# THE CHALLENGER

# **HANG-ON TREE STAND**

MODEL: 51004/9201

- Always Wear a Safety Harness with this Product
- Practice Using at Ground Level
- Weight Limit: 300 lbs.
- Tree Size: 9"-18" diameter

Instruction and Safety Manual





## **Marning**

Every year serious injury and even death occurs from hunting related falls. To ensure your safety, please COMPLETELY read and follow this safety manual and ALL warning labels BEFORE assembling, installing or utilizing this product.

DO NOT USE THIS PRODUCT BEFORE FULLY UNDERSTANDING ALL SAFETY WARNINGS AND INSTRUCTIONS. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, ARE UNSURE ABOUT ANY INFORMATION OR NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR PRODUCT, CONTACT OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT AT 1-866-972-6168 OR VISIT WWW.PRIMALPARTS.COM. KEEP AND MAINTAIN THIS SAFETY AND INSTRUCTION MANUAL IN A SAFE LOCATION FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

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#### TREESTAND SAFETY WARNINGS

Please read the following instruction manual and warnings labels completely before utilizing this product. Failure to understand and execute the instructions and warnings may result in serious injury or death. In the event of an accident, have a plan for rescue, including the use of devices that may be easily reached while suspended.

**ALWAYS** read and understand all warnings and instructions and use all safety products provided before each use of this product. Failure to read and understand all warnings and instructions may result in serious injury or death. Contact a Customer Service Representative with any questions you may have.

**NEVER** exceed total weight limit of **300 lbs. DO NOT** use if your combined weight with all of your hunting gear and any accessories exceeds **300 lbs.** Use of tree stand over the weight limit may result in serious injury or death.

**DO NOT** use this tree stand while under the influence of alcohol, medication or any illegal substances. Use of tree stand while under the influence of any of these substances may result in serious injury or death.

**NEVER** use this treestand during inclement weather. **DO NOT** use tree stand during thunderstorms, snowstorms, hurricanes, tornadoes or any other weather conditions that include (but not limited to) lightning, icy conditions, or high winds that could create slippery or dangerous situations. End your hunt and return to the ground if inclement weather conditions arise.

**NEVER** use treestand If you are feeling ill, nauseous, dizzy or if you have a prior condition that could cause a problem. i.e., heart condition, joints that lock-up spinal fusions, etc., or if you are not well rested and alert. Physical ailments can reduce your ability to safely install, utilize, and remove your treestand. Please consult a physician prior to use.

**NEVER** use this tree stand if you have a history of health problems such as (but not limited to) heart problems, back problems, high blood pressure, impaired vision, equilibrium impairments, are afraid of heights, have been advised by a doctor or physician not to climb. If you are not physically fit, well rested, and alert, or if you have any other physical or mental condition that would impair your ability to properly use this treestand.

**NEVER** use this tree stand on a tree that is dead, leaning, diseased, loose barked or on a utility pole as the tree may fall, break, or uproot and may result in serious injury or death. **NEVER** rely on a branch for support. **NEVER** jump or bounce on the treestand's platform or ladder sections to seat it to the tree.

**NEVER** transport any of your equipment with yourself while ascending or descending the tree. You will need to have two hands free during ascending and descending for safety. Use a haul line to pull up your firearm (unloaded, chamber opened with safety lock engaged, barrel facing towards the ground), bows, arrows, knives or any other equipment to your tree stand once you have reached your desired hunting height. **ONLY** pull up hunting equipment after the tree stand has been secured to the tree and after you and your harness have been secured to the tree. Prior to descending, lower your equipment on the opposite side of the tree from which you are climbing. Make sure that the unloaded firearm's safety lock is engaged and the gun barrel is pointing towards the ground.

DO NOT carry the stand when ascending or descending the tree. Use a haul line to raise and lower your stand.

**ALWAYS** hunt with a plan and a buddy. Before you leave home, let others know your exact location, when you plan to return and who is with you.

**ALWAYS** carry emergency signal devices such as a cell phone, walkie-talkie, whistle, signal flare, PLD (personal location device) and flashlight with you at all times and within reach even while you are suspended in your harness. Watch for changing weather conditions. In the event of an accident, remain calm and seek help immediately.

