
New climber with a couple questions

Posted by donfecteau - 10/05/2007 07:56pm

Hello folks, First thanks to Peter and Patty for all their help. Without the video I am sure I would be still staring up at the tree. I have only been climbing for 2 weeks. I love the challenge of it. I have been going up and down to my comfort level, about 20 ft., for practice. I have noticed I am relaxing more at these heights. Today I cut some branches to help out a neighbor and it was helpful to be distracted by grunting so hard on those big pine limbs. It is nice to see improvement. So here is what I would like feedback on. Will I slowly acclimate so I can climb to the top of this 80 ft. tree and be relaxed while doing it? Thirty years ago I would be the carpenter to go out on the roof line to set up the roof jacks. Well now I notice that I am a bit more sensitive to the spinning. :blink:

I have been leaving my rope in the tree as it has been beautiful weather with no rain. Is that ok for the rope as long as it isn't getting wet? It makes it so convenient to come home and get right into the tree.

Another part of the question is that since I have been using the rope for 3 or 4 days in the same set up and knots, does that account for the difficulty in releasing the blakes's hitch to come down. It was kind of funny last night, I decided to go back up as it was getting dark, then I hung around for a while. Well I had to giggle to myself when I started to squeeze the line and it wouldn't budge. I had never thought about the inability to come down, only about the unwillingness to come down too fast. I finally got it released so I wasn't rescued or anything but it was funny.

Thanks for all the sharing by everyone. I have been making my way through the archives. Have a great weekend. All the best Don

Re:New climber with a couple questions

Posted by treeman - 10/06/2007 11:56am

Leaving a rope in the tree is probably not a good idea. Squirrels have been known to chew on the rope, sometimes in places that can not be seen from the ground. Ropes also get sticky if left tied up (knots) outside. The rope can get stiff with UV exposure too if left too long in the trees. Use a smaller line in place after climbing. Any cheap line can be used as long as it can haul up the weight of a rope.

Re:New climber with a couple questions

Posted by ponderosa - 10/06/2007 01:32pm

Don,

What kind of rope are you using? Also, it is best to undo your knots if you are going to leave the rope up unused for any length of time.

Re:New climber with a couple questions

Posted by donfecteau - 10/06/2007 06:37pm

Thanks for the input treeman and ponderosa. Sorry if my first post seemed so mundane, what I left out was.. Yowee! This has been amazing. I love it. I just sat on my first branch way up in this pine tree. Granted when I look straight down I get dizzy, so I don't look down much. The tree was very kind to me. I cut a couple dead branches, and then it started to pour. I hardly felt it. What a friend. I am still in that tree time high, from having just gotten back. I did take my poison ivy rope down. It was like an omen, when I got to the tree there was a squirrel headed right up beside my rope. I learn, slowly but surely. :cheer:

I did notice some flatterning and darkening of the line where the blake's hitch had been. This is probably the glazing I have heard about. I must admit the belay down is great fun. Now that I want to go a little faster then very slow I should probably put on a split tail? That is the point of them right? Thanks for the help. Joy to all Don

Re:New climber with a couple questions

Posted by moss - 10/10/2007 12:18pm

Don, about getting stuck hanging on your Blakes...

When you hang in one position for a long time on a Blake's it tends to lock tight on the down rope. I've noticed that Poison Ivy is a little more prone to this than other ropes. To unlock stand on your footloop or footlock the down rope, you want to unload the hitch the same as if you were ascending. While it's unloaded try moving it up. This should be enough to unlock.

Descending fast...

A split tail will theoretically allow you descend faster but you can still burn your main rope doing that, moderation is better. A split tail saves wear on your main rope but it is most useful for passing branches or recrotching, it saves the trouble of untying and retying your Blake's in the tree.

Split tails increase the complexity of your system, you'll have more safety checkpoints for your pre-climb inspection. Split tails also introduce some biner management problems at your saddle delta. Not show stoppers but things to consider.
-moss

Re:New climber with questions

Posted by oldtimer - 10/10/2007 12:51pm

Jolly1, Tell us a bit more about yourself, Age, location, how you got started in tree climbing, Have you Taken any classes yet?, or read soem books, etc. Where you got the gear and what do you have so far. This will allow us to provide some feedback that is more appropriate to your level of confidence, training and knowledge. What do you do for living now? Are you still a carpenter????.

