

NON-TYPICAL
TREESTANDS
by **AMERISTEP**

THE **CHAMP**

HANG-ON TREE STAND

Instruction and Safety Manual

Model #7216A

Thank You! for purchasing Ameristep® NON-TYPICAL CHAMP HANG-ON

! CAUTION: Maximum Tested Weight Capacity Limit for this Product is: **300 POUNDS**
(Including Accessories, Gear and Attire) **DO NOT** Exceed tested weight limit capacity.

! This product is designed for only ONE PERSON.

! CAUTION: Minimum tree diameter must be no less than 9 inches and Maximum is 20 inches.

! WARNING: Every year serious injury and even death occurs from hunting related falls. To ensure your safety, please **COMPLETELY** read and follow this safety manual and **ALL** warning labels **BEFORE** assembling, installing, or utilizing this product.

DO NOT USE THIS AMERISTEP® PRODUCT BEFORE FULLY UNDERSTANDING ALL SAFETY WARNINGS AND INSTRUCTIONS. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, ARE UNSURE ABOUT ANY INFORMATION, or NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS PRODUCT, CONTACT OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT. KEEP AND MAINTAIN THIS SAFETY & INSTRUCTION MANUAL FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

2009
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TREE STAND SAFETY

- When hunting from a tree stand, falls can occur at any time after leaving the ground causing injury or death.
- Always wear a Fall Arrest System (FAS), comprising a full body harness, at all times after leaving the ground. You must stay connected to the tree at all times after leaving the ground while using climbing or hang-on stands. Single safety belts and chest harnesses are no longer allowed and should never be used. If you are not wearing a full body harness properly attached to the tree to protect you from a fall, do not leave the ground.
- Read and understand all of the manufacturer's warnings and instructions and use all safety devices provided by the manufacturer. Contact the manufacturer for any questions. Failure to do so could result in injury or death.
- Never exceed the total weight limit of a tree stand.
- Never use a tree stand while taking drugs (even prescription drugs) or alcohol.
- Never use a tree stand during inclement weather such as rain, lightning, windstorms or icy conditions and end your hunt and return to the ground if inclement conditions arise.
- Never use a tree stand when feeling ill, nauseous or dizzy, or if you have a prior medical condition that could cause a problem i.e., heart condition, joints that lock-up, spinal fusions, etc. or if you are not well rested.
- Never use a tree stand on a dead, leaning, diseased or loose barked tree or on a utility pole.
- Never rely on a tree branch for support
- Never jump or bounce on a tree stand to seat it to the tree.
- Pull up a bow, backpack, firearm or other equipment only after being secured in the tree stand and a firearm must be pulled up with it unloaded, chamber open and muzzle down.
- Always inform someone of the hunting location, where the tree stand will be located and the expected duration of the hunt.
- A signal device, as a mobile phone, radio, whistle, signal flare or personal locator device (PLD) must be on your person and readily available at all times.
- Inspect the tree stand and all safety devices each time before use and do not store a tree stand outdoors when not in use.
- Never modify your stand in any way by making repairs, replacing parts, or altering, adding or attaching anything to it except if explicitly authorized in writing by the manufacturer.
- Practice installing, adjusting and using your tree stand at ground level prior to using it at elevated positions.
- Instructions (written and video) should be kept in a safe place and reviewed at least annually. It is the responsibility of the tree stand owner to furnish the complete instructions to any person who borrows or purchases the tree stand.
- The use of a lineman's/climbing belt is required when installing or removing a hang-on tree stand to stabilize the user with the tree.
- Be sure that the full body harness is attached to tree before stepping down onto the platform. When using a climbing/lineman's belt, be sure not to detach belt until you are on the stand platform, tree strap is installed and your tether has been secured to the tree strap.
- Correct tightening and adjustments of chains, cables, straps, etc. are critical to stable hang-on tree stand installation. All tree stand contact points must be in contact with the tree before you step onto your stand.
- Never leave a tree stand in a tree for more than two weeks since weather or animals could cause damage. The elements and excessive U/V exposure can degrade components of stand. Tree growth can also cause stress and damage to straps and buckles.
- Use a haul line to raise and lower the tree stand. Never climb with anything on your back.
- A full body harness with lineman's/climbing belt must be worn at all times while installing or removing any hang-on climbing aids.
- Climbing aids (stick ladders, sectional ladders, steps, etc.) must extend above the platform to allow the user to step down onto the platform. Never step up to your stand from a climbing aid.
- Sectional ladders and steps should be spaced on the tree to insure each step is no more than 18 inches apart.
- Check every stick ladder section connection every time you use the stick ladder before you leave the ground. If stick ladder sections are separating, do not use the stick ladder.

