

The Bennett Hook

**THE BENNETT HOOK IS NOT LIFE
SUPPORT**

**NEVER USE THE BENNETT HOOK AS A
PRIMARY TIE IN POINT.**

**MISUSE OF THE BENNETT HOOK
COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS INJURY
OR DEATH**

Owner's Manual

Read carefully and fully understand this manual's contents before using The Bennett Hook

The Bennett Hook is a positioning aid for tree climbers. It should be used only in addition to an accepted primary life support system. The Bennett Hook is an open system. There are no locking mechanisms to capture the rope, making it unacceptable for life support. **The Bennett Hook should never be used as primary life support!**

The Bennett Hook can offer you a remote attachable secondary (non life support) tie in point. It can help stabilize your position while on long limb

walks or gain access to far reaching areas of sprawling canopies without changing primary tie in points. The Bennett Hook can be remotely retrieved with a practiced flip of the wrist.

Components:

E Hook



Loop Link



Spine Links

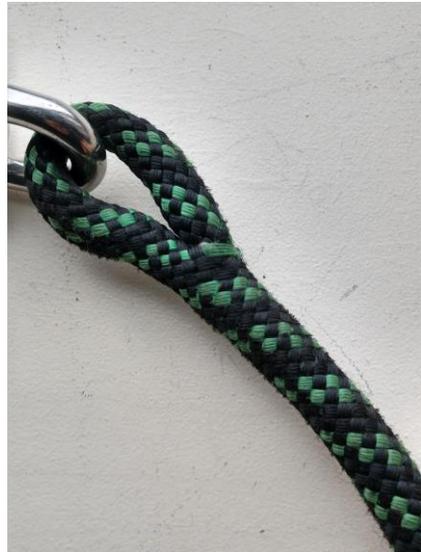
Swivel



Screw Pin Shackle



Eye Splice



The E hook is really two hooks side by side, that can be caught with the rope from either side.

The spine links act as a guide structure for the E hook, to keep it oriented correctly, and when conformed (cinched) around a limb, the spine prevents the E hook from rotating and dropping the rope.

The spine links have a profile that maintains a bend in the spine, this facilitates snaring of the rope.

The swivel allows the spine and hook to rotate relative to the rope, this allows the hook to orient and rotate during the snaring process.

The loop link is for stowing your hook on your harness.

The rope is a supple double braid with an eye splice, the rope and the splice should be as flexible as possible to allow the shock wave in the snaring process to easily travel down the rope to the hook.

1.

How To Use The Bennett Hook

There are three distinct steps to learn; Deployment, Snaring, Release.

Step 1: Deployment

Coil the rope in one hand. Use the other hand to throw The Bennett Hook underhand, over the target limb. Release the coils of rope as The Bennett Hook travels towards the limb.

Step 2: Snaring and Cinching

Adjust the rope so that The Bennett Hook is hanging about a foot below the limb. This may require letting out or pulling in some of the rope. Send a shockwave up the rope with a circular flick of the wrist (a clockwise or counterclockwise stirring motion, Think fly fishing without the pole). The shockwave should take the rope behind The Bennett Hook. Gently pull on the rope, The Bennett Hook starts to move up towards the limb, continue a slow steady pull, The Bennett Hook will begin to orient itself and rotate so that rope is snared by one of the legs of the E hook, continue to pull the rope until The Bennett Hook is cinched around the branch.

Make sure there is no gap between the limb and the spine of The Bennett Hook.

Make sure the hook is cinched perpendicular to the limb.

Now your remote anchor point is ready to use, for non life support duties.



Step Three: Release and Retrieval

Put about a foot of slack in the line. Use a clockwise or counterclockwise (opposite direction you used to snare the hook) flick of your forearm and wrist to send a shockwave along the rope, that propels the rope out past the leg of the hook. Once the rope is free from the hook, carefully and slowly pull The Bennett Hook back over the limb. Caution: to avoid injury don't pull hard when retrieving the hook.

Features benefits and Limitations

The Bennett Hook works on limbs from 1 to 12 inches in diameter, do not exide 12 inches diameter, doing so will put undue stress on the spine, and limit the spines ability to keep the E hook oriented correctly, risking release of the rope.

The Bennett Hook has a breaking strength of 4100 pounds.

Avoid water sprouts and tight V crotches, The Bennett Hook can get caught or jammed, and be unretrievable. Never use a caught or jammed hook as an anchor point, only use a hook as a secondary anchor if it is properly snared, and cinched to a suitable limb.

One advantage of The Bennett Hook over a conventional hook is, that when attached to the limb and cinched with rope under tension, it wont slide sideways along the branch, even at oblique line angles, it will "bite" much like a girth hitched sling. This is helpful if no convenient crotch is available.

