

INNOVATIVE IMAGING PRODUCT

SIRUI TX-SERIES TRIPODS

You might think that it would be hard to improve on any aspect of the tripod's design and operation given they're pretty much set in concrete. Well, every so often somebody comes up with something surprising. When we were first shown Sirui's range of tripods, we pretty much had the same reaction as most people – What? Another brand of tripod? Then we starting trying one or two out and found that this Chinese manufacturer has indeed come up with something **pretty clever indeed**. The TX-series of models are primarily aimed at the travelling photographer so compactness is a prerequisite, but with this has usually come compromise. **Sirui has dreamt up the idea of tripod legs which fold through 180 degrees so a folded tripod is exceptionally short indeed...**

yet the possible height extension isn't significantly reduced. For example, the T-1004X model is just 40 cm when folded, but extends to 140 cm. It weighs 1.1 kilograms, but can support up to 10 kilograms of weight which is substantial. This is because these tripods have carbon fibre leg tubes, but not just any old composite – **Sirui is a rarity in that it makes it own leg tubes and these comprise eight cross-patterned layers so they are much, much stronger in return for a very minimal increase in weight.** Like most of the great ideas, Sirui's 180-degree folding tripod leg is a simple one (it's just really an extension of the variable-angle settings), but the benefits are real and tangible. So... **Sirui, not just another tripod brand.**