**ALWAYS** inspect the tree stand and the Fall Arrest System (FAS) (Harness) for signs of wear or damage **BEFORE** each use. Also inspect to ensure that nuts and bolts are secure. Pay special attention to the harness and straps, guaranteeing that nothing has been frayed or severed. Destroy all products that cannot be repaired by the manufacturer. Contact a Customer Service Representative for replacement parts. The Fall Arrest System **MUST** be discarded and replaced after a fall has occurred.

**NEVER** modify your treestand in any way by making repairs, replacing parts, or altering adding or attaching anything to it except if explicitly authorized in writing by the manufacturer. Improper installation or adjustment may cause serious injury or death. Remove all contents from box. Inspect for any damaged or missing parts. If any parts are missing or damaged, you must only use certified replacement parts. Using any other replacement parts will void product warranty. **THERE ARE NO EXTRA PARTS**. All parts **MUST** be used to ensure the safety of you and your stand. If you think parts are missing or damaged, **STOP IMMEDIATELY** and contact our Customer Service Department. Using the tree stand with missing or damaged parts may result in serious injury or death. **DO NOT** return this product to the retailer. Contact a Customer Service Representative if you have any missing, damaged or extra parts.

#### DO NOT ATTACH YOUR FULL BODY HARNESS TO YOUR TREESTAND.

PRACTICE installing, adjusting and using hang-on treestands at ground level prior to using it at an elevated position.

**ALWAYS** keep instructions (written and video) in a safe place and review before each use. It is the responsibility of the treestand owner to furnish the complete instructions to anyone who borrows or purchases the treestand from you. A safe treestand hunting video has been included. Please view it in it's entirety prior to use.

**NEVER** use this treestand for any use other than hunting. Our treestands are designed for hunter's to wear a Full Body Harness. If you are not completely comfortable and confident with your ability to safely install, ascend, hunt and descend using a Full Body Safety Harness and this treestand, **DO NOT PROCEED.** 

**NEVER** use this treestand for trimming trees.

**NEVER** fall asleep in your stand as you may fall out resulting in serious injury or death.

ALWAYS be sure to retighten all bolts BEFORE each new use of treestand.

ALWAYS have a minimum of three people present when installing or removing this treestand.



#### TREESTAND SAFETY WARNINGS

Correct tightening and adjustments of chains, cables, straps, etc. are critical to stable hang-on installation. All tree stand contact points **MUST** be in contact with the tree before you step down on your tree stand.

**NEVER** adjust your stand while in use. Practice the attachment of this treestand at ground level before using in a hunting environment. **ALWAYS** ensure that you and your treestand are safely secured to a healthy tree. Your tree stand **MUST** be attached tightly to the tree and secured in place. If the stand is not secure, it may shift while in use, resulting in serious injury or death.

**DO NOT** leave your treestand outside since weather or animals may cause damage. Tree growth can also cause stress and damage straps and buckles. It must be stored inside when not in use.

Climbing aids such as stick ladders, sectional ladders, steps or such **MUST** extend above the platform of the hang-on to allow the user to step down on the platform. **NEVER** step up to the platform. When using a climbing belt to ascend the tree, the Full Body Harness should be attached to the tree before stepping down into the treestand.

**NEVER** wear jewelry or loose fitting clothing, which can cause hazardous conditions. Clothing may be caught in your equipment and cause you to fall. You must always wear non-slip or rubber boots. Shoelaces must be tucked into your boots. Rings and necklaces **MUST NOT** be worn.

NEVER use this treestand with a second person. The treestand is designed for use by ONE person.

**NEVER** let children play with or use this treestand without adult supervision. This treestand is not a toy. No one under the age of 18 should attempt to use this product without direct adult supervision.

DO NOT use tree stand if any nuts or bolts or parts are loose, bent, or crooked.

Be aware that falls can occur at anytime after leaving the ground.

**ALWAYS** know your physical limitations. Don't take chances. If you start thinking about how high you are, don't go any higher. Instead, choose a minimum height that will allow for safe, effective and comfortable hunting.

