



NEW TRIBE



ARBORIST SADDLE

WARNING: For tree climbing 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 buckle on the cinch strap.
- (2) Open the leg strap buckles.
- (3) Hold the belt facing forward and step into it. Raise the belt into position just above your hip bones.
- (4) Close the cinch strap buckle and pull the webbing snug.
- (5) Buckle the leg straps making sure they are without twists and that the leg pads are at the back of your thighs.



Leg strap buckle



Cinch strap buckle

The cinch strap on the belt holds the saddle in position on your body. It is NOT part of the Onyx life safety structure, but it does keep the saddle snug to your body as you move your weight on and off the saddle during a climb. To open the buckle, squeeze the sides. To close, push the two parts together until they click.

ADJUST THE FIT OF THE SADDLE

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

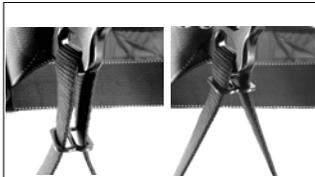
LEG STRAP ADJUSTMENT

The leg strap loops are sized by moving the webbing through the leg strap buckles. To make an adjustment, free the webbing from the keeper and slide it through the buckle until it is the length you want. Be sure to leave a 3 inch tail of webbing beyond the buckle for safety. When the strap length is right for you, thread the tail of the webbing back into the keeper. Note: The leg straps are intended to be loose on your thigh. Some climbers prefer a closer fit, which is okay if the saddle feels right that way. The best length puts the leg straps in balance with the belt so you sit comfortably upright and relaxed in the saddle while suspended on rope.



Keeper

Leg strap buckle



LEG STRAP FLOATING RETAINER

The leg straps move freely through the bridge hardware on the belt. Shown here is the small floating retainer that keeps the motion under control. It floats down the strap when the saddle is slack. During a climb, it will ride near the top of the strap. Note: The retainer is not required for safety. Some climbers prefer to remove it if they like the motion better without it.



BUTT STRAP ADJUSTMENT

The butt straps set the position of the leg pads at a point between your knees and your butt where they give good support and comfort to your thighs without causing the straps to bind at the crotch. The straps run through an aluminum ring between the belt and the leg pads in back and are controlled by two slide buckles. Move the straps through the buckles to adjust the position of the pads to where they provide the most comfort.



REAR SEAT STRAP ADJUSTMENT

This strap makes a seat between the belt and leg straps, and stabilizes the leg strap position as you move about on a climb. It runs from ring to ring across the butt of the saddle. It is adjusted using the slide buckles at each end of the strap. Set the length so the strap rides in contact with your butt, adding support without pinch or slack when hanging in the saddle.

BRIDGE STRAP ADJUSTMENT



The saddle bridge rigging plates are attached to the belt by webbing straps that pass through the plates and back to the buckles. You can set the distance of the bridge from your body by adjusting the length of these straps.



SAFE CONNECTION TO THE ROPE

Onyx is equipped with a rated ring on the bridge. It is safe to tie in to the ring, or directly to the bridge. You can open the bridge to remove the ring, or to install your own ring. See *Bridge Connections* below for information on safe rigging of the Onyx rope bridge and webbing bridge.



Using a lanyard or flipline, you can also tie in safely to BOTH side Ds. Do not rely on one side D alone. The life-safety structure of the saddle requires that the side Ds be used together. While tied in to the bridge, you can attach a secondary line to just one side D for positioning only. It is also safe to tie in directly to BOTH rigging plates or BOTH shackles in the same way.

NOT SAFE — DO NOT CONNECT!



REAR SAFETY LOOP
DO NOT TIE IN TO THIS LOOP FOR CLIMBING! ALWAYS climb tied in to the bridge or the bridge ring, or to the side Ds at the front of the saddle. This webbing loop at the back of the saddle belt is a life safety tie-in point for RESCUE or BELAY ONLY.



ATTACHMENT POINTS FOR EQUIPMENT
THESE ARE NOT LIFE SAFETY TIE IN POINTS! Four carabiner loops, two suspender rings, two large webbing loops, four gear loops, one extra large removable gear loop, three aluminum accessory rings and four tool slots are built into the belt for adding accessories such as tools, equipment or gear bags to the saddle. Do not use them for any life-safety attachment.