FAS (FALL ARREST SYSTEM)

- Read and understand the manufacturer's warnings, expiration date and instructions on how to use and how to properly adjust the harness.
- Practice the use of a full body harness at ground level in the presence of a responsible adult to experience the feeling of hanging suspended before using in a hunting environment.
- The length of the harness tether must be minimized at all times. It should be adjusted so that it is above the head with no slack (snug) in the sitting position and you should have the minimum amount of slack possible when climbing.
- Never allow the tether strap to get under your chin or around your neck.
- If the hunting location is unknown by anyone and communication efforts are unsuccessful, you must have a personal plan for recovery/escape because prolonged suspension in a harness can be fatal. It is important to exercise the legs by pushing against the tree or doing other forms of continuous leg exercises to avoid blood pooling while being suspended. Hunters with varying degrees of physical fitness may require different plans to recover/escape the effects of prolonged suspension. Have a personal plan and practice it in the presence of a responsible adult before leaving the ground. No one escape/rescue plan will work for every hunter on every tree in every circumstance. Only you can determine the best recovery/escape plan for your hunting situation and you must have a recovery /escape plan for you situation before leaving the ground.
- A suspension relief device must be on your person and readily accessible while using a harness. This device will allow the user to relieve the load on the lower extremities if suspended in a harness and help maintain circulation in the legs and prevent suspension trauma (blood pooling). Be sure to follow manufacturers' directions on the safe use of any suspension relief device.
- Hunt from the ground when self-recovery/escape ability is absent.
- There is time to make a correct decision on what action to take if a fall occurs while wearing a full body harness. It is important to remember, "DO NOT PANIC." Remain calm and implement your practiced rescue, relief and recovery plan.

PROPER CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

- Inspect for defects (damage, rot, corrosion, cracks, freezing, excessive heat, etc.) before every use is required. Do not use if damage is detected or suspected.
- Ameristep recommends periodically re-tightening and/or replacing hardware (supplied by Ameristep®), including bolts, nuts, washers, rope, straps, cord, etc.

CHOOSING SAFE TREE

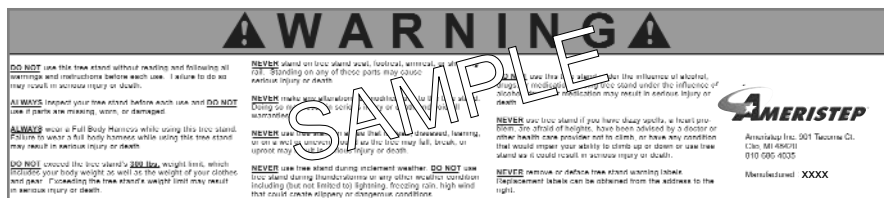
- **ALWAYS** thoroughly inspect the tree before installing your product. **DO NOT** install your Ladder Stand on to any dead or unsafe tree, telephone or utility pole, structural column, or man-made structure. Doing so may result in serious injury or death.
- **ALWAYS** select the proper tree for use with your TREE/LADDER STAND. Select a live straight tree that fits within size limits recommended (minimum tree diameter must be no less than 9 inches and maximum of 20 inches.). **DO NOT** rely on a branch for support.
- **DO NOT** select a tree in the dark or choose a tree in close proximity to a fence. You must not have any stumps or rocks beneath your tree.
- **NEVER** use TREE/LADDER STAND on a tree that is dead, diseased, leaning, or on wet and uneven ground as the tree may fall, break, or uproot.
- Your tree must not be wet, icy, or slippery or on wet, swampy, or loose ground that allows the tree to be unstable. Check the ground under LADDER STAND to ensure it is firm and level.
- Be sure you have a level stand platform. Your tree must not lean or have any irregular shape.
- Tree must not have loose or scaly bark or excessive vines, nails, screws, or any other sharp object protruding that may sever webbing on product. Any surrounding trees must not lean or dead limbs that may fall onto you or your product.
- **NEVER HURRY!!** While climbing a TREE/LADDER STAND, make slow, even movements no more than ten to twelve inches at a time. Make sure you have proper contact with tree and/or TREE/LADDER STAND every time you move. **On ladder tree stands, ALWAYS maintain three points of contact with each step** and **ALWAYS** lean forward as you climb.



