

OPERATIONAL USE OF CHAPMAN NIKE CRANE

These operating instructions apply to both the permanently hired crane and those hired on a temporary basis. It is a battery driven mounting and can be used in or out of the studio, providing the appropriate wheels are fitted -hard for internal and pneumatic for external, or a non studio type floor.

For charging the batteries a 230v, 13 amp A/C supply is required. In the case of the permanently hired crane where it has been fitted with a charge rate regulator, when the switch is left on "NORMAL" (the charge rate being automatically controlled by the state of the battery) it is unnecessary to remove the mains supply. However, with the hired cranes it is advisable to keep the batteries on "float charge" during use and or overnight, if they are low but to an eighteen hour limit. DO NOT OVER-CHARGE.

1. Driving position

This function must be carried out by a competent Camera Assistant operating in the rear seated position. The two driving handles are located either side of the main chassis charging unit. One handle being locked in neutral when the crane is not in use requires a key being drawn from Reception TC. by the Senior Cameraman before the start of rehearsal, and returned at the end of transmission or recording. At all other breaktimes the driver must ensure that the crane is locked in the neutral position and the key removed to prevent interference by unauthorised persons.

The brakes are controlled by the driver's foot pedal at the rear with the following proviso:-

The forward and reverse driving handles must not be put in operating positions with the brakes on. The rheostat will get hot if it is held against the brakes and it causes the batteries to lose their charge quicker.

To stop the movement reduce the amount of power by moving the driving handle towards the neutral position and gently apply the brakes. Unless it is for emergency reasons DO NOT APPLY BRAKES VIOLENTLY as the crane will be subjected to severe backlash.

2. Crane arm

The permanently hired NIKE crane has one large weight fitted in the rear bucket, therefore it will arrive in the studio or elsewhere with the front arm Safety Bar lock fitted in position. On no account must this bar be removed before the mounting of the camera. Once this has been carried out, one Camera Assistant only should be detached to remove the Safety Bar lock whilst two others on the platform hold the weight bucket to ascertain the balance condition. Once this has been noted, the cameraman detailed to operate on the front end should mount his position wearing a crash helmet and safety belt whilst further balancing is carried out, using the extra weights that can be drawn from Technical Operations Stores.

With the hired NIKE Cranes, the above procedure should be adopted except that as the weight bucket usually arrives empty, some of the lead weights (281bs. each) should be placed in the bucket (approximately eighteen) just to counter-balance the weight of the camera.

Note

AT ALL TIMES WHEN THE NIKE CRANE IS NOT IN USE, THE SAFETY BAR ARM LOCK MUST BE IN POSITION.

The crane arm should be operated by a fully competent Camera Assistant and one assistant to help in starting and stopping the crane arm movement. This second position on Outside Broadcasts is normally occupied by a Rigger/Driver.

The crane arm can be temporarily locked off using the friction locks, both on the lateral and elevating mode. These friction locks cannot be used for dampening.

The NIKE crane uses lead weights for counter balance therefore for security reasons a high security padlock has been provided to lock them on the crane, the key for which should be drawn by nominated staff from Reception TC.

3. De-rigging the crane for transport purposes (internal)

- a) Crane arm is lowered.
- b) Locking bar (painted red) is released from its anchor point and placed over the anchor point on the central column.
- c) The locking bar bolt inserted.
- d) The central column panning lock put in the 'lock on' position to stop any side movement.
- e) The camera removed.
- f) Extra weights returned to Technical Operations Stores.

4. De-rigging the crane for transport purposes (external)

For external movement including hired cranes (except for point (f) above where the extra weights, if any are put in the weight bucket) the same procedure is carried out prior to the crane being transferred to Mechanical Workshops, Television Centre.