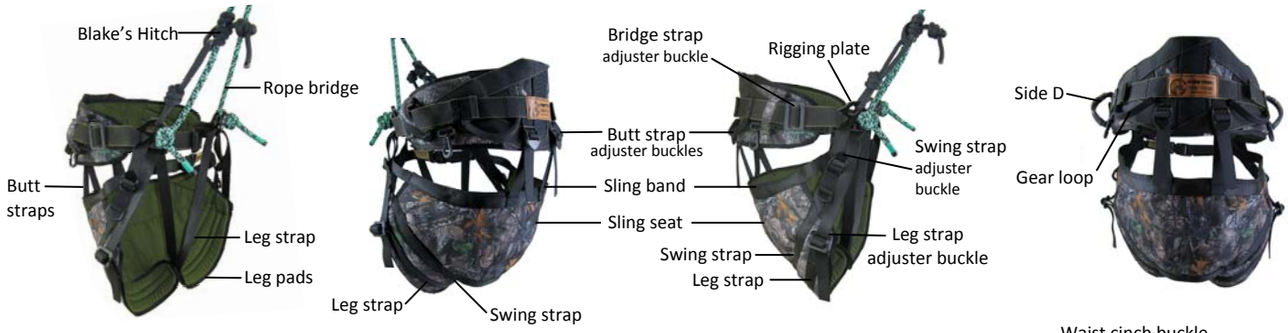
AERO HUNTER EVOLUTION TREE HUNTING SYSTEM

WARNING: For tree hunting only. This activity is dangerous. Understand and accept the risks involved before participating. You are responsible for your own actions and decisions. Before using this product, read and understand all instructions and warnings that accompany it and familiarize yourself with its capabilities and limitations. We recommend that every user seek qualified instruction in the use of this equipment.

Failure to read and follow these warnings can result in severe injury or death!

USER INSTRUCTIONS

NFPA Standard 1983 recommends separating the user instructions from the saddle and retaining them in permanent record. The standard also recommends making a copy of the instructions to keep with the saddle and that the instructions should be referred to before and after each use.



PUTTING ON THE SADDLE

(1) Open the buckles on the waist cinch strap and the sling cinch strap.
(2) Hold the belt facing forward and step into it between the belt pad and the bridge rope. Step into the leg straps making sure they are without twists and that the sling has the camouflage side out.
(3) Raise the belt into position at your waist at about the level of your navel.
(4) Fasten the waist cinch buckle and **pull the webbing snug**.
(5) Fasten the sling cinch buckle. Allow a little slack in the webbing.

These are squeeze buckles: To open the buckles, squeeze the sides. To close, push the two parts together until they click. (You can silence the sound of these buckles with careful handling.)

*CAUTION: The **waist cinch strap on the belt** holds the saddle in the correct position on your body. **Be certain to fasten it at your waist and pull it snug.** Failure to do so could result in the saddle settling too low on your body, which can expose you to risk of injury or death.*

ADJUSTING THE FIT OF THE SADDLE

Adjust the fit of your saddle so that your body is supported with weight distributed evenly between belt, sling, and leg straps, balanced to hang without uncomfortable pinching or pressure. Before your first climb in the saddle, find a place where you can hang in the saddle by the rope bridge, close to the ground. Make and test small adjustments until the saddle feels right. You only have to do this once. Your settings will stay until you change them.

SLING SEAT ADJUSTMENT

The butt straps control the position of the sling seat on your body. They run between the belt and the sling in back, and are controlled by two buckles. Set them so the sling covers your butt and gives good support and comfort to your butt and thighs without causing the leg straps to bind at the crotch.

To adjust: At the back of the belt, lift the tabs on the butt strap buckles and pull the straps to lengthen them as far as they will go. Hang in the saddle. Move the sling to a comfortable position for sitting, with the leg strap pads placed under your thighs where your balance and comfort are good. Then set this position by pulling on the ends of the butt straps to take out the slack.