Yes, you will become more comfortable and have more confidence as the time goes by and as you either take some organized training or have a chance to climb with another person with experience that can provide some suggestions and advise on your techniques and way of doing stuff.
Have fun and welcome to the community. B)

Re:New climber with a couple questions

Posted by Jolly1 - 10/10/2007 10:10pm

Moss, Thanks a lot for the feedback. I did try the more basic blake's hitch , 4 wraps threaded through 2. It did feel better once I got it tight enough, and it did release better. But maybe I should stick with the B 53 and use your hint. I do believe safer is better.

As far as the split tail I wanted to make sure I wasn't ruining the rope. I must admit coming down a bit faster is a lot of fun. Not necessarily screaming but steady. I am 200 lbs. so I am sure that helps create more heat. Peace of the forrest to you. Don

Re:New climber with questions

Posted by Jolly1 - 10/10/2007 10:41pm

;) Oldtimer,

I appreciate your welcome. Thanks. You ask some good questions. I am 55 years old. I live in Laconia NH. Beautiful mtns. and lakes come together right here in the middle of NH. I am a therapist now, cranial sacral and breath work (been at it for 27 yrs.) It is a way to help people go deeper into themselves. I have always loved the outdoors. I do like adventure, or need it to balance the rest of my life. So when I found myself trimming trees in my yard, and going higher, it was only natural for me to hunt how to use ropes and go further with it. I have no training except for Peter's video and all that I could read. The old journals of tree climber and the tree climber's companion.

I did call the local arborist, I don't know him personally, to see if I might take a lesson or two from him, but he was unresponsive. So like any middle age guy I perused the catalogs of Sherill and New tribe. I have a newtribe harness. I have been using double rope technique and have pretty much all the basic stuff.

I have added a little something to the basic stuff that helps my arthritic fingers. I had read about Guineveve Summers using a microcender and the foot loops from new tribe. That has helped making climbing a nice balanced exercise. I also tie an extra blake's hitch on my rope to act as a tender for the main blake's hitch. Works great.

I am at the point where I am loving it more and more. I can really feel the refreshment of it physically. I have always been deeply connected to trees and have conversed with them for years. As far as the level of my accomplishment I am

a rank beginner. I get an anchor as high as I can , clean up the tree if it needs it, then just enjoy at the top of my line. I sometimes go up and down a few times just for the conditioning of it, and to get more adapted to the feeling of the heights. I haven't yet set another tip in the tree. But I have been climbing very regularly, weather permitting, even if it just for short times.

The combination of everything about this sport appeals to me. It is very much like a poem in a tree. Well I imagine I told you more then you needed to know. :) Thanks for the help. All the best Don Ps Where I live is on the top of a hill, but is flat on the top. My dream is to climb that 90ft. wild cherry tree behind my house. I think the view from there could be magnificent. I fantasize leaving and old line , like Peter said, and pulling up the working rope whenever I want to go to the top. Could be a fun daily vacation. ;)

Re:New climber with questions

Posted by oldtimer - 10/11/2007 10:11am

Jolly1, Thanks for the background stories. Now we know more about you and we can offer suggestions or answer your questions accordingly. Similar story here on how I got involved climbing trees (I needed to clean my trees), similar age 54 and Arthritis sufferer for 15 years myself, Climbing plus my Dr's treatment has it completely under control now. (In remission now.)

I have a relative in Nashua, NH so I may visit you one of these days when I go there in the warmer season. (I live in TX. That is like a whole other country!)

Nice selection of gear and Saddle from New Tribe. Peter's video is VERY good to perfect your climbing and to learn the basics. Probably better than the local arborist who sees you as potential competitor (not likely) but that is the way they think. :ohmy:

Sounds like you are at the point of rapid learning and improvement which will get better with more climbs and trying new ideas, confidence with tying knots, making transfers, redirects, etc. A lot of that is presented in the Tree Climbers Companion. Review Peter's Techniques a few times and your confidence will continue to grow. If you have a chance to meet other Recreational climbers (Moss is near you in Boston and he is a great climber with lots of climbs taking place there. Hope to be able to meet you personally one of these days.

Make sure you inspect your trees carefully before climbing. We apparently do not impress enough that part to the new (and old) climbers alike. :blink:

Climb Safe and stay Low and Slow at the start.