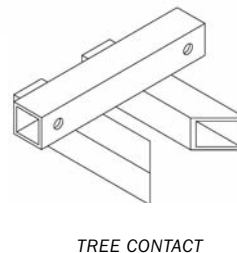
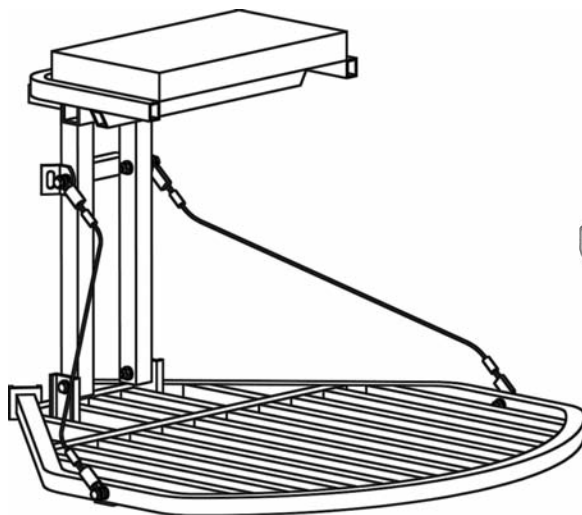
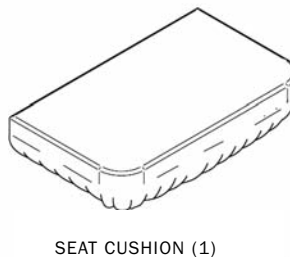
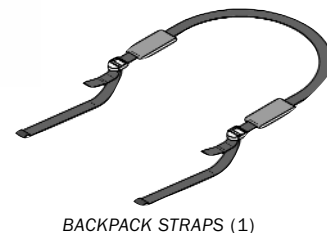
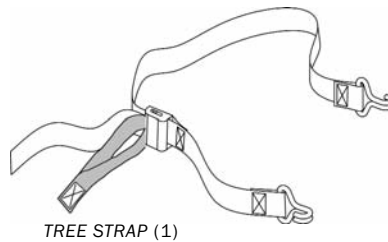
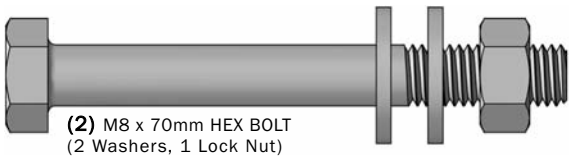
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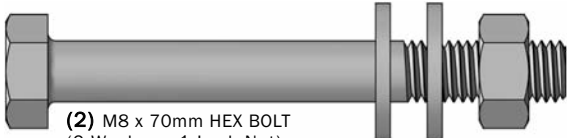
This product is designed for only **ONE PERSON**.

Never remove any safety warning stickers from this product.
Safety must be your first priority during the use of this product.

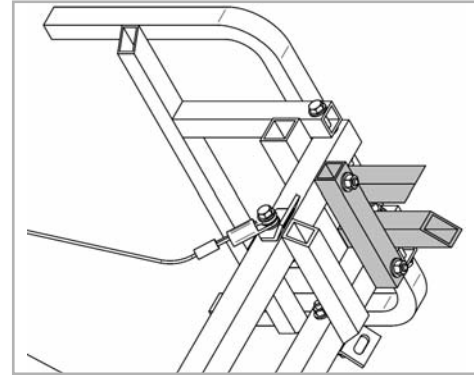
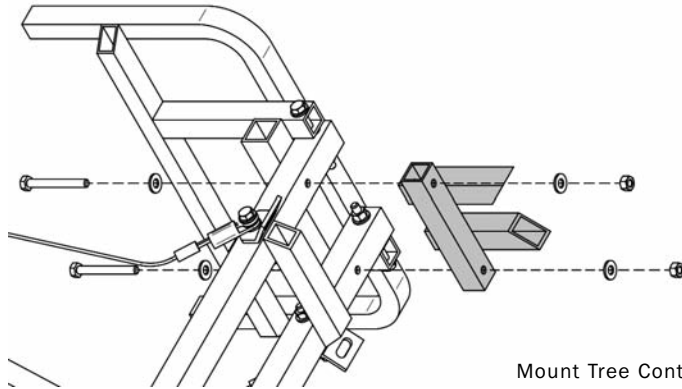


