



**SUMMIT**  
EST. 1981  
**TREESTANDS**

# Bucksteps Instruction Booklet

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You **MUST** also view the enclosed DVD **BEFORE** using your new treestand / climbing aid / ladder stand / pod stand!! If this DVD does not play in your DVD player - please contact us for a replacement.

Weight Limit 260 lbs. total. **DO NOT EXCEED THIS LIMIT!**  
(Total weight includes person and all gear / clothing)

Tree Size: 8" - 20" Diameter

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## **READ ME FIRST!!!**

Please read carefully **BEFORE** using your new Summit Bucksteps.

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

Please read and follow all general safety warnings and precautions listed on the next page! Use of a lineman's style climbing belt / rope is **MANDATORY** for hanging the Bucksteps.

### **Warning**

**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!**

## General Warnings and Precautions:

### ----- MUST READ - GENERAL SAFETY WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS -----

1. **When hunting from a treestand falls can occur any time after leaving the ground causing injury or death.**
2. Wear a fall arrest system (FAS) comprising a full body harness at all times after leaving the ground. You must stay connected at all times after leaving the ground while using climbing and hang-on treestands. Single safety belts and chest harnesses are no longer preferred and should never be used. If you are not wearing a full body harness that is protecting you from a fall, do not leave the ground.
3. Read and understand all of the manufacturer's Warnings and Instructions and use all safety devices provided by the manufacturer. Contact the manufacturer for any questions. Failure to do so could result in injury or death.
4. **Never** exceed the weight limit of a treestand.
5. **Never** use a treestand while taking drugs (even prescription drugs) or alcohol.
6. **Never** use a treestand during inclement weather such as rain, lightning, windstorms or icy conditions.
7. **Never** use a treestand when feeling ill, nauseous or dizzy.
8. **Never** use a treestand on a dead, leaning, diseased or loose barked tree or on a utility pole.
9. **Never** rely on a tree branch for support.
10. **Never** jump or bounce on a treestand/ladder stand/pod stand/climbing aid to seat it to the tree.
11. Pull up a bow, backpack, firearm or other equipment only after being secure in the treestand and a firearm must be pulled up with it unloaded, chamber open and muzzle down.
12. Inform someone of the hunting location, where the treestand will be located and the expected duration of the hunt.
13. A signal device such as a mobile phone, radio, whistle, signal flare or personal locator device (PLD) must be on your person and readily available at all times.
14. Inspect the treestand and all safety devices each time before use and do not store a treestand outdoors when not in use.
15. **Never** modify your stand in any way by making repairs, replacing parts, or altering adding or attaching anything to it except if explicitly authorized by the manufacturer.
16. Practice installing, adjusting and using your treestand at ground level prior to using it at elevated positions.
17. Instructions (written and video) should be kept in a safe place and reviewed at least annually. It is the responsibility of the treestand owner to furnish the instructions to any person that who borrows or purchases the treestand.

## Climbing Treestand Warnings and Precautions:

1. The initial angle of the platform/climber at ground level must allow for the decrease in tree diameter while ascending by tilting slightly upward.
2. For two-piece climbing treestands the tether connecting the top and the platform must be secure and at the proper length recommended by the manufacturer.
3. Platform level adjustments should not be made anywhere except at ground level (except for those special cases of products designed and intended to be safely adjusted by the manufacturer's instructions).
4. While climbing, adjustments to the harness attachment to the tree (tether/tree belt) should be frequent and coordinated with treestand movement to maintain the least amount of slack in the tether that will allow for climbing.
5. Familiarize yourself with the use of climbers by practicing at ground level before using in a hunting environment.

## Non-Climbing/Fixed Position/Hang On Treestand Warnings and Precautions:

1. The use of a lineman's/climbing belt is required when installing a hang-on treestand to stabilize the user with the tree.
2. Correct tightening and adjustments of chains, cables, straps, etc. are critical to stable hang-on treestand installation. All treestand contact points must be in contact with the tree before you step onto your stand.
3. Practice the attachment of hang-on treestands at ground level before using in a hunting environment.
4. **Never** leave a treestand in a tree for more than two weeks since weather or animals could cause damage. Tree growth can also stress and damage straps and buckles.
5. Use a haul line to raise and lower the treestand. **Never** climb with anything on your back.
6. Climbing aids (stick ladders, sectional ladders, steps, etc.) must extend above the platform to allow the user to step down onto the platform. **Never** step up to your stand from a climbing aid.

