

# READ ME FIRST !!!

Please read carefully BEFORE using your new Summit Viper Classic Climbing 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 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 TREE-STAND 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!!**  
**NOTE: Weight limit for this treestand 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. The only assembly required is the attachment of the comfort pad described in the *Attachments* section of this booklet.

## Section 1. Use of the Viper Classic 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 down on it), you are ready to place it in its final position.

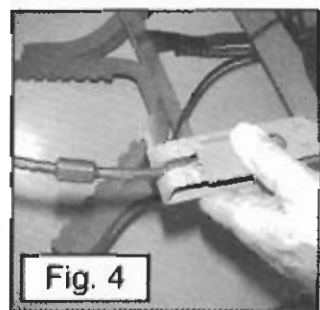
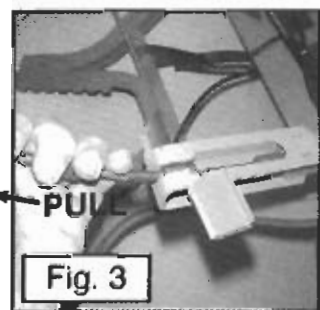
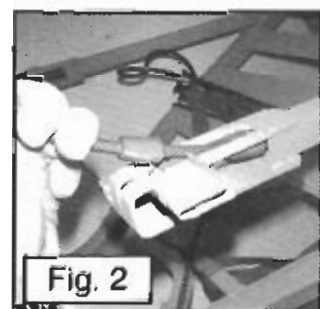
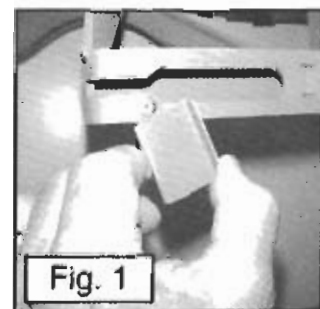
**C.** Pull the cable towards the back of the tree and "seat" one of the cable stops against the back of the bracket, as shown in **Figure 3**.

**D. YOU MUST** rotate the hatch cover back over the bracket so that it snaps and locks into place, as shown in **Figure 4**. **IMPORTANT:** If the hatch cover does not lock and 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 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.

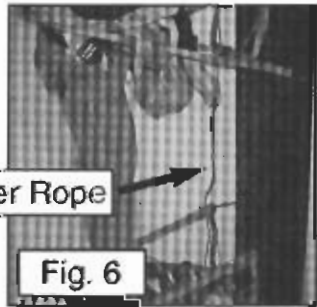
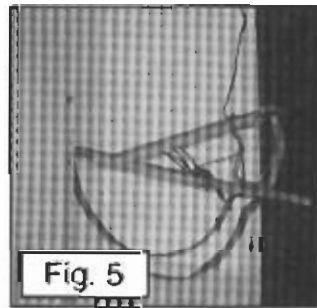
To ensure that your Viper Classic is level at the height at which you will be hunting, observe the relative change in the tree diameter between the base of the tree and the final treestand height. It is very important to adjust the Viper Classic base platform and seat at the base of the tree such that 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 Classic Seat (the seat climber) attaches above the standing platform. The Viper Classic 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 each other with the tether rope provided, as shown in Figure 6.

**Part 2. Climbing with the Viper Classic.**

**Step 1.** Now that your platform and Viper Classic 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 safety line to the tree above the Viper Classic Seat and secure it to the harness before 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 safety line 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 Viper Classic Seat up to just below 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 Classic platform, simply rotate the platform back towards the horizontal position until it engages the tree, 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 Classic without a Summit Viper Classic Seat or other climber. A climber, especially the Summit Viper Classic 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 Classic Seat is also built so that it fits securely with the platform of the treestand for carrying.

### Part 3. Using the Viper Classic 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 Classic 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 bunge cord that held the seat back rest secure while you were climbing.

Position the seat back rest by wrapping each end of the bunge cord around the climbing cable and hooking the two hooks together, as shown in **Figure 14**. The bunge 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 Classic 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 Classic Seat will provide maximum comfort when the seat pad is near horizontal rather than tipped down in the front. The 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 Classic.

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

**Step 1.** Reattach your tree-stand 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 Viper Classic**.

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

**Step 3.** Place the Viper Classic 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 Classic Seat upright arms, disengage the platform by lifting and tipping platform downward and then lower the platform (see **Figure 10** again).

**Step 5.** To re-engage, rotate platform back towards the horizontal position until it engages the tree. 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 Classic.

The Viper Classic and Viper Classic Seat are lightweight and easy to carry as one unit.