ALWAYS lean forward towards the tree as you climb. NEVER lean out from the treestand for any reason.

**NEVER** step up from a climbing device to get into your stand. Hang-on climbing aids MUST be placed on the tree at a height above the platform where you can maintain a handhold on the unit and step downwards onto the treestand.

**ALWAYS** inspect every stick ladder 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. Sectional ladders and steps should be spaced on the tree to ensure each step is no more than 18 inches apart.

ALWAYS wear a Fall Arrest System (FAS) (Harness) consisting of a full body safety harness with lineman's belt after leaving the ground. A TMA Certified Full Body Harness with lineman's belt must always be connected to yourself and the tree during ascending, hunting and descending. The use of a lineman's belt is REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES during ascending, hunting and descending the tree stand. When using a lineman's belt to ascend the tree, the full body harness MUST be attached to the tree before stepping onto the tree stand. The length of the harness tether strap must be minimized at all times. It should be adjusted so that it is above the head with no slack in the sitting position and you should have the minimum amount of slack possible when climbing.

You MUST stay connected at all times after leaving the ground while using climbing aids, hang-ons and climbing tree stands. Single safety belts and chest harnesses are no longer allowed and should NEVER be used. If you are not wearing a Full Body Harness properly attached to the tree, that is protecting you from a fall, DO NOT leave the ground. Failure to wear your Full Body Harness may result in serious injury or death.

**ALWAYS** read and understand the manufacturer's Warnings, expiration date (if applicable) and instructions on how to use and how to properly adjust the harness. Practice the use of a full body safety harness at ground level in the presence of a responsible adult to experience the feeling of hanging suspended before using in a hunting environment. Failure to follow harness instructions may result in not being able to return to the stand and being suspended in a harness after a fall, or serious injury or possibly death. If the hunting location is unknown by anyone and communication efforts are unsuccessful, you **MUST** have a personal plan for rescue/escape because prolonged suspension in a harness may 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 situation before leaving the ground.

**ALWAYS** have a suspension relief device on your person and readily accessible while using a harness. These devices allow the user to relieve the load on the lower extremities if suspended in a harness and help maintain circulation in the legs, mitigate suspension trauma (blood pooling) or allow descent to the ground. Several optional products/systems are available that offer self-recovery or self-extraction from a fall when suspended in a harness. Some systems automatically descend the user while others allow user control. One of these products/systems can be considered for use as an additional safety precaution against prolonged suspension and suspension trauma, Be sure to follow the manufacturers' instructions on the safe use of these products/systems.

Hunt from the ground when self-recovery escape is absent. 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." Remain calm and implement your practiced rescue, relief and recovery plan.

**NEVER** allow the tether strap to get under your chin or around our neck. 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.



NEVER remove any safety warning stickers from this product.

Safety must be your first priority during the use of this product.



## CHOOSING A SAFE TREE

- <u>ALWAYS</u> thoroughly inspect the tree before installing your product. **DO NOT** install your **TREE/LADDER STAND** onto any dead or unsafe tree, telephone or utility pole, structural column, or man-made structure. Doing so may result in serious injury or death.
- <u>ALWAYS</u> select the proper tree for use with your **TREE/LADDER STAND**. Select a live straight tree that fits within size limits recommended (minimum tree diameter must be no less than 9 inches and maximum of 18 inches.). **DO NOT** rely on a branch for support.
- DO NOT select a tree in the dark or choose a tree in close proximity to a fence. You must not have any stumps or rocks beneath your tree.
- NEVER use TREE/LADDER STAND on a tree that is dead, diseased, leaning or on wet and uneven ground as the tree may fall, break or uproot.
- Your tree must not be wet, icy or slippery or on wet, swampy, or loose ground that allows the tree to be unstable. Check the ground under TREE/LADDER STAND to ensure it is firm and level.
- Be sure you have a level stand platform. Your tree must not lean or have any irregular shape.
- Tree must not have any loose or scaly bark or excessive vines, nails, screws, or any other sharp objects protruding that may sever webbing on product. Any surrounding trees must not lean or have dead limbs that may fall onto you or your product.
- <u>NEVER HURRY!!</u> HURRYING CAUSES ACCIDENTS!! While climbing a TREE/LADDER STAND, make slow, even movements no more that ten to twelve inches at a time. Make sure you have proper contact with tree and/or TREE/LADDER STAND every time you move. On ladder tree stand, <u>ALWAYS</u> maintain three points of contact with each step and <u>ALWAYS</u> lean forward as you climb.