## Ladder/Pod Stand Warnings and Precautions:

1. Use at least three people to install and/or take down a ladder treestand.
2. The crisscross straps and stabilization devices must be attached before climbing to the platform.
3. When installing a ladder stand, always bounce on the first rung to set the ladder into the ground according to manufacturer's instructions before proceeding to climb any higher.
4. Check every ladder section connection every time you use the stand before you leave the ground. If ladder sections are separating, do not use the stand.
5. Check the ground under stand to make sure it is firm and level. Sloping ground or uneven surface (one side on a rock) can cause your ladder to tilt or shift off the tree as you climb.
6. Maintain three points of contact when climbing a ladder treestand.
7. Always lean forward as you climb and attach your harness to the tree before securing the platform to the tree and stepping onto the platform.

## Fall Arrest System (Harness) Warnings and Precautions:

1. Read and understand the manufacturer's Warnings, expiration date and instructions on how to use and how to properly adjust the harness.
2. Practice the use of a full body harness at ground level in the presence of a responsible adult to experience the feeling of hanging suspended before using in a hunting environment.
3. The length of the harness tether must be minimized at all times. It should be adjusted so that it is above the head with no slack (snug) in the sitting position and you should have the minimum amount of slack possible when climbing.
4. **Never** allow the tether strap to get under your chin or around your neck.
5. If the hunting location is unknown by anyone and communication efforts are unsuccessful, you must have a personal plan for recovery/escape because prolonged suspension in a harness can be fatal. It is important to exercise the legs by pushing against the tree or doing other forms of continuous leg exercises to avoid blood pooling while being suspended. Hunters with varying degrees of physical fitness may require different plans to recover/escape the effects of prolonged suspension. Have a personal plan and practice it in the presence of a responsible adult before leaving the ground. No one escape/rescue plan will work for every hunter on every tree in every circumstance. Only you can determine the best recovery/escape plan for your hunting situation and you must have a recovery/escape plan for your situation before leaving the ground. A suspension relief device **must** be on your person and readily accessible while using a harness. This device will allow the user to relieve the load on the lower extremities if suspended in a harness to maintain circulation in the legs and prevent suspension trauma (blood pooling). Be sure to follow the manufacturers' directions on the safe use of any suspension relief device.
6. Hunt from the ground when self-recovery/escape ability is absent.
7. There is time to make a correct decision on what action to take if a fall occurs while wearing a full body harness. It is important to remember, "**DO NOT PANIC.**"

## Climbing Aids/Stick Ladder Warnings and Precautions:

1. A full body harness with lineman's/climbing belt must be worn at all times while installing or removing any hang-on climbing aids.
2. Hang-on climbing aids must be placed on the tree at a height above the platform where the user can maintain a hand hold on the unit and step downwards onto the treestand. **Never** step up from a climbing device to get into your stand.
3. When using a climbing/lineman's belt to ascend the tree, the full body harness should be attached to the tree before stepping down onto the treestand.
4. Sectional ladders and steps should be spaced on the tree to insure each step is no more than 18 inches apart.
5. Check every stick ladder section connection every time you use the stick ladder before you leave the ground. If stick ladder sections are separating, do not use the stick ladder.

## Section 1. Assembling your new Bucksteps.

**Step 1.** Take the supplied cam-buckle strap and secure it to one side of the metal loop in the center of the Buckstep. Push the cam buckle loop through the metal loop as shown in **Figure 1**.

**Step 2.** **MAKE SURE** the cam buckle is facing out as shown in **Figure 2**.

**Step 3.** Pull the hook end of the strap through the cam buckle loop as shown in **Figure 3**.

**Step 4.** Thread the entire strap and the cam buckle through the loop and pull snug as shown in **Figure 4**.

**Step 5.** Your completed Buckstep should look like **Figure 5**. Repeat for the other sections.

## Section 2. Use of the Buckstep tree steps.

**WARNING: A LINEMAN'S STYLE HOOK UP IS MANDATORY WHEN HANGING YOUR BUCKSTEPS. SEE YOUR HARNESS INSTRUCTIONS FOR INFORMATION ON USING A LINEMAN'S BELT!**

### Part 1. Attaching your Bucksteps to the Tree.

**Step 1.** Take one Buckstep section and press it firmly against the tree. For the first (bottom) section, this is easiest to do by holding it against the tree with your leg as shown in **Figure 6**. Wrap the free end (with the metal hook) around the tree and secure to the metal loop on the Buckstep as shown in **Figure 7**. Secure the hook into the metal loop as shown in **Figure 8**. **NOTE: The hook MUST be hooked from the inside out.** Your completed strap should look like **Figure 9**.

