

2001
VIPER XLS, VIPER XTREME
PYTHON XLS, COBRA XLS
BUSHMASTER XLS

SPECIALTIES, Inc.

Treestand Instruction Booklet

You must read these instructions before using your new treestand and you **MUST** also view the enclosed video before using you new treestand.

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READ ME FIRST !!!

Please read carefully **BEFORE** using your new Summit Viper XLS, Viper Xtreme XLS, Python XLS, Cobra XLS or Bushmaster XLS Climbing Treestand.

Congratulations! You have purchased the finest commercially available treestand on the market today. The Summit XLS series Climbing Treestands are designed and built to provide years of trouble-free, successful hunting with a minimum of maintenance and care. They are certified to meet the requirements of the Treestand Manufacturers Association (TMA) Standards. This booklet is provided to you to outline the recommended use, care and maintenance of your Summit XLS climbing treestand.

- **BEFORE USING ANY TREESTAND, BE SURE YOU WEAR A SAFETY HARNESS EVERY TIME YOU CLIMB! ! !**
- **DO NOT USE THIS OR ANY OTHER TREESTAND IF YOU HAVE BEEN USING DRUGS OR ALCOHOL OR ARE PHYSICALLY IMPAIRED IN ANY WAY!**
- **FOR YOUR SAFETY, DO NOT USE ANY TREESTAND DURING STORMS, WHEN TREES ARE WET OR ICY, OR ON TREES THAT ARE LEANING OR THAT APPEAR DEAD OR DISEASED!**
- **DO NOT USE ANY TREESTAND IF YOU HAVE NOT FOLLOWED THE MANUFACTURERS CARE AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES!**
- **NEVER ALLOW THE SAFETY HARNESS TETHER TO GET UNDER OR AROUND YOUR NECK!**
- **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU REMEMBER TO BE PREPARED IF YOU HAPPEN TO FALL AND EMPLOY YOUR SAFETY HARNESS WHILE IN A TREESTAND. STAY CALM AND DO NOT PANIC. YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO RECOVER FROM YOUR FALL BY EITHER CLIMBING BACK ONTO YOUR TREESTAND OR USING A DEVICE SUCH AS THE "TREE DESCENDER" (AVAILABLE FROM FALL WOODS, INC., 800 241-5559).**
- **DO NOT USE ANY TREESTAND UNLESS YOU ARE IN GOOD PHYSICAL SHAPE. THE ABILITY TO DO SEVERAL PUSH-UPS, CHIN-UPS, SIT-UPS, ETC. IS REQUIRED FOR YOUR SAFETY!**
- **FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS MAY CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH!!**

NOTE: Weight limit for these treestands is 300 lbs.

Before each use of your Summit XLS treestand, ALWAYS inspect the treestand for any structural damage, cracks, cable wear or abrasion that may have occurred in transporting your treestand. The only assembly required is the attachment (where applicable) of the comfort pads, gun rest or footrest described in the Attachments section of this booklet.

Section 1. Use of the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Climbing Treestand

Part 1. Attachment to the tree.

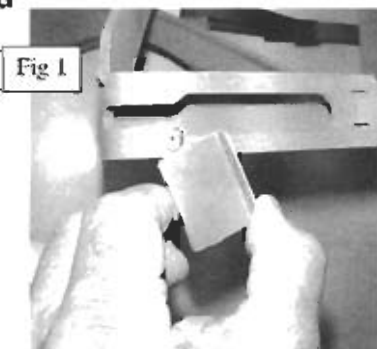
- A. Attach the base platform to the tree first. To do this, rotate the hatch cover out of the way, as shown in **Figure 1**.

- B. Take one end of the cable

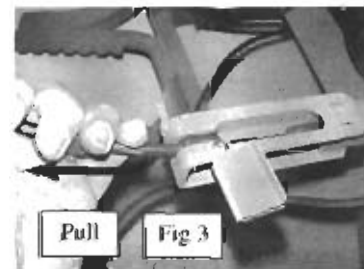


- C. Pull the cable towards the back of the tree and "seat" one of the cable stops against the back of the bracket, as shown in **Figure 3**.

- D. YOU MUST rotate the



and begin to slide it down into the tubing, as shown in **Figure 2**. Once the cable is easily sliding into the tubing (it helps to bend the cable upward while pushing it), you are ready to place it in its final position.



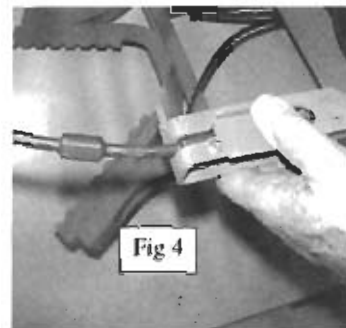
hatch cover back over the bracket so that it locks into place, as shown in **Figure 4**.

IMPORTANT: If the hatch cover does not lock or snap into place, squeeze it together while in the open position to assure it remains snapped in place when rotated over the bracket.

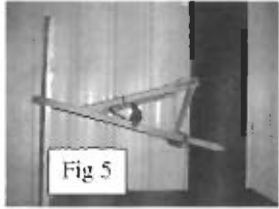
- E. If necessary, go to the other side of the tree and position the other end of the cable by repeating the steps of opening the hatch cover, sliding the cable into the tubing, and locking the hatch cover back into position.

NOTE: The sole purpose of the plastic coating on the cable is to eliminate noise. After some use you may notice some abrasions, peeling or possibly cracking of the coating. This coating does not affect the performance or safety of your treestand. It is there to eliminate unnecessary noise when sliding the cable down into the tubing.

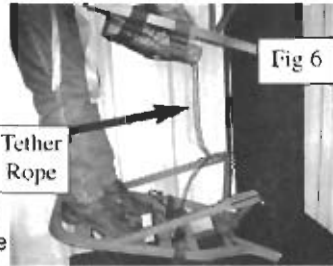
To ensure that your Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS is level at the height at which you will be hunting, observe the relative change in the tree diameter between the base of the tree and the final treestand height. It is very important to adjust the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS base platform and seat at the base of the tree such that the treestand base platform will be level at the height you hunt. Trees commonly found in swamp or marsh areas have a tendency to swell at their base, and these may require a greater starting angle in order



for your treestand to be level at the same hunting height as compared to a normally tapered tree.