LEG STRAP ADJUSTMENT

The goal when adjusting the leg straps is both comfort and support. The shorter you set them, the more they will shift your weight to your thighs. The longer they are, the more your weight will rest in the sling. The best setting divides your weight between the two. The setting will also affect your balance in the saddle.

To make an adjustment, push the webbing into the buckle to create a loop as shown. To shorten the strap, push from above the buckle and pull out the slack from below. To lengthen it, push from below and pull out the slack from above.

BRIDGE STRAP ADJUSTMENT

The saddle bridge rigging plates are attached to the belt by a webbing strap that passes through the large holes on the plates and back to the bridge strap buckles. You can set the distance of the bridge from your body by adjusting the length of this webbing. This setting will affect your balance in the saddle—if the straps are set too long, your body will tend to tip backwards. Adjust both sides to the same length, drawing the rigging plates close enough to your body for good balance when hanging in the saddle. Once the setting is right, you can slide the buckles forward to create a snug eye around the rigging plates.

SWING STRAP ADJUSTMENT

The swing strap runs from one rigging plate, down and across the bottom of the sling just above the leg straps, and up to the opposite rigging plate. This is a load bearing strap and works best when it is positioned where your butt meets the back of your thighs. Set the length where you can feel that your weight is distributed evenly between the waist belt and the sling. This strap is adjusted at the swing strap adjuster buckles located just below the rigging plates.

Adjust the swing strap to give support without slack and without uncomfortable pressure to your seat. Adjust both sides to the same length.

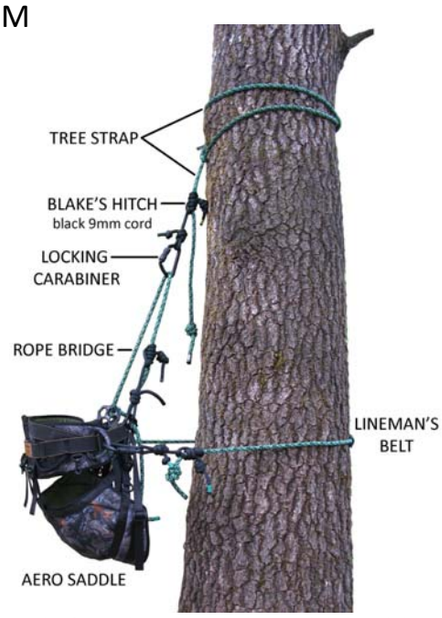
SLING CINCH STRAP ADJUSTMENT

This strap is part of the sling band that runs around the top of the sling and terminates in front at the sling cinch strap buckle (see PUTTING ON THE SADDLE, above). **Always keep this buckle closed.** Adjust the tension on this strap to stabilize the position of the sling on your hips. You can keep it a bit slack for comfort anytime; when you are walking while wearing the Aero, pull this strap snug enough to keep the saddle from swinging on your body as you move.

USER INSTRUCTIONS

The Aero Hunter is shipped with all knots tied. They are named in bold type below. They are described on page 3 of this guide.

*The system includes **two spring-loaded double-locking carabiners**. They close and lock automatically. To open, lift and turn the cylinder on the gate, then push the gate to the inside. When attaching the carabiner, make a visual inspection to be certain that it is linked securely and that the gate is completely closed. The carabiner closes automatically, but you must make sure that **nothing blocks the gate from closing completely**..*



This figure shows both the lineman's belt and the rope bridge connected at the same time. In practice, connect to the lineman's belt for climbing, then switch over to the rope bridge for the hunt.

Lineman's Belt

The Aero lineman's belt comes to you already assembled, attached to the Aero saddle, and chained to keep the rope in order when it is not in use. (To release the chain, remove the carabiner from the green loop and pull the rope—the chain will slip out.) It consists of 1) 10 feet of climbing rope, 2) fabric rope sleeve, 3) black 9mm cord, and 4) double-locking carabiner.