**Step 2.** Your first Buckstep section should be hanging loosely on the tree (See **Figure 9**). Pull the free end of the cam lock buckle as shown in **Figure 10**.

**Step 3.** You must pull down on the Buckstep to secure it firmly in place as shown in **Figure 11**. The step will slide down the tree until the strap tightens up.

**Step 4. ALWAYS CHECK THE SECURITY OF EACH BUCKSTEP SECTION BEFORE CLIMBING ONTO IT!**

**AT THIS POINT IT IS MANDATORY THAT YOU SECURE YOUR LINEMAN'S STYLE CLIMBING BELT AROUND THE TREE.**

This will allow you to use two hands when hanging the steps and it prevent you from falling backwards while climbing and securing the steps.

Carefully climb onto the bottom Buckstep section.

**Step 5. USING A PULL UP ROPE** - pull the next Buckstep section up to you. Repeat steps 1-4 to secure other sections.

**WARNING - DO NOT place ANY Buckstep section more than 18 inches above the section below it.**

**Step 6. Repeat step 5** for any remaining sections. Position your last Buckstep section so that you step down onto your treestand platform.

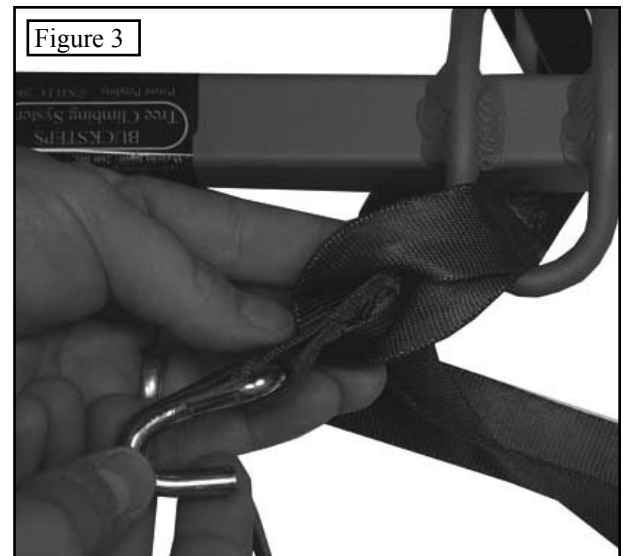
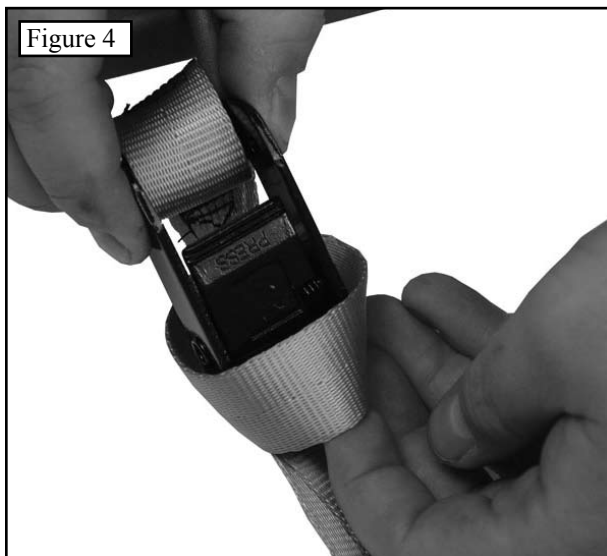
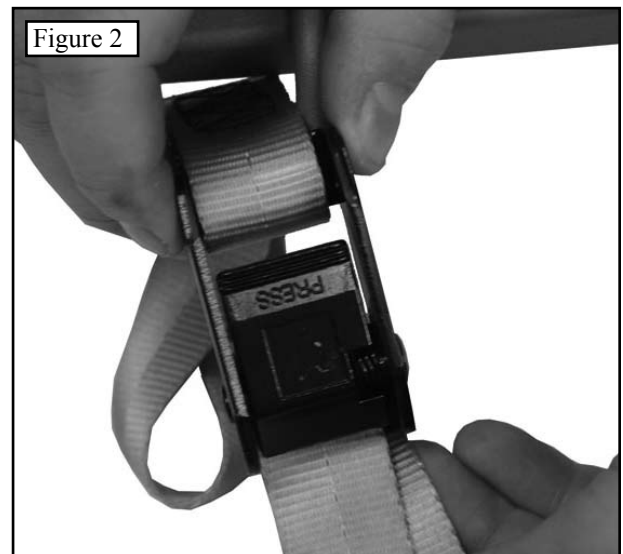
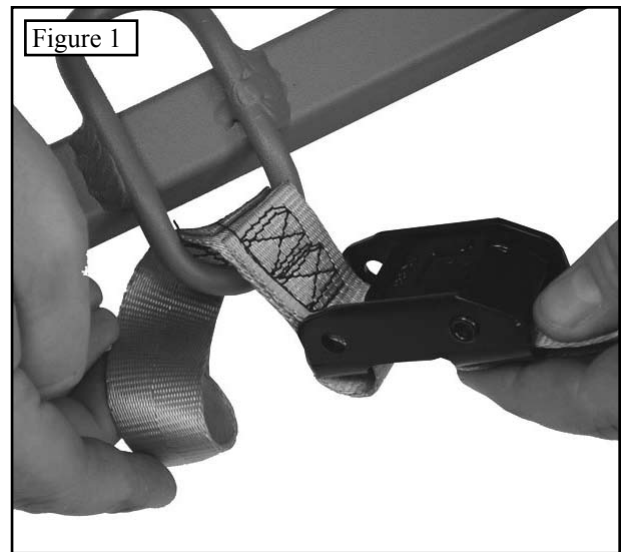


