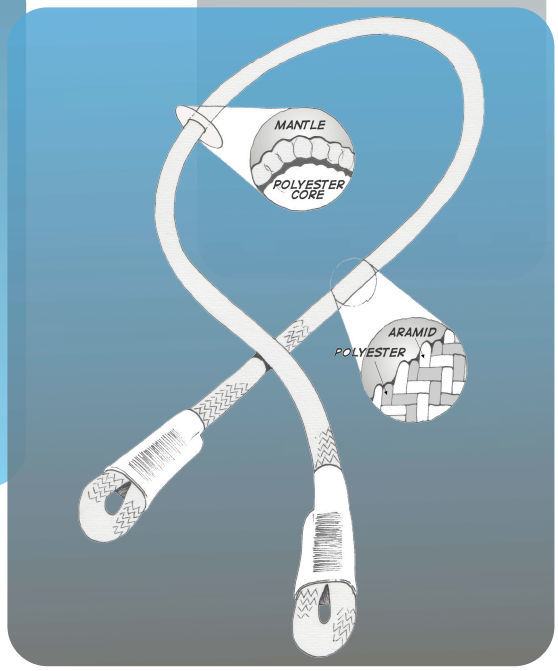
Ocean Polyester

If you use a friction saver, you will have noticed how much quicker the cord of your friction hitch is now wearing. With more friction now concentrated at the hitch, so much more heat is generated that traditional materials may no longer be the correct choice, especially if you climb somewhat 'sporty' and are using a 'pulley saver'.

The mantle of Ocean Polyester was developed to cope with extreme point loading on racing yacht winches. This need for both heat tolerance and grip is perfectly catered for by the combination of Aramid and Polyester, characteristics that are required in the cover of a friction hitch cord too. The strength comes from the core though, and for tree care, treemagineers have introduced a Polyester kern because of its' high abrasion resistance, tolerance of flexing and high wet strength.

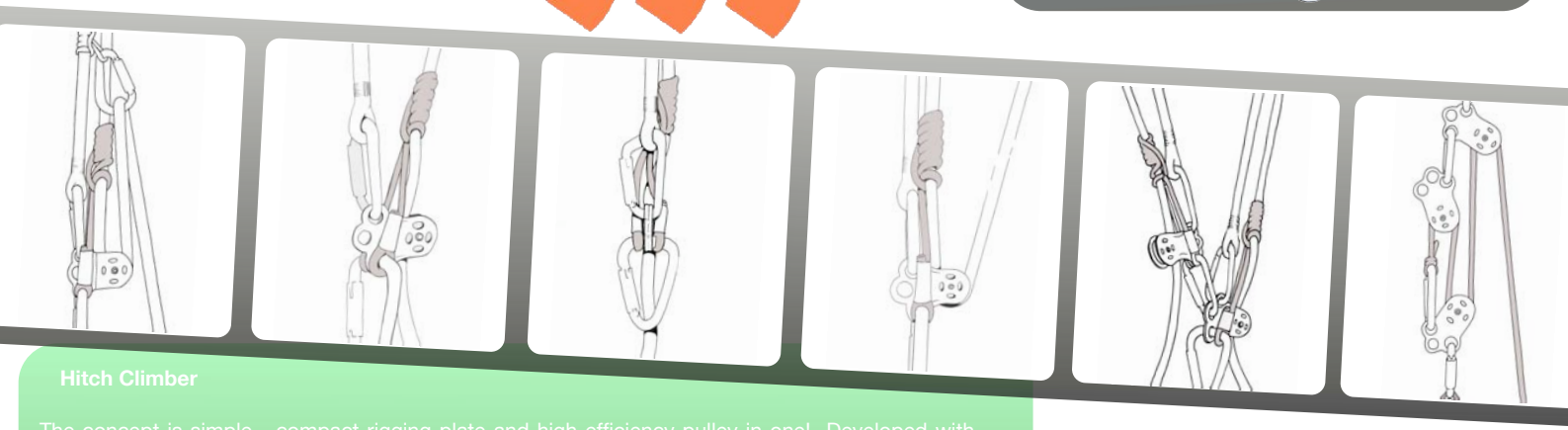
Ocean Polyester is available in 8mm and 10mm. As usual it can be bought by the meter and in spool lengths of 200m. New to the friction hitch world are loops and eye-to-eye slings in a range of lengths, with stitched terminations that are CE marked. Keeping a few spare slings and ordering replacements couldn't be easier.

Ocean Polyester - unsurpassed performance!



HITCH CLIMBER

Configure it. Done.



Hitch Climber

The concept is simple - compact rigging plate and high efficiency pulley in one! Developed with those clever folk at DMM, this is the first hot forged pulley to hit the market. Blessed with sensual curves and many little details, this little beauty was designed to be at the heart of friction hitch climbing systems (with stitched eye to eye slings), but has many other applications.

Taking the place of conventional fairlead pulleys, the Hitch Climber helps organise karabiners, reducing the probability of poor configurations such as cross loading. Tension in the climbing line is transferred through both karabiners and the rigging plate. Doesn't matter if you are ascending or descending, karabiners tend to be kept in the correct alignment.

The full range of anchor point sizes, from pulley saver to large stem, are accommodated without changing the everyday set-up. The climbing line is pretty much left alone by the pulley until it is needed, there is less friction build up below the hitch. That means the friction hitch will 'self-tail' sooner. It's possible to use shorter (stitched) slings for tying your hitch too, which reduces 'sit-back' when ascending.

When things get a bit more complex, the three holes of the Hitch Climber will accommodate the variety of different rope techniques that allow us climbing arborists to work the canopy. A complete second climbing system (or lanyard) can be added to the spare hole, making it easier to traverse between two anchors.

treemagineers

treeMOTION, Ocean Polyester and Hitch Climber in winning form with Beddes during the Masters' Challenge at ITCC Minneapolis, August 2006

There are even rescue and load hauling functions! A loop of rope taken from between the hitch and the pulley can be lowered to a ground worker. Loads can be connected into the loop and hauled back up by the ground worker. It has never been so easy to get that big Stihl to a climber!

And because life doesn't always go to plan, there are abilities in this system that would be useful in a rescue. If the casualty is positioned in such a way that lowering is impractical (e.g. over water, a road or electrical conductors) the system can be used in reverse. The rescuer can haul from above on the casualty's system on what is effectively now a braked 3:1 mechanical advantage system. Once in a better position, the descent could take a different route. In a 'pick-off' rescue, friction can be easily added above the rescuers hitch to keep the operation of his/her system much the same as normal.

Too good to be true? An addition to the generic user instructions called "The Hitch Climbers' Guide to the Canopy" helps show how Hitch Climber really can perform!

Certification

treeMOTION is certified to EN358 (Work Positioning Belt) and EN813 (Sit Harness). Ocean Polyester cord and its' stitched terminations are CE marked via a manufacturers standard under the quality management system ISO 9001:2000. Hitch Climber pulley meets and exceeds the requirements of EN12278 (Pulleys) and EN795(c) (Anchor devices).