

Bushmaster X5, Clearshot & Openshot Instruction Booklet - 2005

You MUST also view the enclosed DVD BEFORE using your new treestand!!
Weight Limit: 300 lbs., Tree Size: 8" to 20"

#### READ ME FIRST!!!

Please read carefully BEFORE using your new Summit Bushmaster X5, Clearshot, or Openshot Climbing Treestand. You must also view the enclosed DVD BEFORE using your treestand!

Congratulations! You have purchased the finest commercially available treestand on the market today. Summit 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 climbing treestand.

BEFORE USING ANY TREESTAND, BE SURE YOU USE A SAFETY HARNESS AT ALL TIMES AFTER LEAVING THE GROUND!!

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 SUMMIT, 256 353-0634).

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!!

PRIOR TO HUNTING: YOU MUST NOTIFY SOMEONE OF YOUR HUNTING LOCATION AND WHEN YOU WILL RETURN!

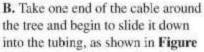
NOTE: Weight limit for these treestands is 300 lbs.

Before each use of your Summit treestand, ALWAYS inspect the treestand for any structural damage, cracks, cable wear or abrasion that may have occurred in transporting your treestand. DO NOT USE IF ANY DAMAGE IS FOUND! The only assembly required is the attachment (where applicable) of the comfort pads, foot rest or seat described in the Attachments section of this booklet.

#### Part 1. Use of the Bushmaster X5, Clearshot, or Openshot Climbing Treestand

#### Attachment to the tree.

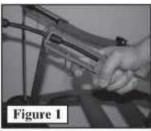
A. Attach the base platform to the tree first. To do this, pull down and hold the QuickDraw cable spring, as shown in Figure 1. This will release the locking tab from the cable, allowing you to remove it from the cable bracket.



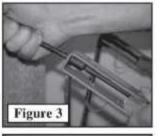
Once the cable is easily sliding into the tubing (it helps to bend the cable upward while pushing down on it), you are ready to place it in its final position.

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. The QuickDraw cable spring will "lock" into place behind one of the cable stops.

Your cable bracket should now look like Figure 4. IMPORTANT: If the QuickDraw cable spring does not









lock into place behind the cable stop, you must contact Summit immediately to obtain the proper corrective action. **DO NOT USE THE TREESTAND!** 

D. If necessary, go to the other side of the tree and position the other end of the cable by repeating the steps of pulling the QuickDraw cable spring, sliding the cable into the tubing, and assuring that the QuickDraw cable spring has locked 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 cuts in 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. DO NOT USE THE CABLE IF IT HAS BROKEN OR DAMAGED METAL STRANDS! Call immediately to order a replacement.

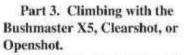
Part 2. Use of the Bushmaster X5, Clearshot, or Openshot Climbing Treestand. NOTE: The foot rest shown is NOT INCLUDED and may be purchased separately at www.summitstands.com. To ensure that your Bushmaster X5, Clearshot, or Openshot is level at the height at which you will be hunting, observe the relative change in the tree diameter between the base of the tree and the final treestand height. It is very important to adjust the Bushmaster X5, Clearshot, or Openshot base platform and climber 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 Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat climber or Clearshot Climbing Aid attaches above the standing platform.

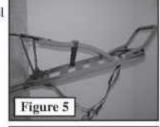
It might be easier to have the

Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat climber or Clearshot Climbing Aid at a greater angle than the treestand platform before you begin to climb. The standing platform and climber MUST BE attached to each other with the tether rope provided, as shown in Figure 6. Wrap the rope around twice before attaching



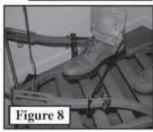
the hook.

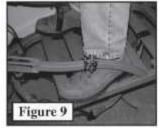
Step 1. Now that your platform and Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat climber or Clearshot Climbing Aid are attached to the tree, you are ready to climb. It is MANDATORY that you use a safety harness as you climb: read the safety harness instructions for proper use of your safety harness. Simply attach the safety line to the tree above the Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat climber or Clearshot Climbing Aid and secure it to the harness for climbing, as shown in Figure 7 (Bushmaster Seat shown).