Figure 5



Figure 6

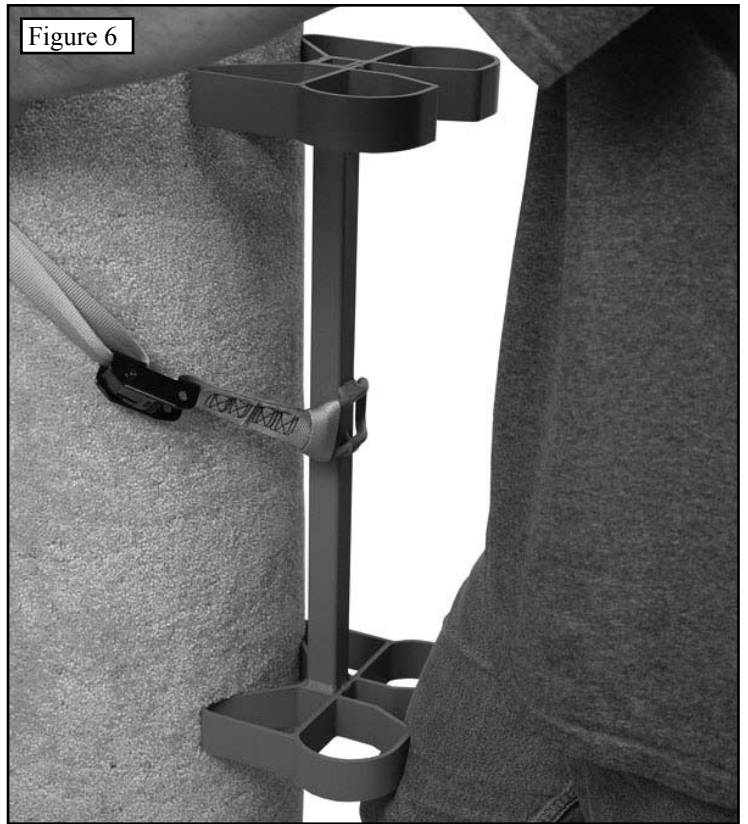


Figure 7

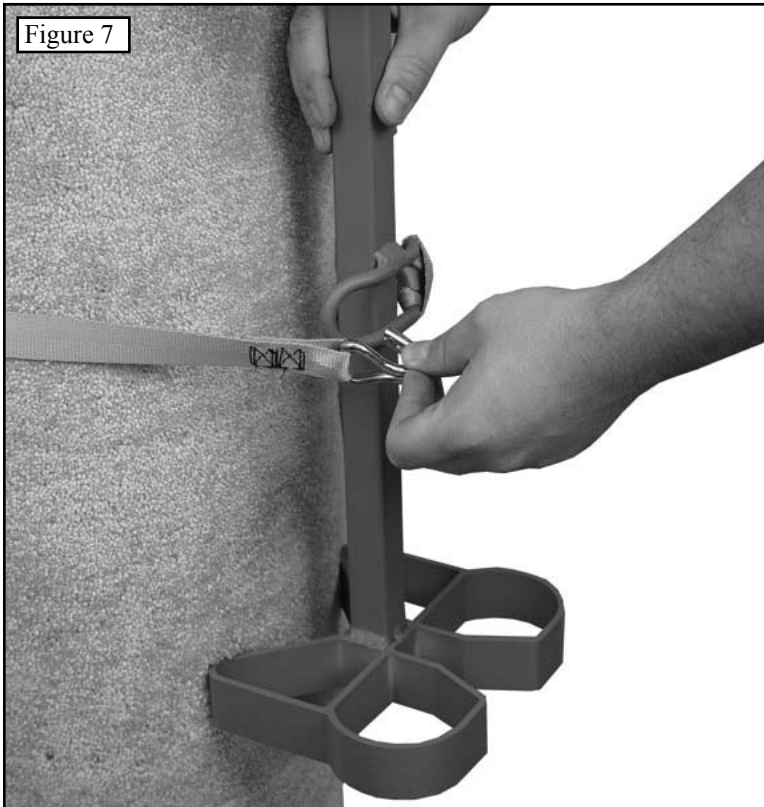


Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10

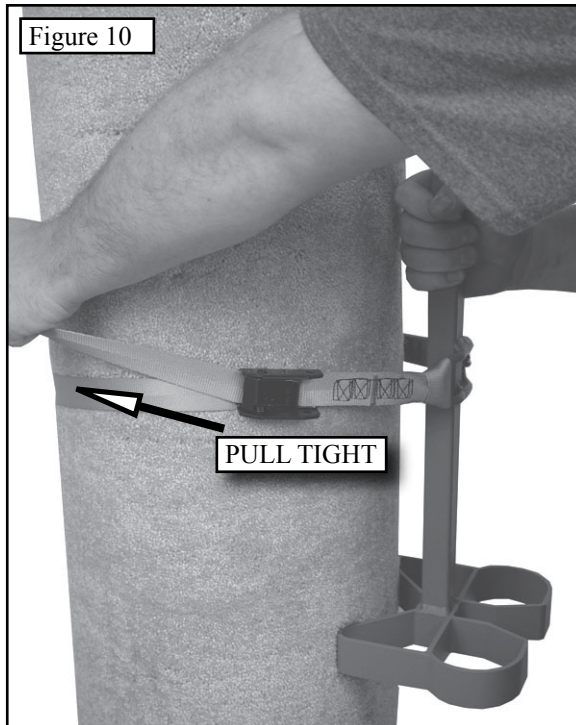


Figure 11

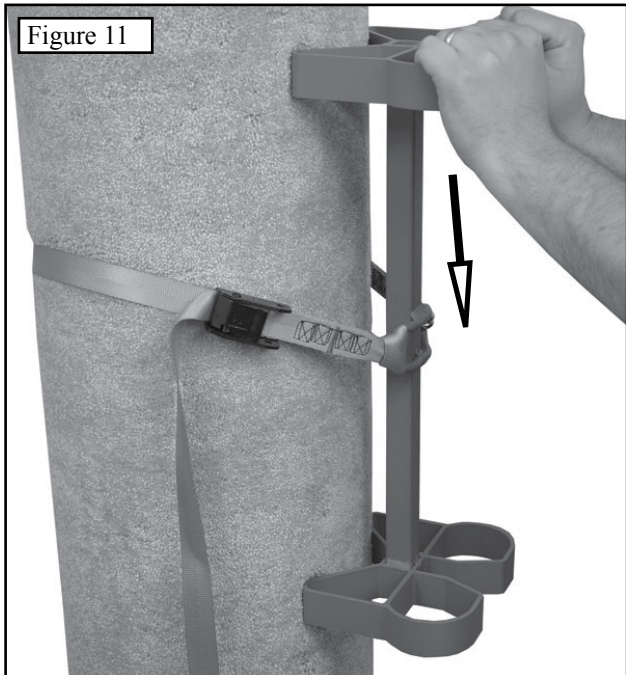


Figure 12