Re:New climber with questions

Posted by Jolly1 - 10/11/2007 09:36pm

Oldtimer, You have an open invitation whenever you come north. You made me laugh out loud with the whole other country comment.

thanks for the encouragement. It would be great to climb with another person for many reasons. I am sure I would learn a lot. Good reminder about being picky about the trees I choose to climb. We have a lot in common, thanks for sharing. Enjoy that warmer weather down there. They do have trees in Texas right? :blink: Those old cowboy movies made it look kind of flat. giggle. I am having withdrawals, it has been raining here for days now. All the best Jolly1

Re:New climber with questions

Posted by Wildhare - 10/12/2007 12:03am

Hey there Jolly1!

Welcome to this wonderful world aloft!

I have a short comment to add. I have found that there is a "comfort level/pucker factor" that sets in for me at some point.

In a Sycamore (tall & skinny here in KS) it happens at a lower height for me because it is more vertical. But in the wonderful, big, spreading branches of a Burr Oak, i am much more comfortable at greater heights, so i rarely feel that sensation in an Oak. For me, comfort level and pucker factor depends the tree.

I find tree climbing rather addictive. I climbed a beautiful Red Oak tonight and find myself wondering how i can get out of

my 'obligations/plans' for tomorrow so i can go climb again.
This happens every time i go aloft. Kinda puts a new twist to AWOL!

I am a rec tree climber, also specializing in cranio-sacral therapy & myofascial release. I am planning to be in GA in Nov... wanna trade CST aloft???

Peace...
Becki
Wildhare
Kansas

Re:New climber with questions

Posted by Jolly1 - 10/12/2007 10:18pm

Hi Becki, Thanks for sharing about the altitude issues. I did notice the first, shorter trees, I climbed were smaller and thinner, and I did feel like I was just hanging in space and not really climbing a tree. It was a nice change to get into a white pine with a few branches to fill in some of the space.

I think the program is full for November, I will check though. I know what you mean about becoming addicting. In a good way. Anytime we can get to trade would be great. I wonder what it would be like lying in a treeboat unwinding aloft. Good idea you have there. Enjoy Jolly1

Re:New climber with questions

Posted by elliot - 10/28/2007 09:28pm

Jolly1,as long as you had more experience,you need a daisy rope to secure you to enjoy the canopy sightseeing. The simple daisy rope,you can learn form Tengu tip-
<http://www.newtribe.com/documents/tip3.htm>
Actually,this daisy rope was invented by Peter Jenkins.
Enjoy it,you will have more fun.

Elliot / Tree Climbing Taiwan / canopyclimber@yahoo.com.tw

Re:New climber with a couple questions

Posted by Jolly1 - 10/28/2007 09:57pm

Thanks for the heads up Elliot, very thoughtful of you. I am getting out into the trees as much as possible. Seems like the minute I come down I am planning when I can get up there again. Here in New Hampshire it was a wonderful day for climbing. I had my first little taste of riding the wind. I wasn't up at the top where the action was, but further down, where I belong for now. It was very stimulating to feel that gentle sway, and I will say the wind was roaring. Wow! All the best Don

Re:New climber with a couple questions

Posted by jerseygirl - 10/29/2007 08:01pm

dear jolly1

you live is such a beautiful area, i spent many summers on vacation as a child and climb the mountains and walked the rivers along the maine borders. i like bethlehem area.

gee do you have a couch for me to crash on you can visit here in georgia when you need it. i miss snow we could get in a few climbs and talk about knots.

we could share trees and climbing advneture.

welcome to the site, see you in a tree

jz

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Re:New climber with a couple questions

Posted by Jolly1 - 10/30/2007 08:11am

Hi JZ, Small world. You can crash here anytime. Thanks for your offer. I live in the middle of NH. bethlehem is up in God's country. The north country is mainly the mtns. and the water from them titans comes down to form..as the Indians called it.. God's teardrops. You would like all the lakes sitting majestically looking up at the White mtns.

Thanks for your shorts on You tube. I have watched most of them. I am guessing they are about the length your digital camera can hold. Blue fingers, very creative. :)

On a funny note I drove for a few hrs hunting the 4 wheel track roads for the right tree. Boy they have cleared a lot of the old growth. Sad. The funny part is on the way home desperate to climb something new, I spied a very old maple in the cemetary. It was great fun. I have never been so relaxed in a tree, what with all those branches under me. It was heavenly.It reminded me of all those times as a kid. Unfortunately, even though I had cut the dead wood for them, when the manager of the place happened to come on a Sunday he freaked out . Oh well. I knew that would happen if they found me out. Funny if I hadn't piled the old branches near the road for them to pick up they probably wouldn't have even seen me.