Usually, the front edge of the treestand (the edge away from the tree) should be 4-6 inches higher than the edge against the tree (See Figure 5). The Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat (the seat climber) attaches



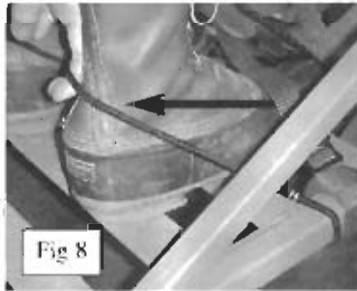
above the standing platform. The Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat should also have the same basic angle as the treestand before you begin to climb. The standing platform and climber **MUST BE** attached to one another with the tether rope provided, as shown in Figure 6.

Part 2. Climbing with the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS.

Step 1. Now that your platform and Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat are attached to the tree, you are ready to climb. It is **MANDATORY** that you use a safety harness as you climb. Be sure to read the safety harness instructions for proper use of your safety harness. Simply attach the rope to the tree above the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat and secure it to the harness for climbing, as shown in Figure 7.



Step 2. Loosen the footstrap assembly by releasing the spring lever buckle and sliding the green webbing through it until you have plenty of room for your boot to fit it. Step onto the treestand, placing one foot in each foot strap and tighten the strap over your boots by pulling on the free end of the



green strap. **YOU MUST** pull the elastic heel cord around the back of your boot, as shown in Figure 8.

At this point IT IS REQUIRED THAT YOU attach your safety harness to the rope around the tree.

Hook the seat back elastic cord (bungee) hooks as shown in Figure 9 to keep secure during the climb.



Step 3. To begin climbing, raise your Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat up to about waist height, re-engage the climber, sit on the padded bar and grasp the upright arms very firmly as shown in Figure 10.

Step 4. With all of your weight on the padded bar, disengage the platform (by rotating the edge against the tree down) and lift the treestand platform, as shown in

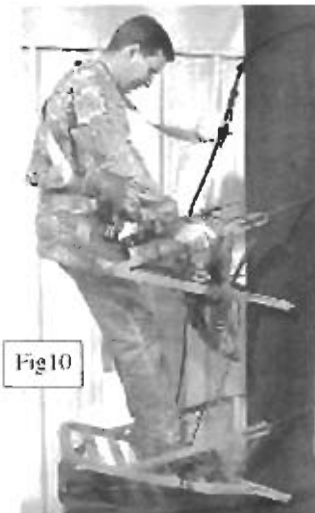


Figure 11.

Step 5. To re-engage the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS platform, simply rotate the edge back against the tree upwards, as shown in Figure 12. **DO NOT JUMP OR BOUNCE ON THE PLATFORM** to attempt to cause it to "dig" into the tree. It is not necessary and may cause you to inadvertently disengage the platform.

Step 6. Now ease your weight onto the platform (to ensure that you have not placed it on an unseen knot or limb on the backside of the tree), then slide



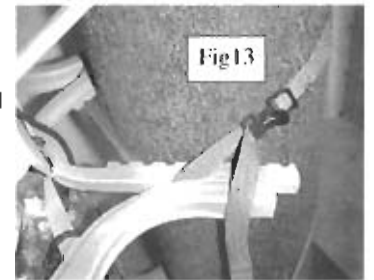
your safety harness rope up the tree and repeat steps 3-6.

DO NOT TIP YOUR WEIGHT ONTO YOUR TOES unless you are ready to move the platform because this will tend to disengage the platform from the tree. The individual foot and heel straps are located in such a position that equal distribution of weight will secure the platform to the tree while climbing.

IMPORTANT NOTE: **DO NOT USE** the Summit Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS without a Summit Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat or other climber. A climber, especially the Summit Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat, is designed to aid you in the correct operation of the treestand while climbing by keeping your weight away from the tree. The Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat is also built so that it fits securely with the platform of the treestand for carrying.

Part 3. Using the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat.

When you get to your hunting height (do not climb higher than 15 feet; it is unnecessary) and have assured that your treestand is level, position your Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat slightly below waist level (slightly lower will be more comfortable but higher makes for less movement when you stand.).



A. Wrap the supplied strap with the spring lever buckle around the tree and seat frame, as shown in Figure 13. Securely tighten the strap to prevent the notched v-bar from losing contact with the tree.



B. Unhook the bungee cord that held the seat back rest secure while you were climbing. Position the seat back rest by wrapping each end of the bungee cord around the climbing cable and hooking the two hooks together, as shown in

Figure 14. The bungee cord will prevent the seat backrest from falling forwards if you stand up.

C. With your safety harness attached to the tree above the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat, reach down and release the heel

cords on the treestand and slide your feet out of the straps.

Position your safety harness comfortably and carefully sit down. The Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat will provide maximum comfort when the seat pad is near horizontal rather than tipped down in the front. The Viper XLS (only) seat height can be easily raised



(for bowhunting) or lowered (for gun hunting) by adjusting the metal 3-bar slides under the seat cushion (See **Figure 15**). **NOTE:** This adjustment should be made while on the ground. Both sides must be adjusted equally so the seat is level side to side. Sliding the two seat-support straps forward or backwards gives additional comfort adjustment.

Part 4. Climbing Down with the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS.

To climb down the tree after hunting, follow these steps:

Step 1. Reattach your treestand platform to your feet (with your safety harness still securely fastened) by using the procedure in Part 2. Climbing with the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS.



Step 2. Undo the elastic cord that has been holding the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat in place and fold the seat up. Secure the backrest and seat as shown in **Figure 16**. Undo the strap that has held the seat in place against the tree.

Step 3. Place the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat at about knee level, sit on the padded bar, and grasp the upright arms as you did in climbing (see **Figure 17**).

Step 4. While firmly grasping the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat upright arms, disengage the platform by lifting and tipping the top edge closest to the tree downward and then lower the platform (see **Figure 10** again).

