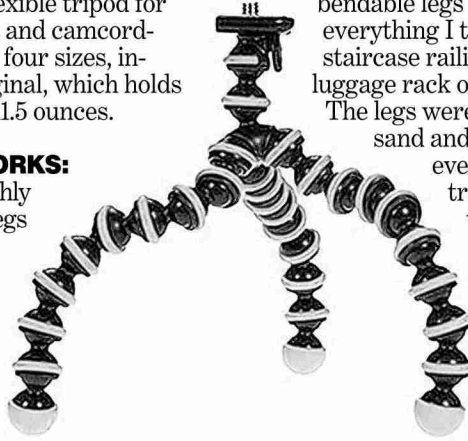


GADGET TO GO

WHAT: Gorillapod by Joby (www.joby.com; also available from www.CableOrganizer.com) is a compact, flexible tripod for digital cameras and camcorders. It comes in four sizes, including the original, which holds cameras up to 11.5 ounces.

HOW IT WORKS:

Durable and highly flexible plastic legs are topped by a steel clip that screws into the bottom of your camera. The legs feature more than two dozen ball-and-socket joints that can rotate 360 degrees. Each contains rubberized rings that allow the tripod to grip or stand on rough terrain.



HIGH POINTS: The flexibility of this tripod is unbelievable. I was able to wrap the bendable legs around everything I tried, from staircase railings to the luggage rack on my car. The legs were stable in sand and rock and even gripped tree trunks, window sills and a door knob — I was determined to find an object to which

it wouldn't grip, but the tripod foiled me at every turn. A lock ring on the clip ensures your camera stays attached.

And the Gorillapod is so small (6 inches long) and so lightweight (1.6 ounces) that for a week after a recent trip, I even forgot I was carrying it in my purse.

LOW POINTS: I twisted and contorted this tripod so many times that it never straightened back enough to fit in the slim box in which it came; over time, I wonder how the joints will fare with repeated use. The short legs won't give you the same height adjustment capabilities as a traditional tripod, but their flexibility makes capturing creative angles not only possible but also a lot of fun.

COST: Well worth the \$21.95 for the original (up to \$99.95 for the focus, which holds up to 11 pounds).

— Ann Tatko-Peterson