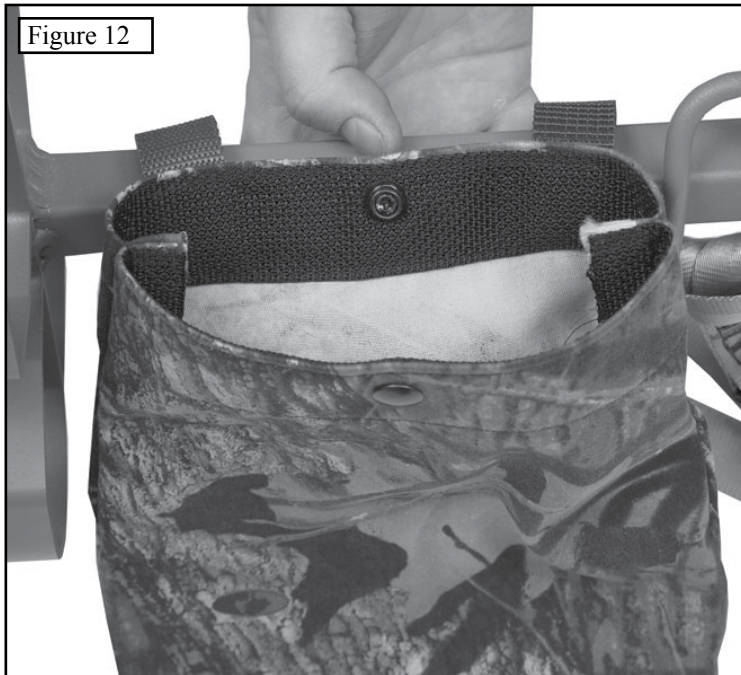


Figure 13

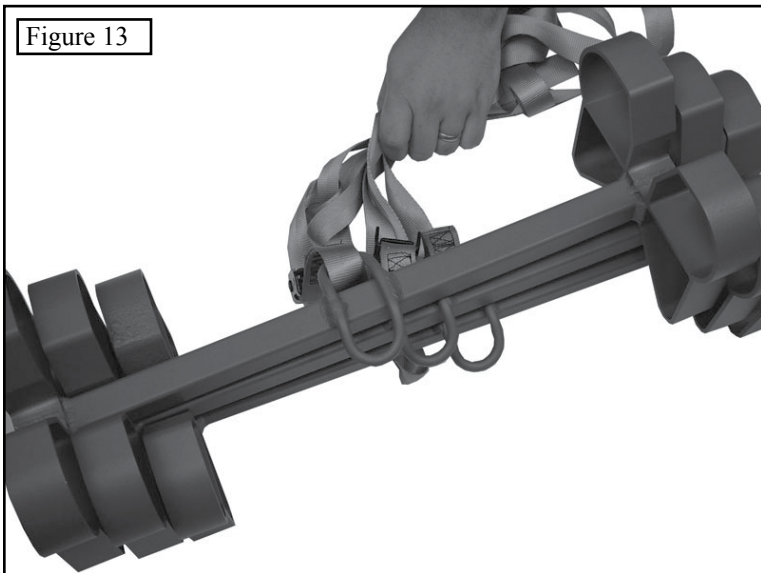
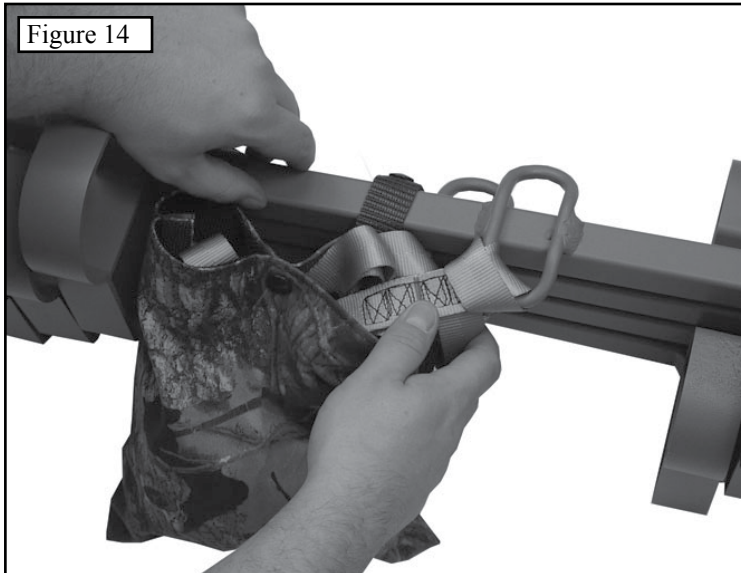