Step 5. To re-engage, rotate the top edge of the treestand closest to the tree upwards. Now carefully place your weight back on the treestand. **DO NOT JUMP OR BOUNCE ON THE PLATFORM to attempt to cause it to "dig" into the tree.** It is not necessary and may cause you to inadvertently disengage the platform.

Step 6. Slide your safety harness rope down to about chest height and repeat steps 3-6 until you have reached the bottom of the tree.

Part 5. Carrying the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS.

The Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS and Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat are lightweight and easy to carry as one unit.

A. To combine the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat and Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme



XLS Platform, place the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat frame topside up on the ground as shown in **Figure 18**.

- B.** Take the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Platform (in the same orientation as it would be on a tree) and keeping it flat, slide the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Platform so that its upright braces and cable goes next to the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Platform side braces and cable as shown in **Figure 19**. The upright comfort pads should be pushed up toward the cable.
- C.** Both sides of the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Platform V-bar should be against the side braces of the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat.
- D.** Secure the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS seat to the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS with the green strap with the tourniquet buckle. This will prevent the Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS and Viper XLS or Viper Xtreme XLS Seat from making noise as you hike to your hunting location.
- E.** Use the backpack straps to carry the unit as shown in **Figure 20**.



Part 6. (Viper Xtreme XLS only) Using the Viper Xtreme XLS Seat.

NOTE: The difference between the Viper Xtreme XLS and the Viper XLS is that the Viper Xtreme XLS has a reversible seat, a gun rest and a footrest. The assembly instructions for the gun rest and footrest are in the Attachments section.

- A.** In the normal position the plastic coated seat hook should be fully secured onto the lip of the frame as shown in **Figure 21**.
- B.** When reversing the seat to face the tree, position the seat hook such that

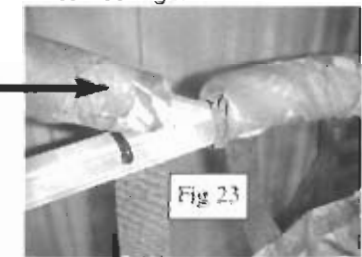


one end is on each side of the upright bar as shown in **Figure 22**.

- C.** **Figure 23** shows the seat hook covered with the padded foam and camouflage.



Upright bar & comfort pad



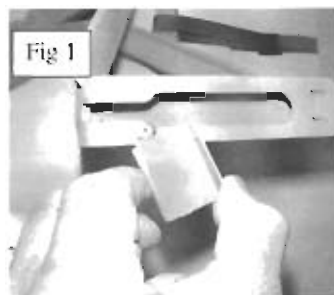
Good Hunting and Hunt Safe.

**HUNT TOMORROW...
...WEAR YOUR SAFETY HARNESS
TODAY**

Section 2. Use of the Python XLS Climbing Treestand

Part 1. Attachment to the tree.

- A. Attach the base platform to the tree first. To do this, rotate the hatch cover out of the way, as shown in **Figure 1**.
- B. Take one end of the cable and begin to slide it down into the tubing, as shown in Figure 2. Once the cable is easily sliding



the bracket, as shown in **Figure 3**.

- D. YOU MUST rotate the hatch cover back over the bracket so that it locks into place, as shown in **Figure 4**. **IMPORTANT:**

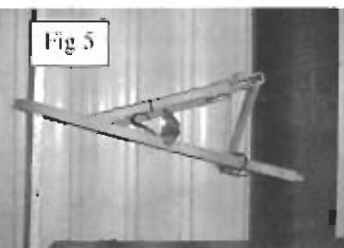
If the hatch cover does not lock or snap into place, squeeze it together while in the open position to assure it remains snapped in place when rotated over the bracket.

- E. If necessary, go to the other side of the tree and position the other end of the cable by repeating the steps of opening the hatch cover, sliding the cable into the tubing, and locking the hatch cover back into position.

NOTE: The sole purpose of the plastic coating on the cable is to eliminate noise. After some use you may notice some abrasions, peeling or possibly cracking of the coating. This coating does not affect the performance or safety of your treestand. It is there to eliminate unnecessary noise when sliding the cable down into the tubing.

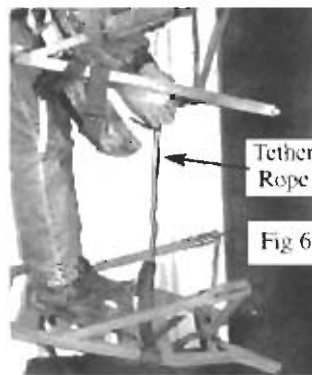
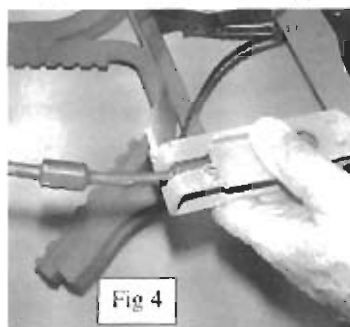
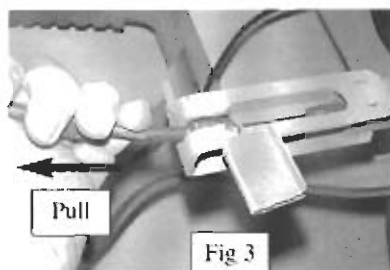
To ensure that your Python XLS is level at the height at which you will be hunting, observe the relative change in the tree diameter between the base of the tree and the final treestand height. It is very important to adjust the Python XLS base platform and seat at the base of the tree such that the treestand base platform will be level at the height you hunt. Trees commonly found in swamp or marsh areas have a tendency to swell at their base, and these may require a greater starting angle in order for your treestand to be level at the same hunting height as compared to a normally tapered tree.

Usually, the front edge of the treestand (the edge away from the tree) should be 4-6 inches higher than the edge against the tree (See **Figure 5**). The Python XLS Seat (the seat climber) attaches above the standing platform.



into the tubing (it helps to bend the cable upward while pushing it), you are ready to place it in its final position.

- C. Pull the cable towards the back of the tree and "seal" one of the cable stops against the back of



The Python XLS Seat Climber should be at a lesser angle than the treestand platform before you begin to climb. The standing platform and climber **MUST BE** attached to one another with the tether rope provided, as shown in **Figure 6**.

