



removing the camera from the tripod head. Typically, you buy the tripod base separately from the head, which gives you a little more flexibility in buying the components you like best.

Take your camera when you shop to see how well the tripod works with it. Set the tripod at its maximum height, push down on the top camera platform, and try turning the tripod head as though it were a doorknob. If the tripod twists easily, or the legs begin to collapse, look for a different model.

- ✓ **Small solutions:** A great option for times when you don't want to carry around a full-size tripod is a product like the Joly Gorillapod (www.joly.com). Made of stiff but flexible gripping legs, it can stand as a short tripod or wrap around something and hold on — such as a tree, as shown in Figure 2-15. The Gorillapod comes in a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors for all types of cameras.



Figure 2-15: The Joly Gorillapod lets you mount a camera nearly anywhere.

Another small solution with a similar name, The Pod (www.thepod.ca) is a beanbag-like platform that you can use to steady the camera on uneven surfaces and at various angles, as shown in Figure 2-16.

- ✓ **Monopods:** Another way to be portable but stable is to use a monopod, a collapsible stick that lets you hold your camera steady but doesn't stand on its own. You frequently see sports photographers at football games traipsing around the



THE pod INDUSTRIES

Figure 2-16: The Pod offers another tiny but practical means of stabilizing the camera.