RIGGING PLATE CONNECTIONS



ATTACH THE RIGGING PLATE TO THE SADDLE BELT

(1) Pass the tail of the webbing under the bar on the side D. (2) Bring the tail over the bar and through the eye in the webbing. (3) Pull the knot snug. (4) Thread the steel buckle onto the webbing. (5) Pass the webbing through the largest eye on the rigging plate, from beneath. (6) Thread the webbing through the buckle.

ATTACH THE LEG STRAP TO THE RIGGING PLATE



(1) Thread the inner thigh leg strap through one side of the retainer as shown. (2) Pass the strap through the lower hole in the rigging plate, from beneath. (3) Thread the strap through the other side of the retainer. (4) Slide the retainer up close to the rigging plate, then thread the keeper onto the strap. (5) Thread the strap into the steel leg strap buckle as shown, allowing at least 3 inches of tail past the buckle. (6) Thread the tail through the keeper.

BRIDGE CONNECTIONS

Onyx comes with a rated aluminum ring on the bridge. If you prefer, you can replace this ring with your own life safety rated ring, or connect directly to the bridge using your own double or triple locking carabiner.

Onyx is designed to carry either a rope bridge or a webbing bridge and can be converted from one to the other.

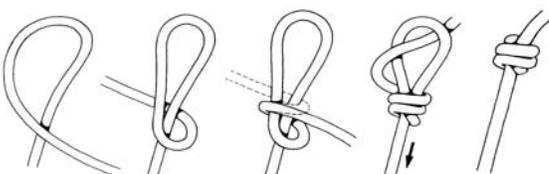


For the rope bridge, rigging plates must be installed on the saddle as described above. The rope (with the ring) is attached to the rigging plate using stopper knots, described below.



For the webbing bridge, the belt and leg straps are connected in the same way, using shackles instead of rigging plates. The webbing bridge is constructed with an eye at each end for secure attachment to the pins of the shackles. Put the ring on the bridge before closing the shackles.

TYING THE ROPE BRIDGE 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 hole in the rigging plate. Tie one at the end of the bridge rope leaving at least 3 inches of tail. Pass the rope from outside to inside of one rigging plate, using the top hole, pass it through the ring, then through the top hole on the other plate, from inside to outside. Tie another stopper knot on the outside where the length of rope between the two rigging plates forms the bridge length you want.

NEW TRIBE TREE CLIMBING SADDLES

Important User Information for Life Safety Equipment

For your safety and to get the most out of your New Tribe saddle, please read and follow these directions.

Inspection and retirement Inspect your saddle for signs of wear and damage before and after each use. It is vitally important that your saddle be in good condition. A damaged saddle 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 shelf 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 saddle is approximately three years, and can be longer or shorter depending on how frequently you use it and on the conditions of its use.

INSPECTION CHECKLIST Retire a saddle immediately when any ONE or more of these apply:	
	—there is any kind of rip or hole in the webbing.
	—the webbing is burnt, singed, or melted.
	—there are any torn threads or heavy abrasion to the webbing.
	—there is dirt or grit imbedded in the webbing.
	—the fabric chafe wrap that protects the webbing in places of hard wear is worn off or frayed.
	—the webbing 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 the saddle 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 the saddle in a clean, dry, dark place off of concrete and away from acids, alkalis, exhaust emissions, rust and strong chemicals. If the saddle becomes wet, allow to dry completely before storing.

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

Warranty and Returns

One Year Limited Warranty

Every product sold by New Tribe carries a one-year warranty against defects in materials and workmanship. New Tribe 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 New Tribe product to New Tribe, 5517 Riverbanks Road, Grants Pass, OR 97527.

We will inspect your New Tribe product and contact you within 72 hours to give the results of our inspection. Depending on our findings, New Tribe will repair or replace your New Tribe 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 New Tribe product for any reason. Please call New Tribe at 541-476-9492 or 1-866-223-3317 to request a **Return Authorization Number**. Ship your product to New Tribe, 5517 Riverbanks Road, Grants Pass, OR 97527. Mark the package with the Return Authorization Number and the invoice number of your purchase. You are responsible to pay for return shipping. We will inspect your New Tribe product and contact you within 72 hours 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 New Tribe 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.