PARTS



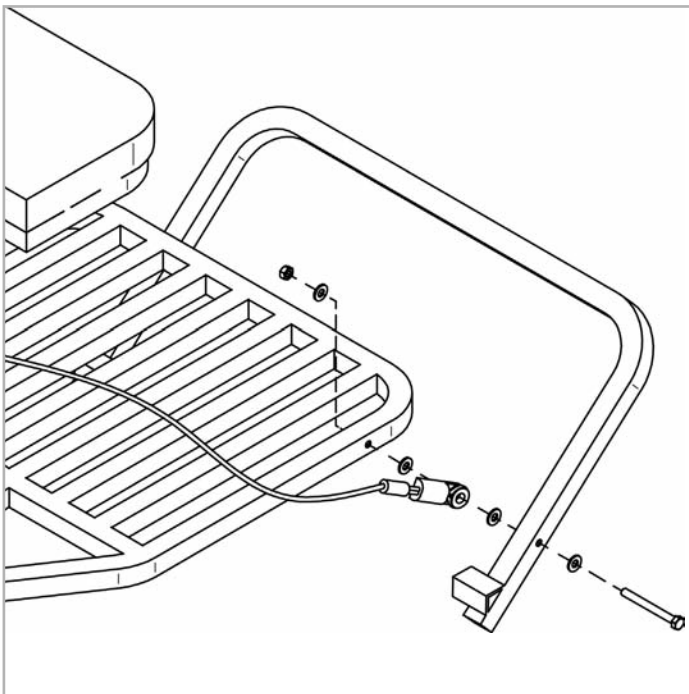


(2) M8 x 70mm HEX BOLT
(2 Washers, 1 Lock Nut)



Mount Tree Contact to Upright as shown using
(2) M8 x 70mm Hex Bolts (1 lock nut, 2 washers).

INSTALLING FOOTREST



STEP 1: Remove **BOLTS** from end of **Cables**.

STEP 2: Align **FOOTREST** to **PLATFORM** and **CABLES** with **TRIANGLE STOPPERS** contacting **UNDERSIDE** of **PLATFORM** and **RADIUS ANGLED UP**.

STEP 3: Using the **TWO BOLTS**, attach **PLATFORM**, **CABLES** and **FOOTREST** together. Make sure the **FOUR WASHERS** are spacing each **Component** as shown.

TIGHTEN ALL BOLTS.

! FOR YOUR SAFETY:

- ! Check every ladder section **BEFORE** you leave the ground.
- ! Sectional ladders must not be anymore than 18" apart.
- ! **USE A HAUL LINE TO RAISE AND LOWER YOUR STAND. DO NOT CARRY STAND IN HAND OR ON BACK WHILE CLIMBING**

! Note: Practice with your product, wearing entire hunting gear & Safety Harness at ground level **BEFORE** ascending to any height.

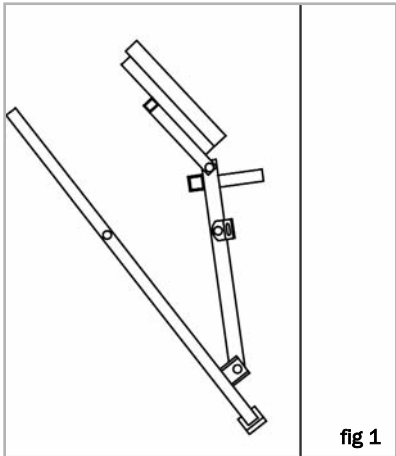


fig 1

Step 1: With **PLATFORM** folded up, place **UPPER TREE CONTACTS** against tree (fig 1).

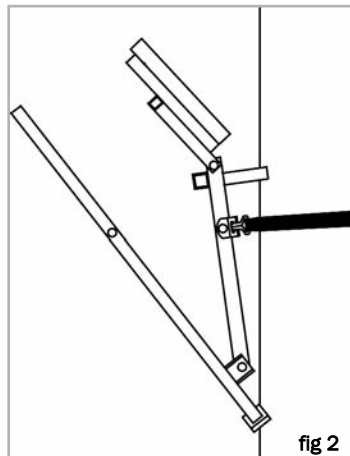


fig 2

Step 2: Wrap **TREE STRAP** around tree and attach each hook into **TREE BRACKETS** (fig 2).

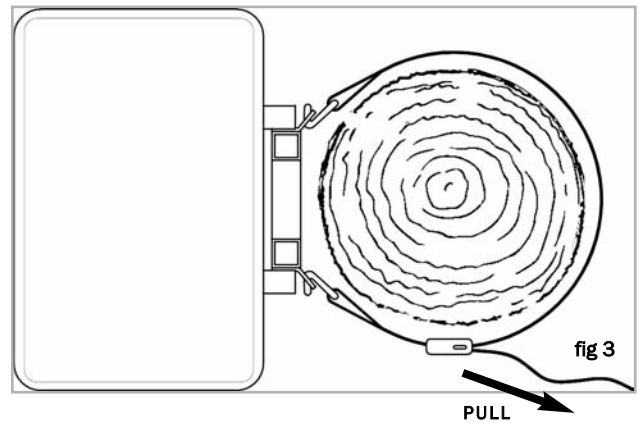


fig 3

Step 3: Pull **TREE STRAP** tight, making sure **PLATFORM TREE CONTACTS** are resting against tree also (fig 3).