**A.** To combine the Viper Classic Seat and Viper Classic Platform, place the Viper



Fig. 15



Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

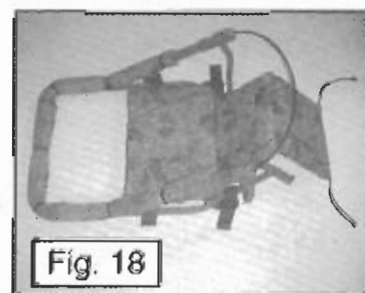


Fig. 18

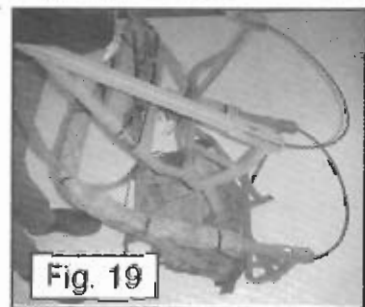


Fig. 19

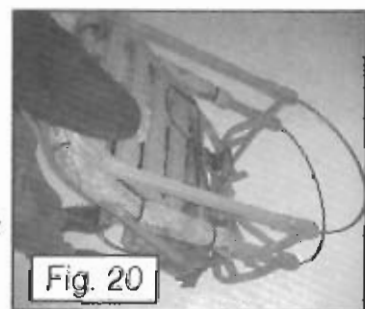


Fig. 20

Classic Seat frame topside up on the ground as shown in **Figure 18**. Make sure the seat back rest bunge cord S-hooks are not hooked together.

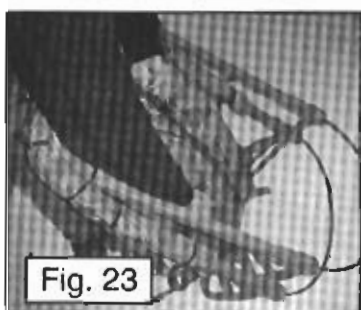
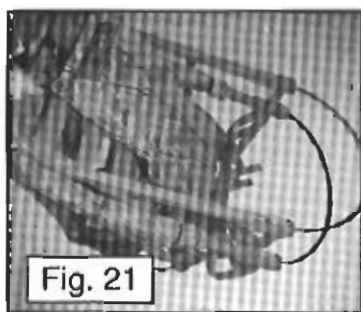
**B.** Take the Viper Classic Platform (in the same orientation as it would be on a tree) and keeping it flat, begin sliding it into the Viper Classic Seat as shown in **Figure 19**. Complete by pushing the platform down inside the comfort pads as shown in **Figure 20**.

**C.** Now pull the seat back rest **THROUGH** the Viper Classic Platform as shown in **Figure 21**.

**D.** Hook the seat back rest S-hooks around the packed together treestand and under the back pack straps as shown in **Figure 22**.

**E.** Secure the packed together treestand for carrying with the supplied green tourniquet buckle strap from front to back as shown in **Figure 23**.

**F.** Carry the combined unit as shown in **Figure 24**.



#### 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 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.

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.

#### 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.

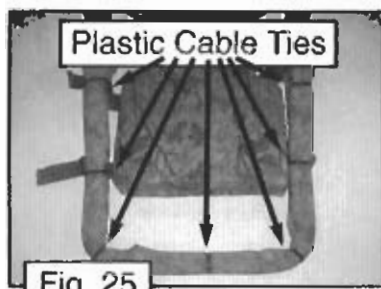
The seat height can be adjusted by means of the 3-bar slides on the seat straps. This adjustment should be made while on the ground and both sides must be adjusted equally so the seat is level side to side. (See **Figure 15** in earlier sections of these instructions for details).

#### Section 6. Attachments

**Comfort Pads.** The camouflaged foam comfort pad for the bar can be easily attached for additional comfort. The cable ties should be attached as shown in the figure



above. 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. Place the long comfort pad over the front of the seat bar. Secure it as shown in



**Figure 25** with the supplied cable ties.

## 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 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 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.

**Good Hunting and Hunt Safe.**

**HUNT TOMORROW...**

**...USE YOUR SAFETY HARNESS TODAY**

( st 2003)

**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 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**

Cut Along Dotted Line

Cut Along Dotted Line

**Warranty Card for Viper CLASSIC**

Please complete and return within 15 days from date of purchase

Owners Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Purchased \_\_\_\_\_ Purchased From (Dealer Name) \_\_\_\_\_ Price \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
You heard about us through:  Magazine Advertisement  Video  Friend  I purchased your catalog  
 Other- Please explain \_\_\_\_\_