

Tour of Ronford-Baker Factory

Kings Langley, home of Ronford-Baker, is a short 5-minute ride from Leavesden Warner Bros Studios, former home of Harry Potter and his films.

Ronford-Baker, as every muggle and wizard knows, is the maker of motion picture tripods, heads, sliders, and grip equipment.

Jeff Lawrence, at right, with an Atlas 40 fluid head, has been with the company since the beginning, and is the Managing Director.

The company was founded in 1966 by Harry Baker and Ron Ford. The original workshop was in a drafty farm building.

The company moved to their current, modern facility in 2012, and I was invited for a tour of the factory a few months ago.

The Ronford brand name is like a universal call for a specific piece of equipment, "Get me the Ronfords please."

Every grip in the world knows that means a Ronford-Baker Heavy Duty Tripod with Mitchell top plate. A standard in the industry. It weighs 22 lb and with legs spread, adjusts from 3' to 5'6".

There's no confusion about Baby Legs. "Get me the Baby Ronfords please." Height adjusts from 1'8" to 3'. "Ronfords" are made of rugged, anodized aluminum. The locking levers are legendary. They lock firmly and are resistant to the sand, salt, spray, and dirt to which they are routinely subjected. The Ronford Standard and Baby Heavy Duty Tripods at right were being packed for shipment to AbelCine in NY.

Jeff said, "We make support equipment for the movies—everything from the floor up: track, dollies, spreaders, tripods, fluid heads, accessories, grip, specialized tools, one-offs and bespoke parts. Bespoke is a big part of our business, and often becomes part of the line. Most of our products are hand-finished. Our fluid heads are built from solid blocks of aluminum instead of being cast. They are very durable."

In the foreground, left, is the popular Atlas 7 multi-axis fluid head. It's a thoroughly modern version of the venerable "Ronford F7" which has been on sets for more than 40 years.

Ronford-Baker will exhibit at IBC in the Dedo Weigert booth 11.E31, and at Cinec booth 3-E15.

Ryan Glater, in photo bottom right, manages the office and is getting ready to launch the new website in September:
www.ronfordbaker.co.uk.



Tour of Ronford-Baker Factory (cont'd)



New Atlas 7 half-gimbal Fluid Head for self-balanced control of cameras up to 60 kg, upright or underslung. Modular construction, also available in 3 axis. Weight (2 axis): 14.5 kg.



New Atlas 40 Fluid Head: 7 pan and tilt fluid settings with zero positions at either end of the scale. Tilt range + - 90 degrees; Weight: 9 kg.



Three-way leveler



Billet bazooka with 20"-40" crankable riser



Heavy Duty Tripod



Ronford-Baker Slider has adjustable magnetic stops, comes in lengths from 19" to 96"



Adjustable Mitchell Base Hi-hat

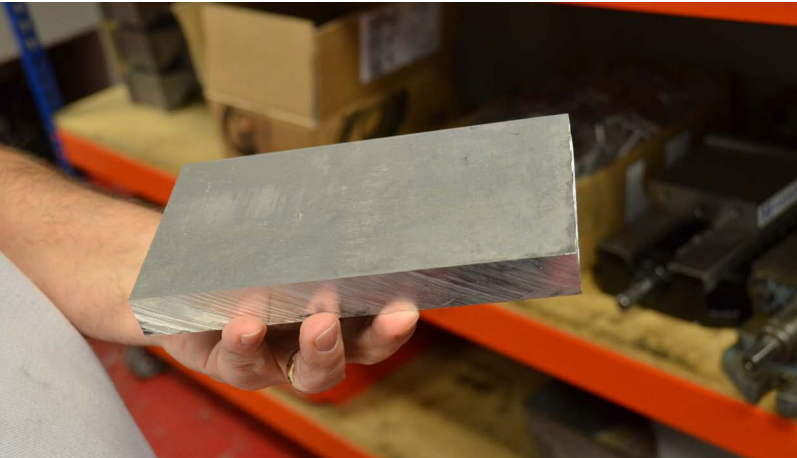


Standard and Large Quick-Release (Euro-style) Plates and Bases

Tilttable Hi-hat has a Mitchell base with 4 keyways, adjusts to 90°



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