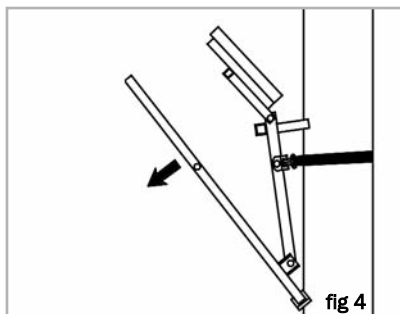


fig 4

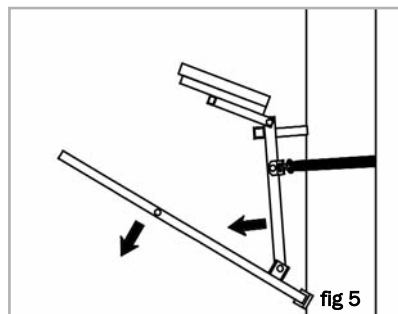


fig 5

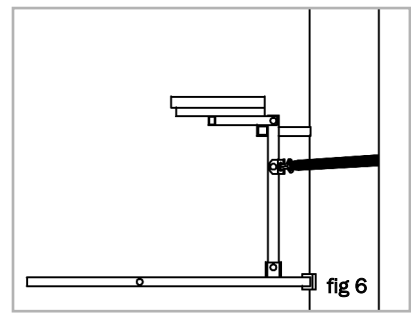


fig 6

Step 4: After **TREE STRAP** has been pulled tight, pull down on **FRONT OF PLATFORM** until it is parallel with ground. (fig 4, 5, 6).

! NOTE: If all **TREE CONTACTS** are not touching tree, fold **PLATFORM** back up and loosen **STRAP**, re-set **STAND** and repeat process.

! Cautiously when using a climbing belt to ascend tree, the full body safety harness must be attached to tree **BEFORE** stepping down on tree stand.

! Cautiously put your weight on the stand platform. The additional weight will create tension on tree strap cables.



fig 7

Step 5: When moving from climbing aid to tree stand, step down or over from climbing aid to stand (fig 7).

! FOR YOUR SAFETY:

1. Once **TREE STAND** is secured to tree, tie one end of **HOIST ROPE** to **YOUR GEAR** while still on ground.
2. With **HOIST ROPE** in hand, climb up to **PLATFORM** and **IMMEDIATELY STRAP YOUR SAFETY HARNESS TO TREE.**
3. Raise **GEAR** to **PLATFORM** using **HOIST ROPE.**

TAKE DOWN STAND

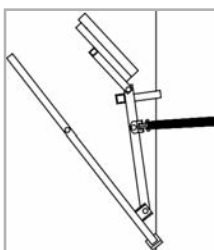


fig 1

Step 1: Fold **PLATFORM** upward. This will de-activate "Camming Action" and release pressure from strap (fig 1).

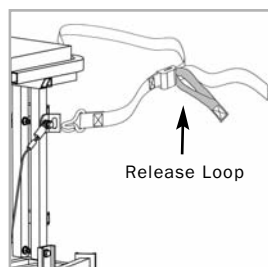


fig 2

Step 2: While holding **STAND**, pull **RELEASE LOOP** on **TREE STRAP**. It will loosen (fig 2).

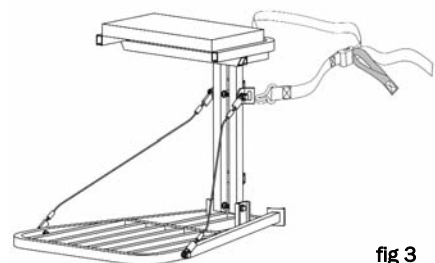


fig 3

Step 3: Unhook **TREE STRAP** from **TABS** and lower **STAND** to ground using a rope of appropriate length (fig 3).