*One end of the rope is tied to the left side D on the saddle using a **Figure 8 on a bight**. On the other end of the belt, the 9mm cord is tied on using a **modified Blake's Hitch**. The carabiner is clipped to a **Figure 8 on a bight** tied on the other end of the 9mm cord. For safety, a **Stopper knot** is tied on the bitter end of the rope. The rope is threaded through a sleeve that protects both the rope and the tree from abrasion damage, and adds a little weight and stiffness for easy handling.*

SET UP THE LINEMAN'S BELT

One end of the lineman's belt is tied to the left side D on the Aero saddle. Toss the other end around the tree trunk and ***clip the carabiner securely to the other side D*** on the saddle. See that the sleeve is in position where the rope contacts the trunk on the opposite side of the tree. To shorten the rope, grab the Blake's Hitch and pull the rope through it; to lengthen, grab the top of the Blake's Hitch and gently pull it. The rope will travel through the knot until you let go, or until the Blake's Hitch meets the stopper knot.

Double Check:
*—the rope is tied to one side D using a **figure 8 on a bight***
*—the 9mm cord is tied correctly in a **Blake's Hitch** on the rope, and grabs the rope securely*
*—The carabiner is connected to the 9mm cord through a **figure 8 on a bight***
—the rope is around the trunk with the sleeve in place
*—the carabiner is clipped to the other side D on the saddle, **closed and locked***
*—climbing device is in place for ascent**

START CLIMBING

Set up your climbing device.* Set up the lineman's belt. As you climb, keep tension on the lineman's belt. As you step higher, raise the belt by leaning close to the trunk to slack the belt and flip it higher on the trunk. Adjust the length of the lineman's belt as needed as you go. When you have reached the height you want, set up the tree strap.

**The Aero system does not include any method or device that gives you a foothold on the trunk for ascending the tree, BUT YOU WILL NEED ONE. There are many types available (climbing sticks, screw-in/strap-on tree steps, ladders, tree gaffs, etc.). Please visit your local hunting supplier for more information.*

Tree Strap

*The Aero tree strap is a 6-foot (or optional 12-foot) length of climbing rope with a **Stopper knot** tied on one end and a large loop tied on the other using a **Figure 8 on a bight**. Near the stopper knot, a length of black 9mm cord is tied on using a **modified Blake's Hitch**. A double locking carabiner is clipped to a **Figure 8 on a bight** tied on the other end of the 9mm cord.*

SET UP THE TREE STRAP

Stand on your climbing device* and keep tension on the lineman's belt. Throw the loop end of the tree strap rope around the trunk. Catch the loop and throw it around the trunk a second time.* Then draw the whole strap through the loop, including the black 9mm cord and carabiner. Cinch the strap tight onto the trunk. Move the Blake's Hitch higher or lower on the tree strap to a position that will give you the best advantage for motion on the tree. Clip the carabiner to the rope bridge on the Aero saddle.

*When wrapping the tree strap around the trunk twice is not an option, do this to secure it on the trunk: Wrap the trunk once, drawing the whole strap through the loop, then draw the strap through the loop again from the same direction. Cinch it snug against the trunk and continue as above. This prevents the strap from slipping down the trunk when it is not holding your weight.

Double check:
—the tree strap rope is wrapped twice around the trunk and cinched snug*
*—the **Blake's Hitch** is tied properly and grabs the rope*
*—the carabiner is connected to the 9mm cord through a **figure 8 on a bight***
*—the carabiner is clipped to the rope bridge on the Aero saddle, **closed and locked***

RELEASE THE LINEMAN'S BELT

Now it is safe to release the lineman's belt. Unclip the carabiner from the side D on the saddle. It's handy to leave the lineman's belt tied to the other side D, and stow the rest of the lineman's belt out of the way on the Aero saddle, either rolled up (or daisy-chained) and clipped to an accessory loop, or stuffed into a bag attached to the saddle belt.

You are now ready to begin your hunt.