All the best. Don

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Re:New climber with a couple questions

Posted by moss - 10/30/2007 08:37am

Property managers hate it when people climb their trees and prune. It's best not to take out deadwood on a tree that you will probably climb only once.

It's true that New Hampshire has been heavily logged, there are surprisingly few big trees for such a forested state. There are some pockets of older growth, check out the Eastern Native Tree Society website for more info.

-moss

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Re:New climber with a couple questions

Posted by oldtimer - 10/30/2007 11:59am

Quote: "Property managers hate it when people climb their trees and prune. It's best not to take out deadwood on a tree that you will probably climb only once." Moss

It is funny but some people thinks that any cut done on the tree is damaging to it even removing dead branches that are just causing extra load of weight on the tree. A neighbor close to my house got all bent-out-of-shape when I was cutting some dead branches (Twigs) from a tree on his neighbor's yard. He claimed that he did not wanted to see a "naked tree" from his window. I explained that the extra dead load was attracting parasitic growth (mistletoe) that was further decaying the tree and eventually will kill them. :woohoo:

He has a tree right next to his house that has a large broken branch on the top and I told him that it was a good idea to remove it to prevent from falling on top of his roof. The branch is still there and will probably fall during the next windstorm. He does not know that the insurance polices do not (fully)cover that kind of "wind" damage! but at the same time they do not hesitate to hire a "treehacker" to butcher their trees.

B)

Many urban area trees benefit from a properly done removal of deadwood!

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Re:New climber with a couple questions

Posted by moss - 10/30/2007 12:17pm

oldtimer wrote:

Many urban area trees benefit from a properly done removal of deadwood!

No doubt! I'm talking about trimming without permission. It's guaranteed to make tree owners angry. Lessons learned :-)
-moss

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Are these carabiner things safe?

Posted by Tibets - 07/06/2008 09:30pm

Can anybody tell me if any of these carabiners from this company can be used for anything else besides storing my keys? http://www.liangdianup.com/carabiners_1.htm

Some of them are pretty big but what are the requirements for a beener so that it can be used for rope work / climbing?

How can I learn about the history of carabiners? And if I am searching to buy some wholesale carabiners does anyone know of any other words that would be used for carabiner? I have heard of the word crab ring or something like that but not sure if it fits. Help?

Oh yeah, if that link above does not work then here is the home page for the site www.lducompany.com I think they have them under camping or tools or something like that.

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Re:Are these carabiner things safe? NO!

Posted by oldtimer - 07/07/2008 09:16am

NO.

Those are toys and key chains not designed for anything other than key chains and ornaments. :angry:

For a history and examples of climbing gear thru the ages look at this site.

Search for Carabiners and you get more than you asked for.

Dr Storricks Collection of Vertical Devices:

<http://storricks.cnchost.com/VerticalDevicesPage/VerticalHome.shtml>

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Re:Are these carabiner things safe?

Posted by moss - 07/07/2008 11:09am

Tibets wrote:

...what are the requirements for a beener so that it can be used for rope work / climbing?

For recreational tree climbing any carabiner used for a life support attachment should have a locking gate, either screw gate or automatic locking gate. There are different standards around the world for the minimum strength rating for work carabiners. There are no standards for recreational climbing. Rec climbers generally follow work climbing guidelines for carabiners. In Europe and most of the world 22kn is the minimum strength rating, in the U.S. it is 23kn. For rec climbing in the U.S. it is accepted to follow the European standard of 22kn, the 1kn difference is considered irrelevant.

Assuming that you're considering a carabiner with a locking gate for tree climbing, it should have a strength rating of at least 22kn and the rating information should be on the carabiner.

-moss

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Re:Are these carabiner things safe?

Posted by Baker - 07/07/2008 07:00pm

True story:

A while back, I was shopping in a local Home Depot, wearing a rock climbing t-shirt, when this kid (20ish) came up to me carrying a couple of key chain carabiners and a larger red one like are pictured in Tibets' post's website. He asked me if they would be good for climbing. I, of course, told him "NO!" and Showed him the NOT FOR CLIMBING warning stamped on the side of each one. The kid looked me straight in the eye, and as serious as a heart attack said, "Oh I'm not going to climb with them. I'm going to rappel."

:unsure: :ohmy: :huh: :dry: :woohoo: :S