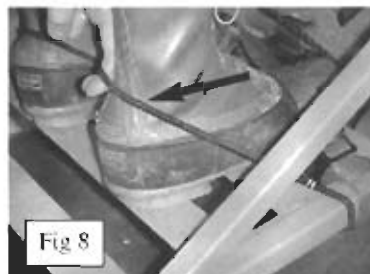
Part 2. Climbing with the Python XLS.

Step 1. Now that your platform and Python XLS Seat Climber are attached to the tree, you are ready to climb. It is **MANDATORY** that you use a safety harness as you climb. Read the safety harness instructions later in this booklet for proper use of your safety harness. Simply attach the rope to the tree above the Python XLS Seat Climber and secure it to the harness for climbing, as shown in **Figure 7**.

Step 2. Loosen the footstrap assembly by releasing the spring lever buckle and sliding the green webbing through it until you have plenty of room for your boot to fit it. Step onto the treestand, placing one foot in each foot strap and tighten the strap over your boots by pulling on the free end of the green strap. **YOU MUST** pull the elastic heel cord around the back of



your boot, as shown in **Figure 8**. **At this point IT IS REQUIRED THAT YOU attach your safety harness to the rope around the tree.** Hook the seat back elastic cord (bunge) hooks as shown in **Figure 9** to keep secure during the climb.



Step 3. To begin climbing, raise your Python XLS Seat Climber up to your buttocks and



grasp the upright arms very firmly as shown in **Figure 10**.

Step 4. Sit down with your weight on the padded bar and disengage the platform (by rotating the edge against the tree down) and lift the platform, as shown in **Figure 11**.

Step 5. To re-engage the Python XLS platform, simply rotate the edge against the tree upwards. **DO NOT JUMP OR BOUNCE ON THE PLATFORM**

to attempt to cause it to "dig" into the tree. It is not necessary and may cause you to inadvertently disengage the platform.

Step 6. Now ease your weight onto the platform (to ensure that you have not placed it on an unseen knot or limb on the backside of the tree), then slide your safety harness rope up the tree and repeat steps 3-6.

DO NOT TIP YOUR WEIGHT ONTO YOUR TOES unless you are ready to move the platform because this will tend to disengage the treestand from the tree. The individual foot and heel straps are located in such a position that equal distribution of weight will secure the treestand to the tree while climbing.

IMPORTANT NOTE: DO NOT USE the Summit Python XLS without a Summit Python XLS Seat or other climber. A climber, especially the Summit Python XLS Seat Climber, is designed to aid you in the correct operation of the treestand while climbing by keeping your weight away from the tree. The Python XLS Seat is also built so that it fits snugly with the platform of the treestand for carrying.



Fig 11

Part 3. Using the Python XLS Seat.

When you get to your hunting height (do not climb higher than 15 feet; it is unnecessary) and have assured that your treestand is level, position your Python XLS Seat slightly below waist level (slightly lower will be more comfortable but higher makes for less movement when you stand.)

A. Wrap the supplied strap with the spring lever buckle around the tree and seat frame, as shown in **Figure 12**. Securely tighten the strap to prevent the notched v-bar

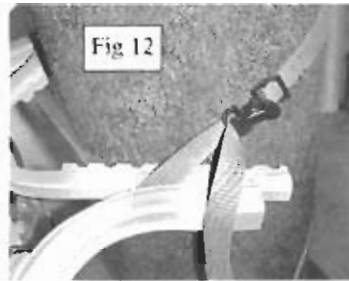


Fig 12



Fig 13

from losing contact with the tree.
B. Unhook the bungee cord that held the seat back rest secure while you were climbing. Position the seat back rest against the tree and attach the Python XLS Seat backrest with the

elastic cord provided, as shown in **Figure 13**. The bungee cord will prevent the backrest from falling forwards if you stand up.

C. With your safety harness attached to the tree above the Python XLS Seat, reach down and release the heel cords on the treestand and slide your feet out of the straps. Position your safety harness comfortably and carefully sit down.

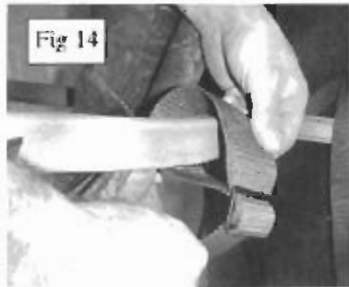


Fig 14

The Python XLS Seat will provide maximum comfort when the seat pad is near horizontal rather than tipped down in the front. The Python XLS seat height can be easily raised (for bowhunting) or lowered (for gun hunting) by adjusting the metal 3-bar slides under the seat cushion (See **Figure 14**). **NOTE:** This adjustment should be made while on the ground. Both sides must be adjusted equally so the seat is level side to side. Sliding the two seat-support straps forward or backwards gives additional comfort adjustment.

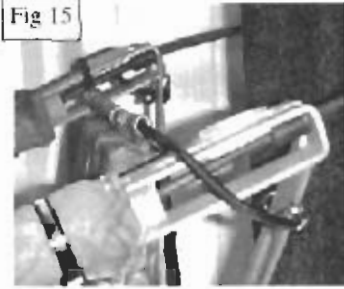
Part 4. Climbing Down with the Python XLS.

To climb down the tree after hunting, follow these steps:

Step 1. Reattach your treestand platform to your feet (with your safety harness still securely fastened) by using the procedure in Part 2, **Climbing with the Python XLS.**

Step 2. Undo the elastic cord that has been holding the Python XLS Seat in place and fold the seat backrest down. Secure the backrest and seat as shown in **Figure 15**. Undo the strap that has held the seat in place.

Fig 15



Step 3. Place the Python XLS Seat Climber at about knee level, sit on the padded bar, and grasp the upright arms as you did in climbing (see **Figure 10**)

Step 4. While firmly grasping the Python XLS Seat Climber upright arms, disengage the platform by lifting and tipping the top edge closest to the tree downward as shown in **Figure 16** and then lower the platform.