COMING DOWN

To get back to the ground, switch your safety connection from the tree strap back to the lineman's belt. Set up the lineman's belt as described above. Make sure you set it close enough to the tree strap so you can reach to remove the carabiner from the rope bridge. Adjust the lineman's belt to keep you close to the trunk.

Double Check:
*—the lineman's belt rope is tied to one side D using a **figure 8 on a bight***
*—the 9mm cord is tied correctly in a **Blake's Hitch** on the rope, and grabs the rope securely*
*—The carabiner is connected to the 9mm cord through a **figure 8 on a bight***
—the rope is around the trunk with the sleeve in place
*—the carabiner is clipped to the other side D, **closed and locked***

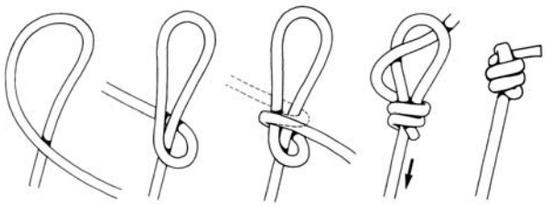
RELEASE THE ROPE BRIDGE

Now it is safe to unclip the rope bridge and pull down the tree strap. Descend using your climbing device and the lineman's belt. Lower the lineman's belt first, then step down. Repeat until you reach the ground.

ROPE BRIDGE CONNECTION

The rope bridge is 7 feet of climbing rope secured to the rigging plates with **Stopper knots**. Tie a stopper knot at one end of the rope, leaving at least 3 inches of tail for safety. Pass the free end of the rope through the center hole on the first rigging plate, from outside to inside. Then pass the rope through the corresponding hole on the second rigging plate, passing from inside to outside. Tie a second stopper knot outside the rigging plate. Allow at least 3 inches of tail past the knot. Finish by adding the 9mm cord to the bridge. On one side, tie the black 9mm cord to the upper hole on the rigging plate using a **Figure 8 on a bight**. Tie a **modified Blake's Hitch** onto the bridge rope and protect it with a **Stopper knot** at the end of the cord.

The rope bridge is adjustable with one hand, on the side where the Blake's Hitch is tied. To shorten the bridge, grab the rope outside of the rigging plate and pull it away from your body. To lengthen it, grab the top of the Blake's Hitch and gently pull. The bridge rope will travel through the knot until you let go, or until the knot meets the rigging plate.



STOPPER KNOT

Stopper Knot

This heaving line knot is the one we use to secure the rope bridge to the rigging plates on New Tribe rope bridge saddles. It stops the rope from passing through the holes in the rigging plate. It is also tied at the free end of all other ropes in the Aero system, and in any climbing system, to prevent the rope from slipping out of a Blake's Hitch or any other friction knot or device used for life safety.

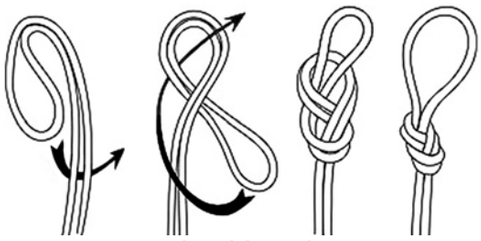


FIGURE 8 ON A BIGHT

Figure 8 on a bight (starting with a bight)

On the tree strap, this knot is used as an eye for the cinch around the trunk. To form the bight, double the rope with the bend at 24" from the end. Take the bight, turn it under the rope, then over it and back through the first turn from beneath. Pull on the bight and dress the knot smooth and tight. See that the end of the rope extends at least 3 inches past the knot.

You can control the size of the loop created by this knot. For the tree strap, make the loop large enough (about 8 inches long) to easily pull the entire rope through it, including the Blake's Hitch and carabiner.