Several treestands are equipped with a footrest, armrests and/or shooting rail. Neither the footrest, armrests nor the shooting rail have been designed to support a user's weight. Under **NO** circumstances should you place more than fifteen (15) pounds of weight on these structures. Doing so will put the user in serious risk of injury or death.

## **PROPER CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

- Inspect for defects (damage, rot, corrosion, cracks, freezing, excessive heat, etc.) before every use is required. Do not use if damage is detected or suspected.
- We recommend replacing all hardware/cables/nuts/bolts/clips on your tree stand every two (2) years or sooner if inspection finds it necessary. Use only Primal Vantage approved replacement straps and parts. Use of any other straps or parts, will be viewed as a modification to the product. Any modification will void the warranties and relieve Primal Vantage from all liabilities. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death.
- By registering your product, you may be enrolled in our discount program.
   You may receive a 20% off coupon for our website store, www.primal-store.com to purchase replacement parts in the future.
- DO NOT overtighten the hardware. DO NOT use a socket wrench. This can lead to structural damage and may negatively affect the performance of your stand. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or death.



## TREE STAND SAFETY

- · When hunting from a tree stand, falls can occur at any time after leaving the ground causing injury or death.
- Always wear a Fall Arrest System (FAS), comprising a full body harness, at all times after leaving the ground. You must stay connected to the tree at all times after leaving the ground while using climbing or hang-on stands. Single safety belts and chest harnesses are no longer allowed and should never be used. If you are not wearing a full body harness properly attached to the tree to protect you from a fall, do not leave the ground.
- 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.
- Never exceed the total weight limit of a tree stand.
- Never use a tree stand while taking drugs (even prescription drugs) or alcohol.
- Never use a tree stand during inclement weather such as rain, lightning, windstorms or icy conditions and end your hunt and return to the ground if inclement conditions arise.
- Never use a tree stand when feeling ill, nauseous or dizzy, or if you have a prior medical condition that could cause a problem i.e., heart condition, ioints that lock-up, spinal fusions, etc. or if you are not well rested.
- Never use a tree stand on a dead, leaning, diseased or loose barked tree or on a utility pole.
- Never rely on a tree branch for support
- Never jump or bounce on a tree stand to seat it to the tree.
- Pull up a bow, backpack, firearm or other equipment only after being secured in the tree stand and a firearm must be pulled up with it unloaded, chamber open and muzzle down.
- Always inform someone of the hunting location, where the tree stand will be located and the expected duration of the hunt.
- A signal device, as a mobile phone, radio, whistle, signal flare or personal locator device (PLD) must be on your person and readily available at all times.
- Inspect the tree stand and all safety devices each time before use and do not store a tree stand outdoors when not in use.
- Never modify your stand in any way by making repairs, replacing parts, or altering, adding or attaching anything to it except if explicitly authorized in writing by the manufacturer.
- Practice installing, adjusting and using your tree stand at ground level prior to using it at elevated positions.
- Instructions (written and video) should be kept in a safe place and reviewed at least annually. It is the responsibility of the tree stand owner to furnish the complete instructions to any person who borrows or purchases the tree stand.
- The use of a lineman's/climbing belt is required when installing or removing a hang-on tree stand to stabilize the user with the tree.
- Be sure that the full body harness is attached to tree before stepping down onto the platform. When using a climbing/lineman's belt, be sure not to detach belt until you are on the stand platform, tree strap is installed and your tether has been secured to the tree strap.
- Correct tightening and adjustments of chains, cables, straps, etc. are critical to stable hang-on tree stand installation. All tree stand contact points must be in contact with the tree before you step onto your stand.
- Never leave a tree stand in a tree for more than two weeks since weather or animals could cause damage. The elements and excessive U/V exposure can degrade components of stand. Tree growth can also cause stress and damage to straps and buckles.
- Use a haul line to raise and lower the tree stand. Never climb with anything on your back.
- A full body harness with lineman's/climbing belt must be worn at all times while installing or removing any hang-on climbing aids.
- 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.
- Sectional ladders and steps should be spaced on the tree to insure each step is no more than 18 inches apart.
- 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.