Fig 16

Step 5. To re-engage, rotate the top edge of the platform closest to the tree upwards. Now carefully place your weight back on the treestand. **DO NOT JUMP OR BOUNCE ON THE PLATFORM** to attempt to cause it to "dig" into the tree. It is not necessary and may cause you to inadvertently disengage the platform.

Step 6. Slide your safety harness rope down to about chest height and repeat steps 3-6 until you have reached the bottom of the tree.

Part 5. Carrying the Python XLS.

The Python XLS and Python XLS Seat are lightweight and easy to carry as one unit.

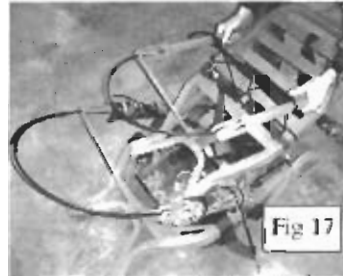


Fig 17

over the comfort pads.

B. Take the Python XLS Platform (in the same orientation as it would be on a tree) and keeping it flat slide the Python XLS Platform so that its upright braces and cable goes under the Python XLS Seat side braces and cable as shown in **Figure 18**.



Fig 18

Both sides of the Python XLS Platform V-bar should be against the side braces of the Python XLS Seat.



Fig 19

C. Fold up the folding bar as shown in **Figure 19** and secure the Python XLS Seat to the Python XLS platform with the green strap with the tourniquet buckle. This will prevent the Python XLS and Python XLS Seat from making noise as you hike to

your hunting location.

- D. Use the backpack straps to carry the unit as shown in **Figure 20**.



Part 6. Additional features and PRECAUTIONS of the folding bar.

A. The Python XLS is a very versatile treestand in that there are several uses of the folding bar. In addition to allowing stand-up/sit-down climbing as shown in Part 2 and 4 above, the bar can be used as a gun rest in the raised position. Always insure that both hooks on the sides are properly engaged when the bar is up. It is also a handy armrest in this position. However, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CLIMB BY SITTING ON THE BAR IN THE RAISED POSITION. It is not designed for this use and IS PROHIBITED.

- B. The bar can be used as a reference to aid in balance when up, but DO NOT USE IT TO SUPPORT YOUR WEIGHT BY LEANING ON IT as shown in **Figure 21 and Figure 22.**



- C. When hunting with the bar folded down, it can serve as an additional foot rest (see **Figure 23**). When used in this manner, if both feet are supported it is extremely important that the tether between the platform and seat is securely tied. (With no weight on the platform is could be

accidentally bumped and disengaged).

- D. To secure the bar in the up position simply insert the metal offset on the end of each cable into a hole selected on the bar as shown in **Figures 24 and 25.** Be sure to use the same hole on each side of the bar.



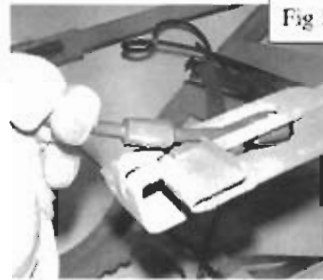
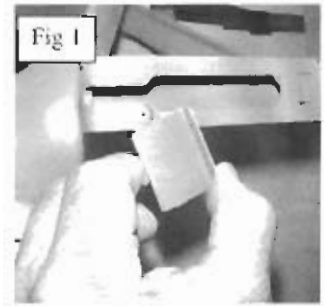
Good Hunting and Hunt Safe.

**HUNT TOMORROW...
...WEAR YOUR SAFETY HARNESS
TODAY**

Section 3. Use of the Cobra XLS or Bushmaster XLS Climbing Treestand.

- Part 1. Attachment to the tree.**

- A. Attach the base platform to the tree first. To do this, rotate the hatch cover out of the way, as shown in **Figure 1.**
- B. Take one end of the cable and begin to slide it down into the tubing, as shown in **Figure 2.** Once the

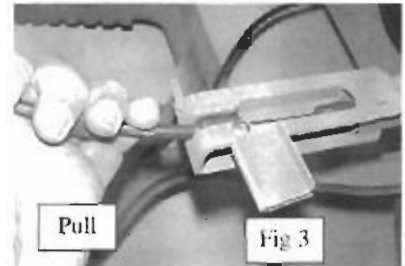


cable is easily sliding into the tubing (it helps to bend the cable upward while pushing it), you are ready to place it in its final position.

- C. Pull the cable towards the back of the tree and "seat" one of the cable stops

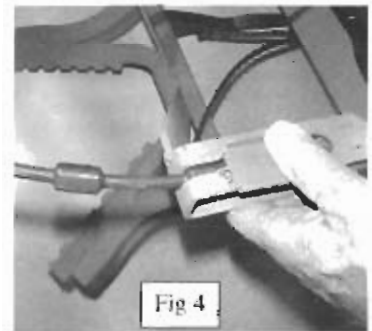
against the back of the bracket, as shown in **Figure 3.**

- D. YOU MUST rotate the hatch cover back over the bracket so that it locks into place, as shown in **Figure 4.**



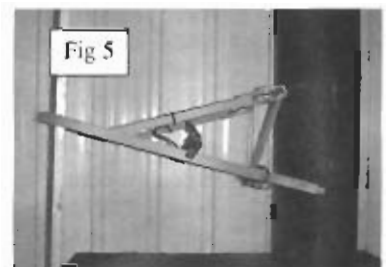
IMPORTANT: If the hatch cover does not lock or snap into place, squeeze it together while in the open position to assure it remains snapped in place when rotated over the bracket.

- E. If necessary, go to the other side of the tree and position the other end of the cable by repeating the steps of opening the hatch cover, sliding the cable into the tubing, and locking the hatch cover back into position.



NOTE: The sole purpose of the plastic coating on the cable is to eliminate noise. After some use you may notice some abrasions, peeling or possibly cracking of the coating. This coating does not affect the performance or safety of your treestand. It is there to eliminate unnecessary noise when sliding the cable down into the tubing.

