



Tree Self-Rescue Kit For Paraglider Pilots



**For Questions, Comments, or Orders,
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Congratulations on purchasing your own Tree Self Rescue Kit. If you choose to fly over heavily forested timber, you should be capable of extracting yourself from the tallest tree in the area, by yourself, should the need arise. This kit is designed to allow you to safely lower yourself to the ground from a height of 100 feet (longer length kits are available on special order if you find the need to lower yourself from higher trees). This 6mm kit uses a 105 foot long piece of Perlon or climbers static cord, often used for tying off climbing gear. It has a breaking strength of 1800 pounds. It is recommended for pilots up to 300 pounds (including the weight of their gear and harness). For those choosing the ultimate in strength, we also offer this kit with a 6mm Technora cord, with a breaking strength in excess of 5400 pounds as an option. With the addition of a rabbit runner and another quick link, Tandem pilots can safely use the 6mm version to lower their passenger to the ground, and then lower themselves. Of course they can also allow the passenger to rappel out of the tree, then retrieve their device to lower themselves. This kit was designed primarily to enable a pilot who was forced to tree land to safely extract themselves from their lofty perch should the need arise, and return for their gear later. It's always safest to retrieve your gear with help from those who have experience in this area and the appropriate equipment.

Rappelling is a way to descend a rope in a safe and controlled manner, in which one has to support only a small fraction of their weight in their hands. Rappelling can and should be a very safe activity, but it allows no room to make mistakes or an error in judgement. Every year fatalities occur among sport climbers as they rappell off their climb. Most deaths are the result of stupid mistakes or inferior equipment. The most common problems are a failure of the rappell anchor, where the rope becomes detached from the cliff, rappelling off the end of your rope into the abyss, or failure to maintain control of the braking end of the rappell rope. Keep in mind that these accidents occur with experienced climbers, so those who only use rappell techniques occasionally should pay extra attention to what they are doing. We have designed this kit to make it very simple for pilots to use, yet at the same time ensuring a high standard of safety. There is no need to tie any knots, since the main friction device (a special knot known as the Friction Hitch, Munter Hitch, or Italian Hitch) has been pre tied for you. The rope is attached to the tree via a pre tied figure 8 loop and a quick link. This attachment was used since it doesn't require the user to remember how to tie a critical knot when they might be functioning under a great deal of stress. This method of attachment also allows the rope to cinch tight around the tree to reduce the possibility of it slipping down as you descend.

There is no substitute for personal instruction in rappelling. You should engage an instructor to learn safe techniques. If you misinterpret a concept expressed in this pamphlet, you may be killed or seriously injured as a result of the misunderstanding. Therefore, the information provided in this pamphlet should be used only to supplement competent personal instruction from an instructor. **YOU ALONE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY!** If you are unsure of your abilities, or are not positive that you can safely use this gear, please contact us for individual instruction. There are no warranties, either expressed or implied that this instruction pamphlet contains accurate and reliable information. There are no warranties as to fitness for a particular purpose, or that this gear is merchantable. Your use of this gear indicates your assumption of the risk of death or serious injury as a result of it's use and is an acknowledgment of your own sole responsibility for your safety. If you choose not to accept these risks, please return this gear to the manufacturer, or dealer for a refund of your purchase price.

Kit Contents

Your tree Self-Rescue kit includes the following Items:

- 105' long piece of 5 or 6mm perlon with an eye loop sewn in one end.
- A quick link attached to the pre tied loop.
- A precision machined and hard coat anodized belay device with a sewn sling attached.
- A complete set of instructions.
- A handy stuff sack to keep all items together.

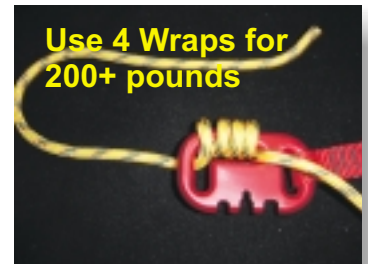
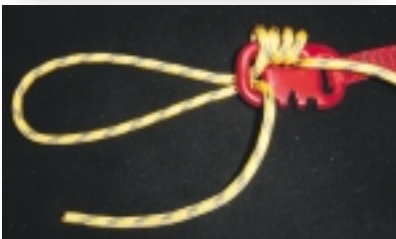
Your kit comes pre-assembled, but in the event you need to add or subtract wraps to vary the amount of braking friction, or if you want to dis-assemble your kit to practice your technique with a practice cord; follow these instructions to prepare your kit for use.



Insert the free end of the 6mm perlon through the belay device as shown. Pull out about 4 - 5 feet of cord.



Pass the cord through the opening 3 times to make 3 complete wraps. Increasing the number of wraps increases the friction available and allows for a very slow descent, but allows the device to bind up easier. You should determine the ideal number of wraps by practicing with the device in a controlled environment.



3 wraps works well for weights of 120 to 200 pounds. For weights above 200 pounds we recommend 4 wraps as shown. **NEVER USE LESS THAN 2 WRAPS!**



Pass the free end back through the belay device, leaving a loop.



Pass the free end back through this loop and pull to snug up the hitch. Tie a Figure of 8 knot with a stopper knot in the end of the cord as shown below.



Make a bight in the end of the line (aka a loop), Pass the bight over the cord, back under, and down through the hole created. Pull the bight through, snug the knot up tight, and tie an overhand stopper knot to prevent it from coming undone. Snug up both knots and insert the stainless steel quick link.



So you've landed in a tree, now what?

Once you have landed safely in the tree, you need to prepare to extract yourself without causing any further damage to yourself, or your glider. This kit contains all you need to get yourself out of the tree without assistance. One of the first things you should do is use your radio to let others know where you are. They will inevitably be worried about you, and letting them know where you are is good insurance.

Your first concern should be yourself. You can always come back later to get your glider, or hire an experienced person to recover it. Should you choose to remove the glider yourself, the built in wrench flats on the belay device will prove invaluable. Your first concern should be to prevent yourself from falling out of the tree. You can then use the wrench flats on the device to loosen the riser quick links and remove the glider lines making it much easier to extract your glider. Use your stuff sack (you can obtain a really cool one from www.TowMeUp.com if you don't have one) and stuff your glider and lines into the sack as you carefully pull it towards yourself. This makes it a lot easier to deal with than having a loose floppy mess that keeps getting tangled up.



Observe the picture to the left, and pretend the blue bauble is the tree. To rappell safely out of the tree, you need to toss the quick link around the tree (make sure the gate is closed so you don't lose the quick link)! Open the link and then pass the rope through it, and make certain to screw the gate closed. It should be looped over a stout branch, and snugged up tight so it can't slide down the tree.

You can use the wrench flats built into the belay device to snug up the quick link if desired.



Hook the sewn loops into the carabiners on your harness. Toss the rest of the bag to the ground. **BE CERTAIN THE ROPE REACHES ALL THE WAY TO THE GROUND.** If it doesn't, you need to climb further down the tree, or call for assistance. Hold the free piece of rope in your hand firmly, and slowly lean back. With your body leaning away from the tree you have the best traction and control. **Never, Ever let go of the rope with your braking hand.**

As you let the rope slide through your hand, you will descend. If you want to stop, pull your hand down towards your body and stop feeding the rope through the belay device. You can use this device to rappell freely from a limb if necessary, but you need to descend slowly and smoothly. High speeds can overheat the device, and sudden starts and stops can shockload the rope to the point of failure. Slow, steady, controlled descents are the safest technique.

