

SpanSet®

GOTCHA FR KIT

The Gotcha FR is a pre assembled, self-contained kit for rescue from high and exposed locations. Operatives are not required to know how to tie knots or assemble components, these are key features that allow them to concentrate on their personal safety and management of the casualty or rescuer when a rescuer is required to be raised or lowered.

The main features of the kit are that it can;

- Lower a casualty using a failsafe friction device
- Raise a casualty using a self-locking 3:1 pulley system
- Create tension on a rope line or cable-way
- Be used together with a second kit to 'pull and push'
- Be used to form a restraint system for a person working close to an unprotected edge or hazard.
- Be used together with a second identical kit for operations where a backup system is required.
- Be operated from the anchor point or anywhere convenient along the length of the rope.

The kit contains;

- Rope to the desired length
- Anchor sling
- Captive eye connectors
- Semi-permanent connectors
- Rope grab
- Multiple point anchor plate
- Rope adjustment device
- Pulleys
- Handled rope clamp
- Storage bag
- Instruction sheet

ANCHORING THE KIT

The anchor point should be capable of sustaining a load of 10kN to provide an adequate safety margin. Due to the nature of the kit the anchor point can be remote from where you intend to operate the kit.

The anchor sling can be passed around structure and should be clipped back into the delta shaped Maillon Rapide. If the sling is excessively long then the excess may be used up by doubling the sling around the anchor.

Having anchored the kit, the rope grab can be moved up or down the rope to set the height at which you wish to operate the kit.

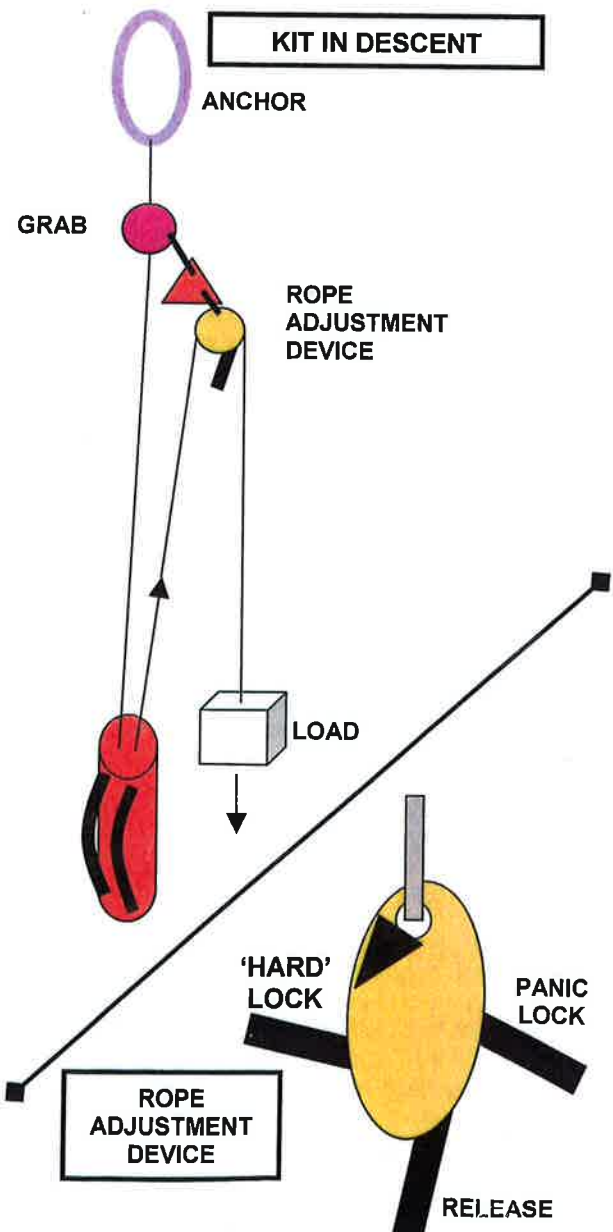
DESCENT MODE

In its basic operation the rope will flow from the rope grab into the storage bag and back up into the rope adjuster. From the rope adjuster the end of the rope can then be attached to the load.