Step 2. Your RapidClimb stirrups and bungee heel cords should already be attached to your treestand. If they are not, proceed to the attachments section of this booklet for the correct assembly procedure. To climb, back your heel into the bungee heel cords (Figure 8) then simply slide your boot under the RapidClimb stirrup, making sure that your boot is secure under

the stirrup, as shown in Figure 9. At this point before climbing, IT IS REQUIRED that you attach your safety harness to the safety line around the tree.

Step 3. To begin climbing, raise your Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat climber or Clearshot Climbing Aid up to about waist height and grasp the upright arms very firmly as shown in Figure 10.

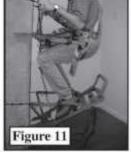
Step 4. Rest your weight with your arms on the padded (Clearshot and Openshot not padded) bar and disengage the platform by lifting the treestand platform as shown in Figure 11.

Step 5. To re-engage the Bushmaster X5, Clearshot, or Openshot, simply rotate the edge against the tree upwards, as shown in Figure 12.

DO NOT JUMP OR BOUNCE ON THE PLATFORM OR SEAT to attempt to cause it to "dig" into the tree. It is not necessary and may cause you to inadvertently disengage the platform or seat.

Step 6. Now ease your weight onto the platform (to ensure that your 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 Bushmaster X5, Clearshot, or Openshot without a Summit Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat climber or Clearshot Climbing Aid or other climber. A climber, especially the Summit Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat climber or Clearshot Climbing Aid, is designed to aid you in the correct operation of the treestand while climbing by keeping your weight away from the tree. The Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat climber or Clearshot Climbing Aid is also built so that it fits snugly with the platform of the treestand for carrying.

#### Part 4. Using the Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat Climber.

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 Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat climber 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 showr in Figure 13. Securely tighten the strap to prevent the notched v-bar from losing contact with the tree.

With your safety harness attached to the tree above the

Bushmaster or Openshot seat climber, carefully back your feet out of the RapidClimb stirrups and heel bungee cords. Position your safety harness to minimize the slack in the safety line and tether strap and carefully sit down. The Bushmaster or Openshot Seat will provide maximum comfort when the seat pad is near horizontal rather than tipped down in the front. The Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat height can be slightly raised or lowered by adjusting the metal 3-bar slides under the seat cushion shown in 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 4A. Using the Clearshot Climbing Aid and Seat.

When you get to your hunting height (do not climb higher than 15 feet; it is unnecessary), rotate the Clearshot Climbing Aid around the tree and out of your way as shown in Figure 15. With your safety harness attached to the tree, carefully back your feet out of the RapidClimb stirrups and heel bungee cords. Carefully reach down and begin lifting the Clearshot seat as you step over it as shown in Figure 16. This process is complete when the seat bars are resting on the pads you placed in the "Attachments" section of this booklet (Figure 17). Now carefully sit down on the seat.

## Part 5. Climbing Down with the Bushmaster X5, Clearshot, or Openshot.

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

Step 1. Reattach your treestand platform to your feet (keep your safety harness securely attached to the tree until reaching the ground) by using the procedure in Part 2, Climbing with the Bushmaster, Clearshot or Openshot.

Step 2. Disconnect the strap that has held the seat in place. For the Clearshot, simply rotate the seat back down to the platform as shown in Figure 18.

Step 3. Place the Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat climber or Clearshot Climbing Aid at about waist level and grasp the upright arms as

Figure 13





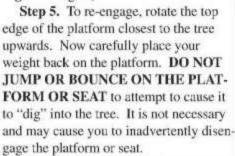






you did in climbing (see Figure 19 -Bushmaster Seat Shown).

Step 4. While firmly grasping the Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat climber or Clearshot Climbing Aid 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 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. NEVER disconnect your harness until reaching the ground!

Part 6. Carrying the Bushmaster or Openshot.

The Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat climber and Platform are lightweight and easy to carry as one unit.

A. To combine the Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat climber and Platform, stand the <u>seat</u> on its' end on the ground as shown in Figure 20.

B. Take the Bushmaster X5 or Openshot platform (in the same orientation as it would be on a tree) and keeping it flat slide the Bushmaster X5 or Openshot platform so that its upright braces and cable goes under the Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat climber side braces and cable as shown in Figure 21.

C. Both sides of the Bushmaster X5 or Openshot platform V-bar should be against the side braces of the Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat climber.