! Note: If Backpack Straps do not come pre-installed on TREE STAND, please follow below how to re-install them.



fig 1



fig 2

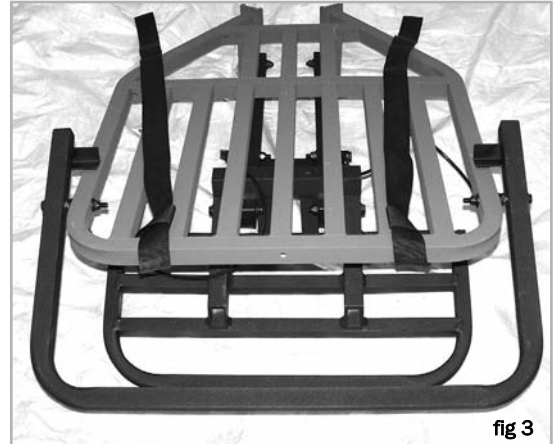


fig 3

Step 1: Position STRAP so they are spread out equally on your platform. Push tag end of STRAP through LOOP and pull tight. (fig. 1 & 2)

Step 2: REPEAT same process on opposite side of PLATFORM. STRAPS should now look same as (fig 3).

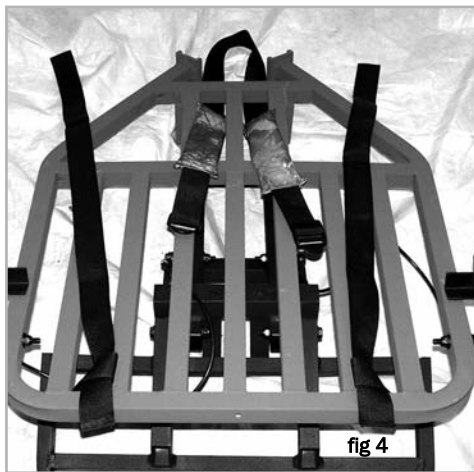


fig 4

Step 3: Take TOP SECTION of BACKPACK STRAP (section with the shoulder pads); Fold in half so STRAPS on both sides of fold are equal. Take two ends with SHOULDER PADS and pull them through so they are identical to STRAPS shown (fig 4).

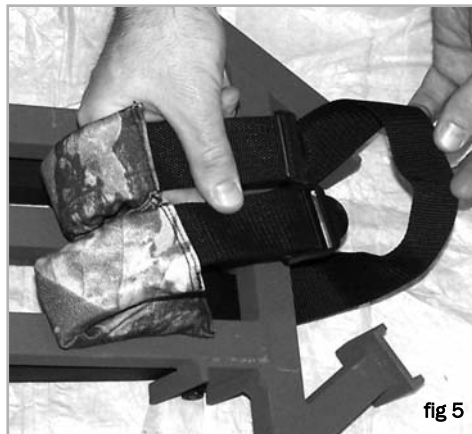


fig 5

Step 4: Push TWO ENDS with SHOULDER PADS THROUGH LOOP that was created on outside of PLATFORM (fig 5).

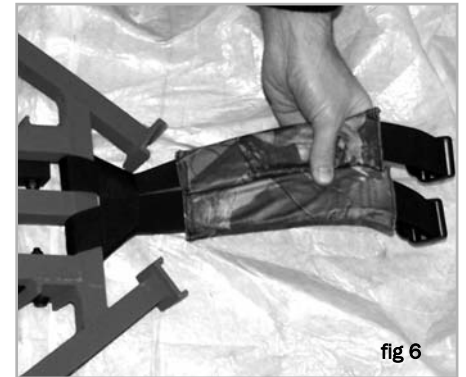


fig 6

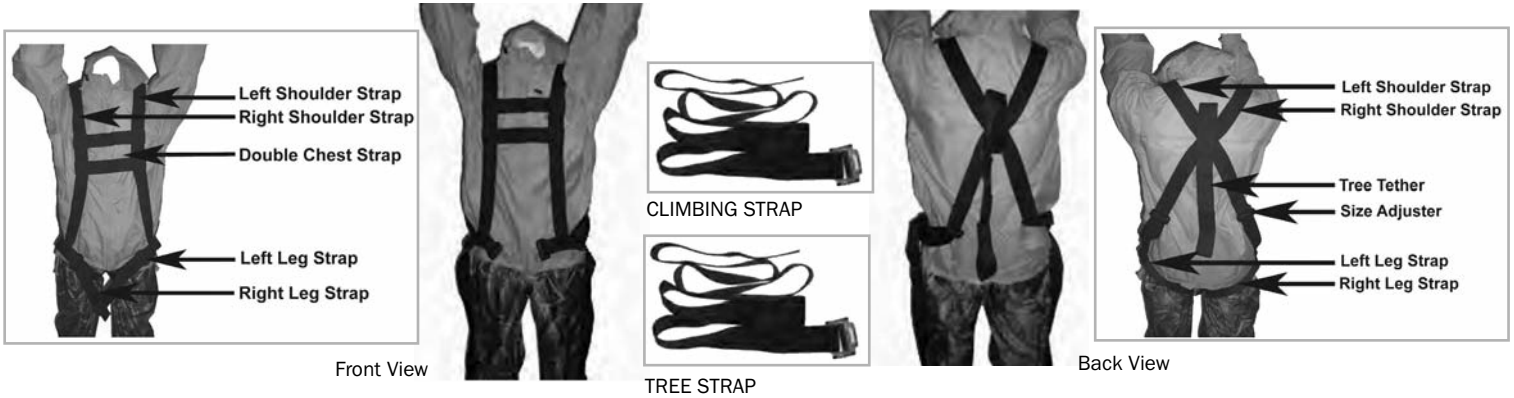
Step 5: Pull on BACKPACK STRAPS so loop cinches down onto PLATFORM (fig 6).