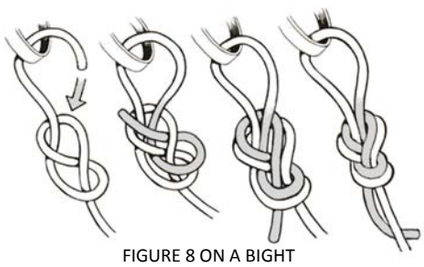
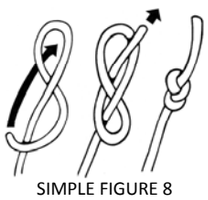


FIGURE 8 ON A BIGHT

Figure 8 on a bight (starting with the end of the rope)

Aero comes with the rope bridge already set up, with the black 9mm cord tied to a rigging plate using this knot. Also, the lineman's belt is already tied to the left side D on the saddle belt, using this knot. This method of tying a figure 8 on a bight is used when the loop of the knot must connect to a closed ring or eye.



SIMPLE FIGURE 8

First, form a loose **simple Figure 8**. Allow enough length of line beyond the figure 8 to make the loop plus retrace the figure 8, plus 3 inches. Next, pass the end of the rope through the closed ring or eye. Then thread the end of the rope back through the first figure 8, retracing the path. Dress the knot smooth and tight. See that the end of the line extends at least 3 inches past the knot.

Blake's Hitch (modified)

This is a popular, very secure friction knot used in climbing and descending a rope.

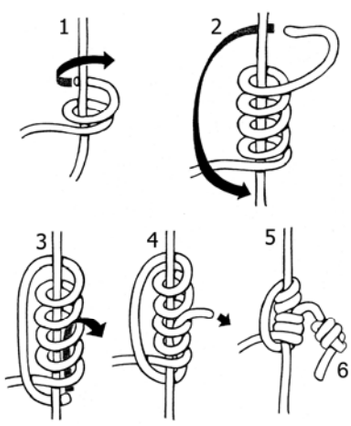
For going up: When there is no load on the knot, you can slide it up the rope. When the knot is loaded, it grabs the rope and will not slide.

For coming down: Grip the top of the knot and gently pull. The rope will travel through it, even when the knot is loaded. This movement can be stopped by letting go of the knot.

On Aero, there are three Blake's Hitches tied on rope with black 9mm cord. The Blake's provides both safety and adjustability for the bridge, the lineman's belt and the tree strap.

When tying this knot, keep the wraps loose at first (steps 1 and 2). In step 3 you will pass the end of the cord up under the three lower wraps. Dress the knot tight and smooth before tying a stopper knot (step 6) on the tail of the rope for security.

***Caution:** Always test this knot before relying on it for life safety: Tie and dress the knot. Load the knot by putting your weight on it at ground level, or by giving it a sharp tug. At ground level, try the actions described above for going up and coming down. If the knot slips under load, untie it and try again.*
***Follow the illustration exactly**. Do not use the Aero Hunter system unless the knot performs as described above.*



BLAKE'S HITCH (modified)

BEING QUIET

Putting on the Aero saddle is the time of highest risk for noise. The heavy rigging plates can clank together or against the leg strap buckles. The male cinch strap buckles are on long straps that can swing around if not controlled. The cinch buckles close with an audible click. The carabiners are spring loaded to snap closed automatically. All of these can be silenced with firm, controlled handling.

The easiest way to assure the Aero saddle is quiet at your hunting site is to put it on before walking out to the tree. It is lightweight and comfortable to wear for sitting, driving or walking. When it is on your body, Aero's hardware parts do not touch.

Do-it-yourself silencing: Once you have made all of the fitting adjustments to customize your Aero, you can silence most of the hardware using hockey tape, bicycle inner tube or foam tape.

Important User Information for Life Safety Equipment

*For your safety and to get the most out of your Aero Hunter Evolution Tree Hunting System, please **read and follow these directions**. This information applies equally to the saddle and to the climbing rope, accessory cord, carabiners and hardware of the Aero Hunter system.*

Inspection and retirement Inspect your equipment for signs of wear and damage before and after each use. It is vitally important that your equipment be in good condition. Damaged equipment must be retired immediately. Any time you retire a piece of gear, destroy it to prevent future use.