#### FAS (FALL ARREST SYSTEM)

- Read and understand the manufacturer's warnings, expiration date and instructions on how to use and how to properly adjust the harness.
- 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.
- 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.
- Never allow the tether strap to get under your chin or around your neck.
- 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 and help maintain circulation in the legs and prevent suspension trauma (blood pooling). Be sure to follow manufacturers' directions on the safe use of any suspension relief device.
- Hunt from the ground when self-recovery/escape ability is absent.
- 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."

Remain calm and implement your practiced rescue, relief and recovery plan.

## PROPER CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

- Inspect for defects (damage, rot, corrosion, cracks, freezing, excessive heat, etc.) before every use is required. Do not use if damage is detected or suspected.
- Ameristep recommends periodically re-tightening and/or replacing hardware (supplied by Ameristep), including bolts, nuts, washers, rope, straps, cord. etc.



#### CHOOSING A SAFE TREE

- ALWAYS thoroughly inspect the tree before installing your product. **DO NOT** install your TREE/LADDER STAND onto any dead or unsafe tree, telephone or utility pole, structural column, or man-made structure. Doing so may result in serious injury or death.
- <u>ALWAYS</u> select the proper tree for use with your TREE/LADDER STAND. Select a live straight tree that fits within size limits recommended (minimum tree diameter must be no less than 9 inches and maximum of 18 inches.). **DO NOT** rely on a branch for support.
- **DO NOT** select a tree in the dark or choose a tree in close proximity to a fence. You must not have any stumps or rocks beneath your tree.
- NEVER use TREE/LADDER STAND on a tree that is dead, diseased, leaning or on wet and uneven ground as the tree may fall, break or uproot.
- Your tree must not be wet, icy or slippery or on wet, swampy, or loose ground that allows the tree to be unstable. Check the ground under TREE/LADDER STAND to ensure it is firm and level.
- Be sure you have a level stand platform. Your tree must not lean or have any irregular shape.
- Tree must not have any loose or scaly bark or excessive vines, nails, screws, or any other sharp objects protruding that may sever webbing on product.

  Any surrounding trees must not lean or have dead limbs that may fall onto you or your product.
- <u>NEVER HURRY!!</u> While climbing a TREE/LADDER STAND, make slow, even movements no more that ten to twelve inches at a time. Make sure you have proper contact with tree and/or TREE/LADDER STAND every time you move. **On ladder tree stand, <u>ALWAYS</u> maintain three points of contact with each step** and <u>ALWAYS</u> lean forward as you climb.



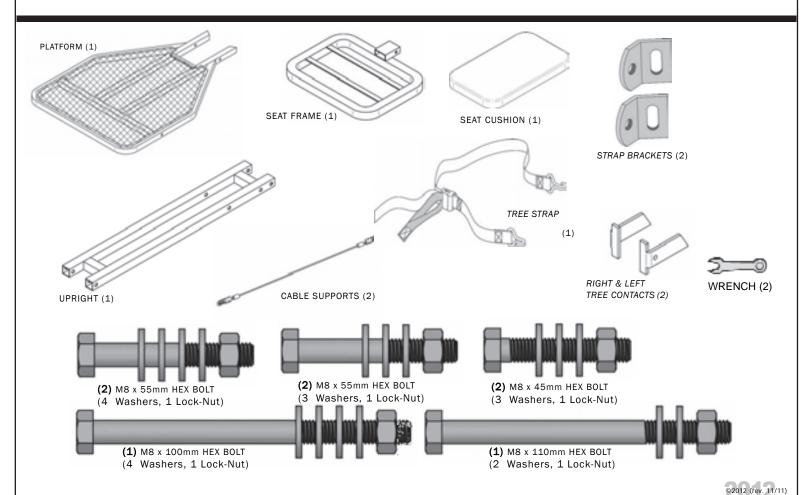
! CAUTION: Maximum Tested Weight Capacity Limit for this Product is: 300 POUNDS

(Including Accessories, Gear and Attire) DO NOT Exceed tested weight limit capacity.