Figure 14



**Part 2. Removing your Bucksteps from the Tree.**

**Step 1. PUT ON YOUR LINEMAN’S STYLE BELT BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO UNHOOK THE STEPS FROM THE TREE.**

**Step 2.** Stand on the step below the one you wish to remove. Grab the top step and pull up. This should take the tension off the cam buckle. Press the release lever on the buckle.

**Step 3.** While the release lever is depressed, loosen the strap and lower the step to the ground with a pull-up rope.

**Step 4. Repeat steps 2-3** for the remaining sections.

**Part 3. Packing your Bucksteps.**

**Step 1.** Your Bucksteps should include a small, camouflaged bag with snap straps attached to it. Secure this bag to ONE Buckstep section as shown in **Figure 12**. This bag can remain attached.

**Step 2.** Nest the remaining three Buckstep sections together - make sure the straps are free as shown in **Figure 13**. The section with the bag attached should be the last (top) section nested.

**Step 3.** Roll all the straps together and push them into the bag as shown in **Figure 14**. Your Buckstep sections are now ready to be strapped to your treestand or carried to your hunting location.

**Section 3. Maintenance and Care of your Bucksteps.**

The quality of material and fabrication techniques used in manufacturing makes Summit’s Bucksteps 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 care of your Bucksteps should be used.

If you find the need to leave your Bucksteps outdoors for a short time, perhaps overnight or during lunch break, do not assume that nothing has changed when you return. When you return, always re-inspect each step before use to make sure they are still secure. Make sure to note if the straps are still tight and that nothing has been damaged or changed.

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

You must periodically inspect your Bucksteps for damage. Look for nicks, gouges, cracks, bends, corrosion, etc.. or similar damage that can be the result of improper use or accidental damage. For instance, this could occur if someone else used your Bucksteps without knowledge of its proper use, or if the Bucksteps were dropped, hit by a motor vehicle or subjected to corrosive conditions. Also inspect all straps for cuts, worn places, abrasions, fraying, discoloration etc. Bucksteps have a high structural integrity by design, material selection and manufacturing technique, but as its owner, only your continued care will assure you trouble free performance.

**WARNING!! Summit requires that you replace the cam straps every 2 years, or perhaps sooner if excessive wear is noticed.**

**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 MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS OF ANY PRODUCT FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE), AND OF ANY OTHER OBLIGATION OF 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 and return to:

**SUMMIT Treestands, LLC.  
715 Summit Dr.  
Decatur, AL 35601**

Summit products are manufactured under one or more of the following US Patents: 5,937,969; 5,971,104; 5,975,242; 5,979,603; 6,125,966; 6,182,792; 6,397,973; D,417,011; D,420,147

Summit Bucksteps and RapidClimb Stirrups are Patent Pending

Cut Along Line

Cut Along Line

**Warranty Card for Summit Bucksteps PN 82008**

Owners Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Date Purchased: \_\_\_\_\_ Purchased From (Dealer Name): \_\_\_\_\_ Price \$: \_\_\_\_\_

Your heard about us through: Magazine  Advertisement  Video  Friend  Summit Catalog

Other  Please Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

You can also register your warranty card on line at: [www.summitstands.com/warranty.aspx](http://www.summitstands.com/warranty.aspx)