Safe life expectancy The nylon components of climbing equipment degrade over time. **Seven years** is considered the safe life of nylon climbing equipment when it is *stored properly and never used*. With normal use and proper care, the safe life expectancy of your equipment is approximately three years, and can be longer or shorter depending on how frequently you use it and on the conditions of its use and storage.

INSPECTION CHECKLIST Retire life safety equipment immediately when any ONE or more of these apply:	
	—there is any kind of rip or hole in the webbing or rope.
	—the webbing or rope is burnt, singed, or melted.
	—there are any torn or pulled threads or heavy abrasion to the webbing or rope.
	—there is dirt or grit imbedded in the webbing or rope.
	—the fabric chafe wrap that protects the webbing in places of hard wear is worn off or frayed.
	—the webbing or rope is faded or discolored from exposure to ultraviolet light, moisture, solvents, fumes or bleach.
	—any one of the buckles is cracked, corroded, has a burr, or is damaged or deformed in any way.
	—it has been involved in a fall. Retire it immediately even if there is no visible damage.
	—it is seven or more years past the manufacture date. Retire it immediately even if there is no visible damage.
	—you have any doubt about its dependability. Retire it immediately even if there is no visible damage.

Maintenance and storage If your equipment becomes soiled, it can be washed in cold water with a mild non-detergent soap. Hang to dry in a well-ventilated area out of direct sunlight. Do not dry in an automatic dryer. Prevent exposure to flame or high temperatures. Keep equipment in a clean, dry, dark place off of concrete and away from acids, alkalis, exhaust emissions, rust and strong chemicals. If the equipment becomes wet, allow to dry completely before storing.

Repairs and Alterations We recommend that all repair work be done by Aero Hunter. All other repair work or modification of the equipment may void the warranty and releases Aero Hunter and New Tribe, Inc. from all liability and responsibility as the manufacturer.

Warranty and Returns

One Year Limited Warranty
Every product sold by Aero Hunter carries a one-year warranty against defects in materials and workmanship. Aero Hunter will repair or replace the defective product at no charge and return it to you. You are responsible for all shipping costs.

Coverage terminates if you sell or otherwise transfer the product.

This warranty does not cover any problem that is caused by abuse, misuse, or an act of nature (such as a flood). Also, consequential and incidental damages are not recoverable under this warranty.

To make a claim under this warranty, call New Tribe at 541-476-9492 or 1-866-223-3317 to request a **Return Authorization Number**. Mark the package with the Return Authorization Number and include a note listing the invoice number of your purchase, your contact information and a short description of the problem. Ship your Aero Hunter product to New Tribe, 5517 Riverbanks Road, Grants Pass, OR 97527.

We will inspect your Aero Hunter product and contact you within three working days to give the results of our inspection. Depending on our findings, New Tribe will repair or replace your Aero Hunter product or refund your purchase price, at our sole discretion.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

Returns
You may return your Aero Hunter product for any reason. Please call New Tribe at 541-476-9492 or 1-866-223-3317 to request a **Return Authorization Number**. Mark the package with the Return Authorization Number and include a note listing the invoice number of your purchase, your contact information and, if you wish, a short description of the problem. Ship your Aero Hunter product to New Tribe, 5517 Riverbanks Road, Grants Pass, OR 97527. You are responsible to pay for return shipping.

We will inspect your Aero Hunter product and contact you within three working days to give the results of our inspection.

If we receive your return within 30 days after date of purchase, and if the product is in new, unused and saleable condition, we will accept your return and refund your purchase price less the original shipping charge. If your product shows signs of use or soil, we cannot accept the return and will discard it or send it back to you, per your request.

If we accept the return of your Aero Hunter product but receive it 31 to 90 days after date of purchase, we will refund your purchase price less a restocking fee of up to 25%. No returns will be accepted if received more than 90 days after date of purchase.