To ensure that your Cobra XLS or Bushmaster XLS is level at the height at which you will be hunting, observe the relative change in the tree diameter between the base of the tree and the final treestand height. It is very important to adjust the Cobra XLS OR Bushmaster XLS base platform and seat at the base of the tree such that the treestand base platform will be level at the height you hunt. Trees commonly found in swamp or marsh areas have a tendency to swell at their base, and these may



require a greater starting angle in order for your treestand to be level at the same hunting height as compared to a normally tapered tree.

Usually, the front edge of the treestand (the edge away from the tree) should be 4-6 inches higher than the edge against the tree (See **Figure 5**). The Python XLS or Bushmaster XLS Seat (the seat climber) attaches above the standing platform.

It might be easier to have the Cobra XLS or Bushmaster XLS Seat at a greater angle than the treestand platform before you begin to climb. The standing platform and climber **MUST BE** attached to one another with the tether rope provided, as shown in **Figure 6**.

Part 2. Climbing with the Cobra XLS or Bushmaster XLS.

Step 1. Now that your platform and Cobra XLS or Bushmaster XLS Seat are



Fig 7

plenty of room for your boot to fit it. Step onto the platform, placing one foot in each foot strap and tighten the strap over your boots by pulling on the free end of the green strap. **YOU MUST** pull the elastic heel cord around the back of your boot, as shown in **Figure 8**. **At this point IT IS REQUIRED THAT YOU attach your safety harness to the rope around the tree.** Hook the seat back elastic



Fig 9

cord (bunge) hooks as shown in **Figure 9** to keep secure during the climb. (Cobra XLS ONLY).

Step 3. To begin climbing, raise your Cobra XLS or Bushmaster XLS Seat up to about waist height and grasp the

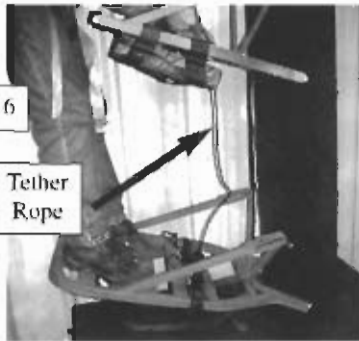


Fig 6

Tether Rope

attached to the tree, you are ready to climb. It is **MANDATORY** that you use a safety harness as you climb: read the safety harness instructions later in this booklet for proper use of your safety harness. Simply attach the rope to the tree above the Cobra XLS or Bushmaster XLS Seat and secure it to the harness for climbing, as shown in **Figure 7** (Cobra Seat shown).

Step 2. Loosen the footstrap assembly by releasing the spring lever buckle and sliding the green webbing through it until you have



Fig 8



Fig 10

Upright Arm

upright arms very firmly as shown in **Figure 10**.

Step 4. Rest your weight with your arms on the padded (Bushmaster not padded) bar and disengage the platform (by rotating the edge against the tree down) and lift the platform, as shown in **Figure 11**.

Step 5. To re-engage the Cobra XLS or Bushmaster XLS, simply rotate the edge against the tree upwards, as shown in **Figure 12**. **DO NOT JUMP OR BOUNCE ON THE PLATFORM** to attempt to cause it to "dig" into the tree. It is **not necessary** and may cause you to inadvertently disengage the platform.

Step 6. Now ease your weight onto the platform (to ensure that you have not placed it on an unseen knot or limb on the backside of the tree), then



Fig 12

slide your safety



Fig 11

harness rope up the tree and repeat steps 3-6 **DO NOT TIP YOUR WEIGHT ONTO YOUR TOES** unless you are ready to move the platform

because this will tend to disengage the platform from the tree. The individual foot and heel straps are located in such a position that equal distribution of weight will secure the platform to the tree while climbing.

IMPORTANT NOTE: DO NOT USE the Summit Cobra XLS or Bushmaster XLS without a Summit Cobra XLS or Bushmaster XLS Seat or other climber. A climber, especially the Summit Cobra XLS or Bushmaster XLS Seat, is designed to aid you in the correct operation of the treestand while climbing by keeping your weight away from the tree. The Cobra XLS or Bushmaster XLS Seat is also built so that it fits snugly with the platform of the treestand for carrying.

Part 3. Using the Cobra XLS or Bushmaster XLS Seat.

When you get to your hunting height (do not climb higher than 15 feet; it is unnecessary) and have assured that your treestand is level, position your Cobra XLS or Bushmaster XLS Seat slightly below waist level (slightly lower will be more comfortable but higher makes for less movement when you stand.).

Wrap the supplied strap with the spring lever buckle around the tree and seat frame, as shown in **Figure 13**. Securely tighten the strap to prevent the notched v-bar from losing contact with the tree.

- A. Unhook the bungee cord that held the seat back rest secure while you were climbing. (Cobra XLS ONLY). Position the seat back rest against the tree and attach the Cobra XLS Seat back rest with the elastic cord provided, as shown in **Figure 14**



Fig 13



Fig 14

(Cobra XLS ONLY). The bunge cord will prevent the backrest from falling forward if you stand up.

- B. With your safety harness attached to the tree above the Cobra or Bushmaster Seat, reach down and release the heel cords on the platform and slide your feet out of the straps. Position your safety harness comfortably and carefully sit down. The Cobra or Bushmaster Seat will provide maximum comfort when the seat pad is near horizontal rather than tipped down in the front. The Cobra XLS Seat height can be easily raised (for bow hunting) or lowered (for gun hunting) by adjusting the metal 3-bar slides under the seat cushion shown in **Figure 14**. (However, the Bushmaster XLS Seat has little or no adjustment).

NOTE: This adjustment should be made while on the ground. Both sides must be adjusted equally so the seat is level side to side. Sliding the two seat-support straps forward or backwards gives additional comfort adjustment.



Fig 15

Part 4. Climbing Down with the Cobra or Bushmaster XLS.

To climb down the tree after hunting, follow these steps:

Step 1. Reattach your treestand platform to your feet (with your safety harness still securely fastened) by using the procedure in Part 2, Climbing with the Cobra or Bushmaster XLS.

Step 2. Undo the elastic cord that has been holding the Cobra XLS Seat in place and fold the seat backrest down. Secure the backrest and seat as shown in **Figure 16**. (Cobra XLS ONLY) Undo the strap that has held the seat in place.

