An Adapter for A JOBY Tripod, Version 1.0

By R. G. Sparber

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This JOBY tripod was a gift from my wonderful daughter, Sarah. Beyond its sentimental value, it worked great with my iPhone S.

But when I upgraded to the iPhone XS and then put it in a big fat Otterbox case, the tripod clip no longer reached over the top.

I didn't want to modify the tripod nor the case. This sounded like a good place for a removable adapter.

I keep a selection of architectural aluminum extrusions because they are just plain handy.
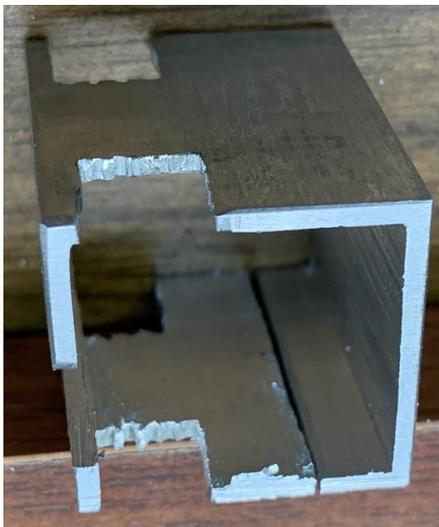

This was my first prototype which was cut from 1.5" x 1.5" square tubing.

It worked well enough to tell me I was on the right track. The adapter easily reached over the top of my phone but the spring-loaded vertical bar was fully retracted. Failure? Nope, just time for the second prototype.

This time I used a piece of 1" x 1" tubing. It happened to have thicker walls but that didn't matter.

On the first prototype, I took a lot of care to saw the notches only on the top[2]. This was not necessary and was dangerous because I had to tilt the part as I cut on my bandsaw.

You must be always mindful of how small parts like this can move while being sawed. Be sure your fingers are never drawn into the blade or caught in the part as it goes flying. Wear eye protection at *all* times.

On this second go-around, I had the stock flat on the bandsaw table and let the blade cut top and bottom. The bottom cuts would end up in the scrap drawer.

I cleaned up the cuts with a small file and rounded all corners and edges.

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[2] I could not saw on the bottom because my view was blocked. However, this would have been more stable.

This time the prototype worked well. The adapter reached over the top of the phone while the arm was partially extended. The top lip held securely without blocking any of the screen.

When I made the first version, I didn't have a clear idea of how it would fit. But given the insights of this first "failure", I was able to make the second version which solves my problem. Would I have gone for a third version? Sure, if the second prototype's failure taught me enough about what to do next. This is classic engineering.

I welcome your comments and questions.

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