D. Secure the Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat climber to the Platform with the green strap with the tourniquet

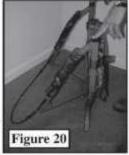
buckle as shown in Figure 22. This will prevent the Bushmaster X5 or Openshot platform and Bushmaster X5 or Openshot seat climber from making noise as you hike to your hunting location. E. Use the backpack straps to carry the unit as shown in Figure 23.

## Part 6A. Carrying the Clearshot

The Clearshot platform and climbing aid are lightweight and easy to carry as one unit.

A. To combine the Clearshot platform and climbing aid, place the platform topside up on the ground as shown in Figure 24.











B. Take the Clearshot climbing aid, rotate it 180 degrees from the platform, and lay it on the platform just behind the seat bars as shown in Figure 25 and Figure 26. C. Secure the Clearshot platform and climbing aid with the green strap with the tourniquet buckle (Figure 27). This will prevent the Clearshot platform and climbing aid from making noise as you hike to your hunting location.

D. Use the backpack straps to carry the unit as shown in Figure 28.

#### Part 7. 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 or burst, DO

NOT use your treestand if this happens. 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.

Figure 28

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 damage 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.

#### Part 8. Adjustments

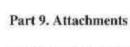
The only adjustments that may be required on your Summit treestand would be the RapidClimb stirrups, backpack straps or seat height.

The RapidClimb stirrups should be adjusted before you go hunting. Put your hunting boots on and step into the stirrups with the treestand platform on a flat sur-

face. Loosen the wing nuts and lide the stirrups until they securely fit your boots, then re-tighten the wing

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 seat height can be slightly

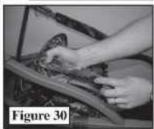
adjusted (Bushmaster X5 and Openshot Only) by means of the 3bar slides on the seat straps. This slight adjustment should be made while on the ground and both sides must be adjusted equally so the seat is level side to side. (See Figure 29).



Comfort Pads and End Caps. The camouflaged foam comfort pads for the bars can be easily attached for additional comfort.

On the Bushmaster X5, attach the short comfort pads to the curved upright bars as shown in Figure 30. Two cable ties per pad is sufficient. The cable ties should be attached as











shown: Note the right and wrong ways of attaching. Pull the cable ties snug, cut off the excess, and rotate the clasp to the underside of the pad. Attach the Bushmaster end caps as shown in the End Caps Figure.

Backpack Straps. Locate the backpack straps in the instruction bag included with your treestand. Place the looped end of the backpack straps around the middle of the second platform rung from the front of the stand as shown in Figure 31. Now push all of the remaining straps through the loop, as shown in Figure 32. Now locate the two 1-inch wide straps remaining in the instruction bag. They will attach to the treestand at the end that contacts the tree. Position the looped end of one of the straps and push the remaining strap through the loop as shown in Figure 33. Now thread the tag (loose) end of the strap through the buckle on the backpack straps as shown in Figure 34. The completed assembly should look like Figure 35.

RapidClimb Stirrups The two (2) RapidClimb stirrups fit on the curved upright arms of the platform. Simply slide one stirrup on each side of the platform such that they are on the inside of the platform and facing down as shown in Figure 36. Once positioned, secure with the bolt and wing nut provided as shown in Figure 37. Occasional readjustment may be required as your footwear needs change. Wrap the supplied bungee cord around one side of the curved platform upright bars and push the s-hook through the loop as shown in Figure 38. Hook the s-hook around the opposite curved platform upright bar and back onto itself as shown in Figure 39.

Seat Attachment (Clearshot Only) First determine that all hardware is available. Included should be two (2) 2" bolts, two (2) 1/4-20 locknuts, four (4) bushings with long shanks, and four (4) bushings with short shanks. Place two of the long shank bushings in the holes at the end of the seat bars (Figure 40). Repeat for the other side. Now place two of the short shank bushings in the u-shaped bracket welded onto the treestand (Figure 41). Repeat for the other side. Now position the seat so that the seat bars are inside the u-shaped bracket and the tapered front of the seat faces the front of the treestand. Line the holes up and push one 2" bolt through from the inside as shown in Figure 42. Repeat for the other side. Now secure the lock nuts on the bolt and tighten with wrenches. If a squeak develops,

loosen 1/2 turn. Now position the adhesive-backed pads on the platform in the location where the seat bar contacts it (Figure 43).