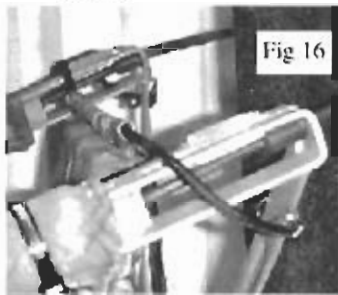


Fig 16

Place the Cobra or Bushmaster XLS Seat at about knee level and grasp the upright arms as you did in climbing (see Figure 17).

Step 4. While firmly grasping the Cobra or Bushmaster XLS Seat upright arms, disengage the platform by lifting and tipping the top edge closest to the tree downward and then lower the platform (see **Figure 11** again).

Step 5. To re-engage, rotate the top edge of the platform closest to the tree upwards. Now carefully place your weight back on the platform. **DO NOT JUMP OR BOUNCE ON THE PLATFORM** to attempt to cause it to "dig" into the tree. It is not necessary and may cause you to inadvertently disengage the platform.

Step 6. Slide your safety harness rope down to about chest height and repeat steps 3-6 until you have reached the bottom of the tree.

Part 5. Carrying the Cobra or Bushmaster XLS.

The Cobra XLS and Bushmaster XLS Seat and Platform are lightweight and easy to carry as one unit.

- A. To combine the Cobra or Bushmaster XLS Seat and Cobra or Bushmaster XLS Platform, place the Seat



Fig 17

topside up on the ground as shown in Figure 18.

- B. Take the XLS Platform (in the same orientation as it would be on a tree) and keeping it flat slide the XLS Platform so that its upright braces and cable goes under the XLS Seat side braces and cable as shown in **Figure 19**.
- C. Both sides of the XLS Platform V-bar should be against the side braces of the XLS Seat.
- D. Secure the XLS Seat to the XLS Platform with the green strap with the tourniquet buckle. This will prevent the XLS Platform and XLS Seat from making noise as you hike to your hunting location.
- E. Use the backpack straps to carry the unit as shown in **Figure 20**.



Fig 19



Fig 20

Good Hunting and Hunt Safe.

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TODAY

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Section 4. Maintenance and Care

Because of the quality construction techniques used in manufacturing, your Summit treestand is very durable under normal hunting conditions. However, since all hunting equipment that is exposed to the elements requires some maintenance and care, the following guidelines for caring for your treestand should be used. **DO NOT** leave your treestand outdoors when it is not being used. Any tubing that is allowed to fill with rainwater and freeze will rupture and burst. **DO NOT** use your treestand if you allow this to occur. If your treestand is exposed to the elements, it is necessary to cover the seat to prevent rain and moisture from saturating the material. This will extend the life of the seat material as well as make it more comfortable the next time it is used.

The powder coat finish that is applied at the factory is very durable and should need touch ups only in areas of heavy wear or accidental impact.

Should you damage any part of your Summit treestand, contact your nearest authorized Summit dealer or the factory to obtain the proper corrective action procedure and/or replacement parts for the treestand. Unauthorized repairs, modifications, or alterations will void the warranty and could degrade the integrity of the treestand.

You must perform periodic inspections of the treestand for damage. DO NOT use the treestand if ANY obvious or suspected damaged is observed. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** to inspect the cable on your climbing treestand to ensure that there is no sign of frayed, damaged or broken strands. If **ANY** such damage is noticed, you must replace your cable **IMMEDIATELY**.

Replacement covers for the cable are also available. NOTE: The plastic coating on the cable serves **ONLY** as a noise reducer. Over time your cable cover will begin to wear. This is normal.

Look for nicks gouges, cuts, cracks, bends, corrosion or similar defects that can be the result of improper use or accidental damage. For instance, this could occur if someone else used the treestand without knowledge of its proper use, or if the treestand were dropped, or hit by a motor vehicle, or subjected to corrosive conditions, etc. Summit treestands have the highest structural integrity by design, material selection and manufacturing techniques, but as its owner, only your continued care will assure trouble free performance.

When the above-mentioned guidelines are followed, your Summit treestand will provide years of successful hunting.

Section 5. Adjustments

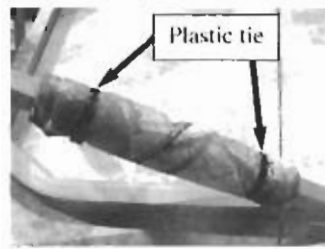
The only adjustments that may be required on your Summit treestand would be the backpack straps or seat height.

If the backpack straps on the back (bottom) of the treestand need to be shortened to fit more comfortably, simply adjust the 2" wide straps using the 3-bar slide buckles provided to the length desired.

The Viper XLS, Python XLS and Cobra XLS seat height can be adjusted by means of the 3-bar slides on the seat straps. This adjustment should be made while on the ground and both sides must be adjusted equally so the seat is level side to side. (See Figure 15 for Viper or Figure 14 for Python and Cobra in earlier sections of these instructions for details).

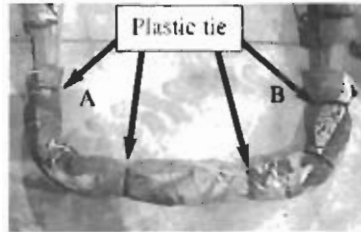
Section 6. Attachments

Comfort Pads (for Viper XLS, Viper Xtreme XLS, Cobra XLS and Python XLS). The camouflaged foam comfort pads for the bars can be easily attached for additional comfort. On the Cobra XLS, simply place one comfort pad over the upright on each side with the opening down. Then secure it using a plastic tie on each end. The excess end of the tie should be cut off and then rotate the tie so that the connection point is on the bottom of the pad as shown.



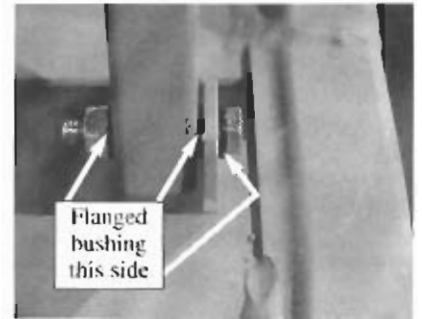
On the Viper XLS and Viper Xtreme XLS, follow the preceding method for covering the upright bars. Then place the long piece of comfort pad over the front of the seat bar, with equal lengths extending on each side and with the opening down.