fig 7

Step 6: Connect top and bottom sections of BACKPACK STRAPS together (fig 7).

INSTALLING SAFETY HARNESS • CLIMBING STRAP • TREE STRAP • TAKE DOWN



1

Step 1: Wrap RIGHT LEG STRAP around inner thigh leg. Feed through first slit on strap adjuster.



2

Step 2: Continue feeding leg strap through SECOND slit on strap adjuster, PULL TO TIGHTEN.



3

Step 3: Feed strap AGAIN through original slit in Strap Adjuster. **Strap must be fed back through strap adjuster again or strap will slide out.**



4

Step 4: Pull all extra slack of LEG STRAP through and make sure strap is secured correctly through strap adjuster. REPEAT steps 1 - 4 for left leg strap. Adjust size adjusters on back as necessary for a secure, snug fit.

CLIMBING STRAP



1

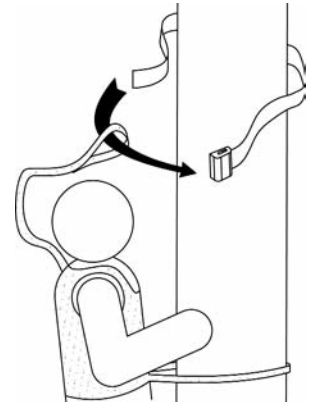
Step 1: BEFORE CLIMBING, pass tree strap being used for climbing strap behind BOTH chest straps of Safety Harness.

Step 2: Wrap climbing strap around tree ONLY ONCE making sure strap is not twisted. Secure strap using slide adjuster (see slide adjuster instructions).



3

Step 3: Adjust length of strap so you can slightly lean back while climbing. Slide strap up tree as you climb, making sure it does not get caught on steps, climbing sticks, or branches on way up.



DO NOT Detach Climbing Strap Yet.

Once you are on stand, thread tree strap through loop in harness tether and wrap tree strap around tree (shown above).



4

Step 4: Position strap at or slightly above your standing head level. With Buckle in front of you, thread strap through Buckle (fig 4 and 4a).

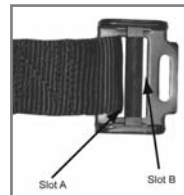


4a



5

Step 5: Using excess strap, tighten strap so it fits snugly around tree (fig 5). Tighten around smooth surface of tree, not over branches, knots or other irregularities.



1. Tree Strap Buckle Shown (fig 1)

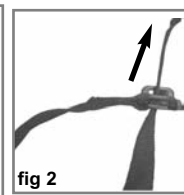


fig 2

2. Insert Strap through Slot "A". (fig 2)

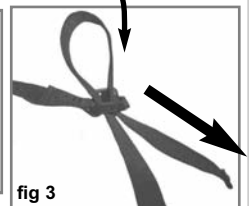


fig 3

3. Pull strap through Slot "B". Pull strap to adjust tension. (fig 3)

CAUTION: DO NOT disconnect climbing strap until you are on stand and harness tether has been secured to tree via tree strap.

TAKE DOWN

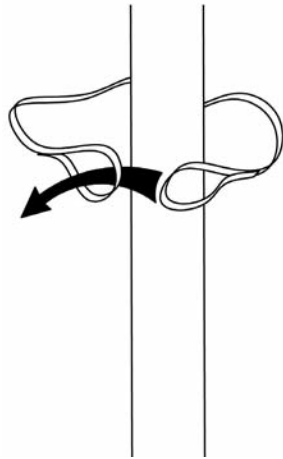
Step 1: To remove your safety vest harness.