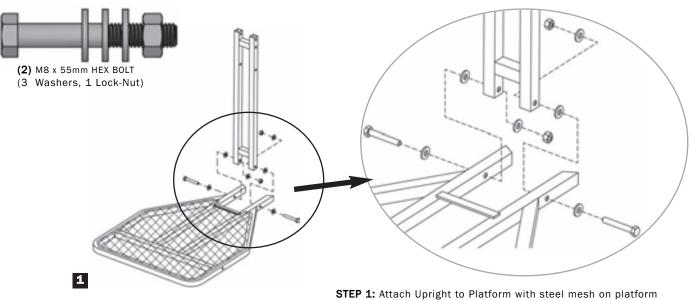
This product is designed for only **ONE PERSON**.

### PROPER CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

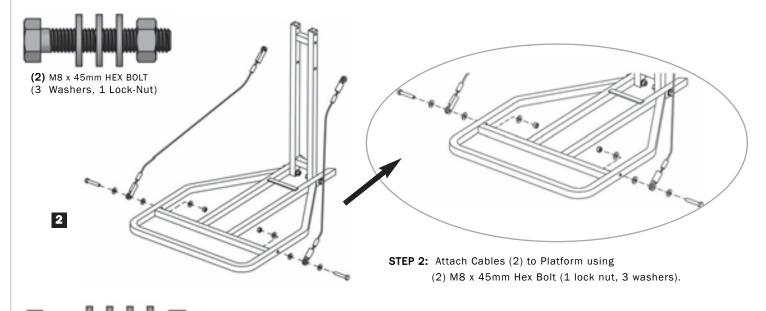
- Inspect for defects (damage, rot, corrosion, cracks, freezing, excessive heat, etc.) before every use is required. Do not use if damage is detected or suspected.
- Ameristep recommends periodically re-tightening and/or replacing hardware (supplied by Ameristep), including bolts, nuts, washers, rope, straps, cord. etc.

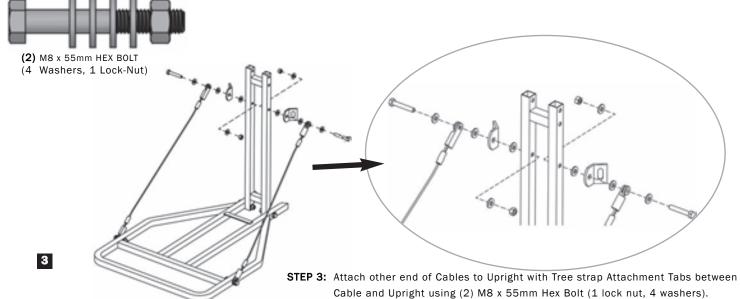


Model #9201C / #51004



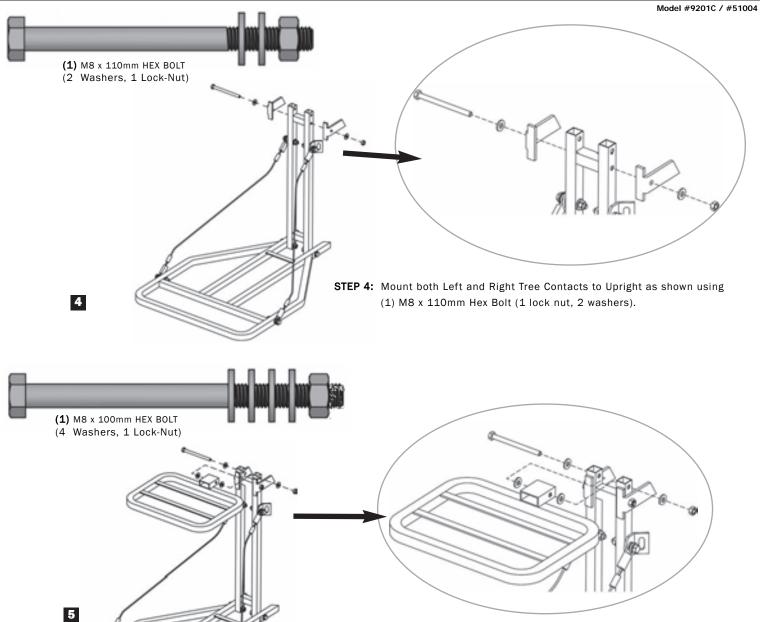
STEP 1: Attach Upright to Platform with steel mesh on platform facing up. Use (2) M8 x 55mm Hex Bolt (1 lock nut, 3 washers).