Then attach a plastic tie on each end and one on each side of the bar in front as shown in the figure to secure it similar to that described for the upright bars. (Plastic ties A & B on the Viper Xtreme XLS only should be secured further from the pad ends to allow the seat hooks to go underneath the pad.)



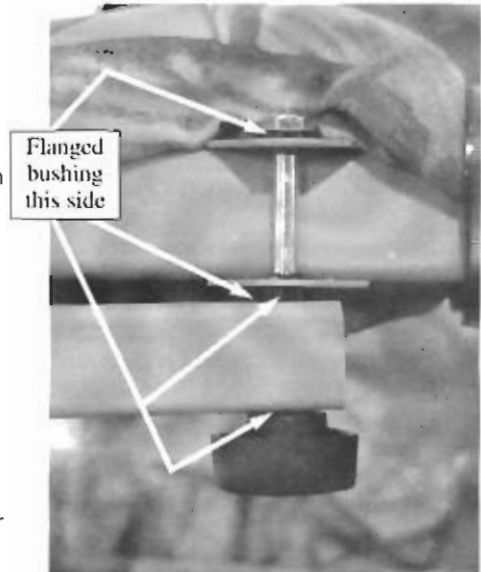
Foot Rest (for Viper Xtreme XLS)

To attach the footrest to the Viper Xtreme XLS platform, first determine that all hardware is available. Included should be two (2) 1/4-20 x 1 1/2" long cap screws, two (2) 1/4-20 locknuts, and six (6) plastic flanged bushings. Insert two of the plastic flanged bushings into each side of the two holes in the two ends of the footrest. Insert the remaining two bushings into the holes in each of the two brackets on the platform such that the flange is on the inboard side of the platform as shown in the above figure. Next insert the bolts through the bushings on the footrest and into the bushing on the bracket. After installing the nuts on the bolts, tighten them so that there's a minimum of side-to-side play. NOTE: If the nuts are too tight, they will have a tendency to squeak. If so, just loosen the nuts.



Gun Rest (for Viper Xtreme XLS). To attach the gun rest to the Viper Xtreme XLS Seat bar, first determine that all hardware is available. Included

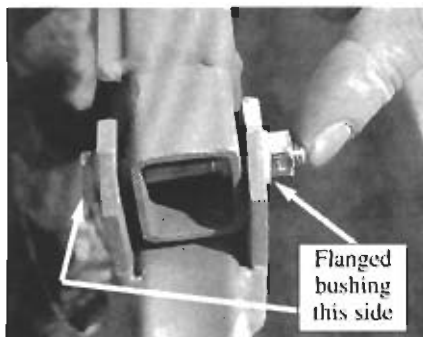
should be a U-shaped bracket, four (4) plastic flanged bushings, a 1/4-20 x 3" long cap screw and a 1/4-20 threaded plastic knob. Unfasten a portion (approximately 8") of the camouflage comfort pad in the center of the seat bar and slide the bracket onto the bar with the opening away from the tree and the holes aligned vertically. Insert two of the plastic flanged bushings into the two holes in the end of the gun rest. Insert the other two plastic flanged bushings into the outside of the U-shaped bracket as shown in the figure above.



The end of the gun rest containing the bushings should then be placed underneath the bracket so that the holes are aligned. The screw should then be inserted through the holes and the plastic knob installed and tightened.

Folding Bar (for Python XLS) To attach the folding bar to the Python XLS Seat bar, first determine that **all** hardware is available.

Included should be four (4) long plastic flanged bushings, (2) 1/4-20 x 2" long cap screws and (2) 1/4-20 locknuts. Insert the plastic flanged bushings into the two holes on the outside of the bar U-bracket as shown in the adjacent figure. Insert the screw and tighten the locknut until there is a slight amount of side-to-side play.



Section 7. Tips

You will easily learn how to use your Summit treestand more efficiently and make it more effective for your hunting.

With proper practice you can learn to level your platform without climbing down to re-position the cable. Pulling the cable against the backside of the tree while you're supporting the platform with your legs can do this. While the cable is against the tree, position the platform level and engage the front edge against the tree. This puts a slight bend in the cable while keeping the platform level. Only minor level adjustment, however, can be made using this technique. (The video shows this technique).

Sometimes on a cold, dry, hard bark tree a rubbing noise can be produced at the scalloped edge that engages the tree. This comes from friction forces. It can be eliminated a couple of ways. First, simply re-positioning your platform slightly will in most cases eliminate the noise. Second, a liquid or wax can be applied at the intersection of the tree and the scalloped edge to reduce the friction. Also, using a file to remove the finish and slightly upset (roughen) the smooth metal surface contact points on the scallops can eliminate the noise.

Changing your sitting position can relieve muscle stress and reduce fatigue. This will allow a longer hunt and perhaps an opportunity for a shot. Although it must be done slowly and quietly, repositioning and changing the height of your seat by raising or lowering the seat frame just a couple of inches could make a difference. This changes the hip to knee angle. Moving the seat straps, again slowly and quietly, forward or backward on their support bar will alter the sitting position also. Being comfortable will result in no movement and reduce being detected by game either from sight or from sound.

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LIMITED WARRANTY

(A) Warranty

Summit Specialties, Inc. (Summit) warrants to the original retail purchaser that all products manufactured by it are free from defects in material and manufacture at the time of shipment for twelve (12) months from the date of purchase. Summit will repair or replace any part found defective if the unit claimed to be defective shall be returned to Summit, postage prepaid, within the warranty period.

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Please complete and return within 15 days from date of purchase

Treestand Purchased: Viper XLS Viper XTreme XLS Python XLS Cobra XLS Bushmaster XLS

Owners Name _____ Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone (____) _____

Date Purchased _____ Purchased From (Dealer Name) _____ Price \$ _____

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