The rope adjuster is self-locking, but has three settings of the handle for correct use. Looking at the front (Gold side) if the handle is turned to the extreme left then the device is effectively locked. By moving the handle progressively around to the right rope is released and then at the extreme right the rope is locked-out.

At all times when the device is not set to the lock stage the operator must also control the rope by holding it with the other hand.

1. To lower a load attached to the end of the rope the operator should take the free end of the rope from the rope adjuster and pass it through the karabiner attached to the rigging plate. This adds extra friction and makes the system easier to control.
2. The operator then holds the rope next to the karabiner and with the other hand turns the handle of the rope adjuster to the right until the rope begins to feed through.
3. If the handle is turned too far it will 'trip' out. To reactivate it the handle should be turned back to the extreme left before starting again.



ASCENT MODE

1. To raise a load on the rope, take all the slack rope through the rope adjuster, putting it back in the storage bag.
2. If the kit is hung vertically then the handled rope clamp will be next to the taught rope and should be attached to it. Whatever the orientation of the kit the cam of the device is located closest to the load.
3. The slack rope exiting the rope adjuster is passed around the pulley attached to the handled rope-clamp, which is then clipped to the rope clamp.
4. The slack rope is then be doubled back and passed around the pulley attached to the anchor plate that is then clipped to the anchor plate karabiner.
5. The kit is now set in a 3:1 mode for hauling. In order to begin hauling the rope adjuster handle should be positioned to its mid point.
6. If the operator requires extra help the optional foot-loop and rope adjuster can be used. This attaches to a front point on the operators' harness for additional security.
7. The operator then hauls rope through the system.
8. When the handled rope clamp touches the rope adjuster the handled rope clamp is slid back towards the load by adding slack to the system. The operation is then repeated.

The kit can easily be set between descent and ascent mode. This enables loads caught or snagged when raising/lowering to be manoeuvred to free them prior to continuing normal operation.

TENSIONING A LINE

To form a tension line with the kit it should be anchored in the normal way to one of the anchor points. Sufficient slack should then be passed through the rope adjuster so that the end can be attached to the other anchor point. The kit is then used in the same way as when raising a load to tension the line using a 3:1 mechanical advantage. When tensioning a line it must be remembered that, due to the effect of vector forces on tensioned lines the anchor points can come under considerable strain. These should be kept to a minimum by limiting the tension on the line to that sufficient for the task and no more.

'PUSH-PULL'

In some locations it may be necessary to move loads in horizontal or diagonal planes where control is achieved by using two kits in opposition to each other. To achieve this one kit will be rigged in lowering mode and the other in rigged in raising mode so that as one takes in the other can pay out. The level of tension between the kits can be varied to alter the angle of travel, but as in tensioned lines care should be taken not to over tension the system.

USING THE SYSTEM AS A RESTRAINT NEAR UNPROTECTED EDGES

The kit can be used to prevent persons working near unprotected edges from getting into a fall situation. The kit is anchored off and set in lowering mode with the person attached to the end of the rope. The operator then sets the rope adjustment device handle to its mid point and adds/takes in rope to prevent the person from approaching the hazard. If at any point the operator is not able to attend to the device then the rope adjustment device should be set to the locked position.

FOR USE AS A BACKUP KIT

For situations where a backup is required then we recommend that an identical kit be used. The operator will also benefit from not having to be taught to use two different systems. In this situation then one operator can operate both systems, but it may be easier with two persons.

RAISING OR LOWERING A RESCUER AND CASUALTY

The kit can be supplied with attachment slings on the end of the rope that are of the same length or one short and one long. We recommend the offset lengths for raising a rescuer and casualty. In this mode two kits are required and the rescuer should be attached to the short attachment of one kit and the long attachment of the second kit. The casualty is attached to the long attachment of the first kit and the short of the second kit.

When raising or lowering, one person predominantly loads each system using the other system as a back-up. The only time that both rescuer and casualty load one system is in the event of the failure of the other. In normal use when raising, the operator will be using a 3:1 mechanical advantage on a load of one person.