## Part 10. Tips

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

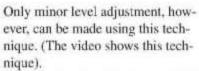
With proper practice you can learn to level your platform without climbing down to re-position the cable.

Pulling the cable against the back-

side 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.

Figure 31

Figure 32

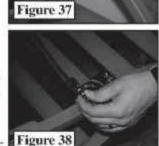


Sometimes on a cold, dry, hard bark tree a rubbing noise can be produced at the scalloped edge that engages the tree. This comes from friction forces. It can be eliminated a couple of ways. First, simply re-positioning your platform slightly will in most cases eliminate the noise. Second, a liquid or candle/bowstring 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 lowing 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.

# Harness Suspension

It is necessary and very important that someone knows your hunting location and time of return. It is also very important that you carry (on your person) emergency communication devices such as a cell phone, two-way radio, whistle, signal flare or preferably a PLD (Personal Locator Device, FCC approved July, '03). When triggered, a PLD will transmit an emergency signal to local rescue teams identifying your location via satellite





GPS coordinates. (Wilderness outfitters and the internet are sources for these PLD's). Suspension trauma or blood pooling can occur when suspended motionless in a harness for some period of time which can lead to unconsciousness. IF YOU

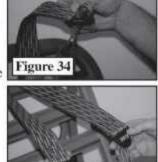
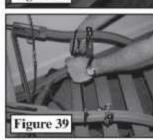




Figure 35





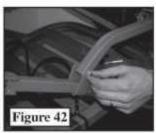


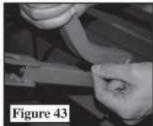
## HAVE TO HANG IN THE TREE BEFORE HELP ARRIVES, YOU NEED TO EXERCISE YOUR LEGS BY PUSHING OFF FROM THE TREE OR ANY OTHER MOTION THAT WILL EXER-CISE YOUR LEGS.

In the unfortunate situation that A) no one knows your location, B) your communication efforts are exhausted, and C) you're confident that you have the strength, dexterity and ability to perform self-extraction and D) you decide this as your "absolute last resort", you must use extreme caution if you decide to attempt it. It is necessary to carry a device to assist with self-extraction. Simple devices such as screw-in steps or a rope "Tree Descender" (Summit) will allow removing your weight from the harness to enable either A) return to the treestand/ladder/climbing steps or B) slowly descend the tree. There is also a device called the FallGuy Descender introduced in '05 to assist with descending (Phone 866 477-6723 or www.fallguysafety.com).









Good Hunting and Hunt Safe.

HUNT TOMORROW...
...USE YOUR SAFETY HARNESS TODAY
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#### LIMITED WARRANTY

#### (A) Warranty

Summit Treestands, LLC (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 sixty (60) 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.

This warranty shall not apply to any product which has been subjected to misuse; misapplication; neglect (including but not limited to improper maintenance); accident; improper installation; modification (including but not limited to use of unauthorized parts or attachments), adjustment, or repair. THE FOREGOING IS IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, WHETHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED (INCLUDING THOSE OF MERCHANTIABILITY AND FITNESS OF ANY PRODUCT FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE), AND OF ANY OTHER OBLIGATION OR LIABILITY ON THE PART OF THE COMPANY.

#### (B) Limitation of Liability

It is expressly understood that Summit's liability for its products, whether due to breach of warranty, negligence, strict liability, or otherwise, is limited to the repair of the product, as stated above, and Summit will not be liable for any other injury, loss, damage, or expense, whether direct or consequential, including but not limited to loss of use, income, profit, or damage to material, arising in connection with the sale, installation, use of, inability to use, or the repair or replacement of, Summit's products.

Summit reserves the right to make alterations or modifications in its products at any time, which in its opinion, may improve the performance and efficiency of the product. It shall not be obligated to make such alterations or modifications to products already in service.

Please fill out the warranty card below and return to:

SUMMIT TREESTANDS, LLC 715 Summit Drive Decatur, AL 35601 www.summitstands.com 256-353-0634

***************************************	Warrant	y Card for Summit	Treestand	
	Please complet	e and return within 15 days from	date of purchase	
Treestand Purchased: _	Bushmaster X5 Cl	earshot Openshot		
Owners Name		Street Address		
	60	210	Dhone (	No.
City	State	ZIP	Phone (	)
City Date Purchased	State Purchased From (		Prione (	Price \$