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STEP 6: Place Seat Cushion on top of seat frame and attach with hook & loop fasteners.

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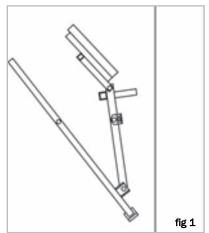
## ! FOR YOUR SAFETY:

Check every ladder section **BEFORE** you leave the ground.

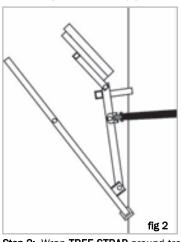
Sectional ladders must not be anymore than 18" apart.

USE A HAUL LINE TO RAISE AND LOWER YOUR STAND. DO NOT CARRY STAND IN HAND OR ON BACK WHILE CLIMBING

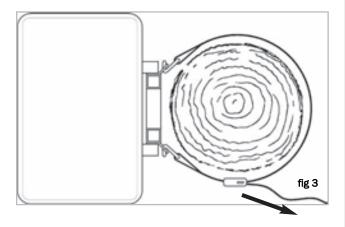
! Note: Practice with your product, wearing entire hunting gear & Safety Harness at ground level BEFORE ascending to any height.



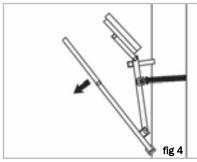
Step 1: With PLATFORM folded up, place UPPER TREE CONTACTS against tree (fig 1).

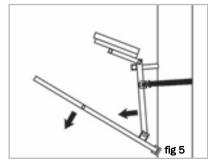


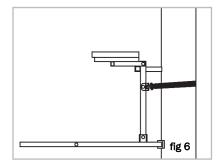
Step 2: Wrap TREE STRAP around tree and attach each hook into TREE BRACKET (fig 2).



Step 3: Pull TREE STRAP tight, making sure TREE CONTACTS are resting against tree (fig 3).







Step 4: After TREE STRAP has been pulled tight, pull down on FRONT OF PLATFORM until it is parallel with ground. (fig 4, 5, 6).

NOTE: If all TREE CONTACTS are not touching tree, fold PLATFORM back up and loosen STRAP, re-set STAND and repeat process.

Lautiously when using a climbing belt to ascend tree, the full body safety harness must be attached to tree BEFORE stepping down on tree stand.

Lautiously put your weight on the stand platform. The additional weight will create tension on tree strap cables.



Step 5: When moving from climbing aid to tree stand, step down or over from climbing aid to stand (fig 7).

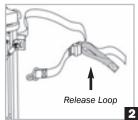
# **1.** FOR YOUR SAFETY:

- Once TREE STAND is secured to tree, tie one end of HOIST ROPE to YOUR GEAR while still on ground.
- 2. With HOIST ROPE in hand, climb up to PLATFORM and IMMEDIATELY STRAP YOUR SAFETY HARNESS TO TREE.
- 3. Raise GEAR to PLATFORM using HOIST ROPE.

**TAKE DOWN STAND** 



Step 1: Fold PLATFORM upward. This will de-activate "Caming Action" and release pressure from strap (fig 1).



Step 2: While holding STAND, pull RELEASE LOOP on TREE STRAP. It will loosen (fig 2).



Step 3: Unhook TREE STRAP from TABS and lower STAND to ground using a rope of appropriate length (fig 3).



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