- Re-attach climbing lanyard to vest and around tree
- Remove tree strap from around tree
- Carefully descend down tree. Be sure to slide climbing lanyard as you are descending.
- Once you have climbed down and are safely on ground, detach climbing lanyard from vest harness, loosen chest strap buckle and loosen leg strap buckles.



Step 1: DO NOT PANIC !!!

Remain calm and implement your practiced rescue, relief and recovery plan.



Step 2: Wrap strap around back of tree once and insert one of the loop ends through other loop.



Step 3: Pull tight making sure that loop is hanging does not hang below your feet.



Step 4: Insert your foot into bottom loop that is hanging from tree. Lift yourself up by pressing your weight down into strap with your foot standing. This will remove tension from around legs and hips.

! WARNING:

NEVER disconnect your Safety Harness during ascending, hunting or descending tree. You must remain connected to tree at ALL times. Read and understand how to use and adjust harness prior to using it.

This Suspension Relief System (SRS) allows relief from the pressure of a person's body weight on lower extremities while suspended in a harness. This device is used to help maintain circulation and prevent blood pooling in the legs.

The Suspension Relief System is designed to use in conjunction with a Fall Arrest System (FAS).

- Never use SRS without being attached to a tree by your Safety Harness.
- Do not use SRS to assist in climbing a tree.
- This device is to be used with your safety harness if a fall occurs.
- All users **MUST** have a personal plan for escape/recovery if a fall occurs.
- Hunt from the ground if escape or recovery is not possible.



WARRANTY

READ THIS AGREEMENT

This Ameristep® product has a limited warranty. No other warranties, whether expressed or implied, including warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, apply to the product.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF LIMITED WARRANTY

- A. The original purchaser of this Ameristep® product is warranted against defects in material and workmanship for one year following the date of its retail purchase.
- B. The exclusive remedy for defects in material and workmanship under the warranty is replacement/ replacement parts.
- C. Ameristep® will, at its option, replace products not conforming to this limited warranty. This is the sole and exclusive remedy available under legal theory for this Ameristep® product.

II. NO OTHER WARRANTIES

NO OTHER WARRANTIES OR REPRESENTATIONS, WHETHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, SHALL APPLY TO THE PRODUCT.

III. EXCLUSIONS, LIMITATIONS, AND CONDITIONS OF LIMITED WARRANTY

- A. This warranty cannot be assigned or transferred.
- B. This warranty only applies if the Ameristep® product is used in accordance with Ameristep's written instructions.
- C. Ameristep® products are intended only for use in hunting. Ameristep® products are not intended or authorized for use in any situations that may create health or injury risks.
- D. This warranty is void if the product is damaged through abuse, accident, improper use, negligence or normal wear and tear.
- E. This warranty is void if the product is altered, changed, or modified in any manner.
- F. This warranty is void if any attempt is made to repair the product without written authorization from Ameristep®.
- G. Except as provided in this limited warranty, all Ameristep® products are provided "as is." All other warranties and representations, oral or written, express or implied, including but not limited to any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, are excluded and do not apply.

IV. PROCEDURES IN EVENT OF DEFECT

- A. If you find a product to be defective, contact Ameristep at 1-810-686-4035.
- B. When you receive authorization from Ameristep®, return the product as directed by Ameristep®.

V. LIMITATION OF DAMAGES

- A. Ameristep® shall not, under any circumstances or legal theory, be liable or responsible for direct, indirect, special, incidental, or consequential damages.
- B. Ameristep® shall not, under any circumstances or legal theory, be liable or responsible for any amount in excess of the product purchase price.
- C. Ameristep® shall not, under any circumstances or legal theory, be liable or responsible for damage to items or equipment used with the Ameristep® product.
- D. Ameristep® shall not, under any circumstances or legal theory, be liable for personal injury, personal loss, lost profits, lost wages, goodwill, downtime, economic loss in excess of the product purchase price, or any non-economic damages.

VI. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

- A. This agreement is the entire agreement between you and Ameristep®. This agreement supercedes any prior or different agreements, representations, or proposals, whether written or oral.
- B. No representative, agent, or employee, of Ameristep® is authorized to make warranties, representations, or obligations, other than those set forth in this limited warranty.
- C. This agreement may only be changed through an express written agreement with Ameristep®.
- D. Waiver by any party of any default or breach of this agreement will not constitute a waiver of any subsequent default or breach of the same or different kind.
- E. If any action or provision of this agreement is found to be invalid, such invalidity does not affect or extend to other sections or provisions in the agreement.
- F. This warranty gives you the specific legal rights. You may also have other rights that vary from state to state. This agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Michigan, United States of America.