The Bennett Hook requires space below the target limb to allow the shockwave to travel to the hook without interference..

The Bennett Hook is effective out to 25 feet horizontal. Some say 35 feet but the further you go the snaring becomes more challenging.

When throwing to limbs that are horizontal to vertical from your position, snaring gets progressively easier. (use caution when throwing and snaring and retrieving overhead, don't get hit by The Bennett Hook).

The Bennett Hook should be used with proper personal protective equipment, Hard hat and safety glasses are a must. Be sure that other people are clear of your work zone before using The Bennett Hook.

The Bennett Hook weighs 16.4 oz without the rope.

When throwing to a limb below you or at angles below horizontal to your position, The Bennett Hook becomes progressively harder to snare.

The Bennett Hook comes with 38 ft of Sirius Reep Schnur by Teufelberger, its light and supple which lends itself to creating a shock wave that easily moves along the rope, and even more importantly, the spliced section is also quite flexible, which helps with the snaring and releasing processes . It's a 10 mm with a breaking strength of 5100 lbs (not rated for personal protective equipment) The Bennett Hook and the rope are not to be used as a primary life support.

Please Check out our website thompsonstree.com for a how to video and additional information on how to use The Bennett Hook.

Inspection:

Avoid dropping your Bennett Hook on hard surfaces, but Sometimes it is unavoidable, check for damage every time your Bennett Hook takes a hard fall. Inspect your Bennett Hook before each use, make sure there are no damaged parts. Don't use it if it's damaged, retire it, or send it back to us for repair.

Maintenance:

When your Bennett Hook gets dirty, use a damp towel to clean it, if it's really dirty, use warm soapy water and a brush to clean it, its ok to submerge the E hook and spine links, but avoid submerging the swivel.

Use compressed air if needed, but avoid the swivel, to limit displacing the grease in the bearing.

When dry lightly oil between the links and pivot points, and wipe away excess with a towel. The Bennett Hook has a grease hole in the swivel,

It has already been greased, but if the swivel becomes stiff over time due to dirt or chips or submersion in water or mud, take your chainsaw bar nose grease gun and give it 1/2 pump, then clean up the excess with a towel.

The only part of The Bennett Hook that are user serviceable, is the screw pin shackle, for changing ropes (always use blue loctite when reassembling the screw pin shackle) All other parts are only to be repaired or serviced by thompson tree tools.

To change the rope, use an 4mm Allen wrench to remove the pin from the shackle, remove the old Rope eye splice from the shackle, and install the new rope eye splice onto the shackle, reinstall the screw pin with loctite liberally applied to the threads, through the shackle and the hole in the swivel, tighten until the shackle is pinching the top of the swivel, then loosen approx 1/4 turn, this will allow the shackle to rotate freely. Use blue Loctite on the threads of the shackle every time you reassemble it, and let dry as directed before use.

Some nuances

Snaring works best on horizontal limbs, and gets progressively more challenging as the limb angle increases.

The Bennett Hook shines in sprawling canopies, with long horizontal limbs, like live oaks.

The options for exact remote placement of the hook are near limitless.

Less so on trees with a more vertical, or vase shaped habit, like silver maples, where because of the steep upward limb angles, The Bennett Hook must have a crotch to stop it from the sliding down the limb. Snaring a limb right next to the trunk can be a challenge, because the trunk interferes with the rope as the shock wave travels to the hook,

When snaring The Bennett Hook on a steeply upward angled limb, it works best to snar the hook from the open side (the side away from the trunk)

This gives the running loop or shock wave more room to engage the hook, and also seems to work better when getting the hook to self orient and engage the rope when it flips over. In this configuration the rope is pulled and loaded in close to the central leg of the hook which is more secure.

Also releasing the hook in this configuration is preferable because there is less interference from the limb.

When attaching The Bennett Hook to a vertical or upwardly angled stem always engage the hook leg on the high side



Right

Wrong

When snaring The Bennett Hook, pull the rope in slowly as the hook rotates, going to fast at this point causes centrifugal force. and flings the hook away from the rope, making the hook leg miss its target. This is more of an issue when the target limb is at the same level as your position (horizontal) or below, but also can be caused by very rough bark on the limb, making the rope pull, stop and go (jerky).

Sometimes a gentle bounce of the rope just as the hook is about to rotate, can help persuade a gentil rotation and a better chance at a successful snare of the rope.

If you ordered your Bennett Hook without the rope, here are some suggestions on rope selection and attachment. Select a supple rope, preferably a double braid arborist climbing line, between 10mm- 13mm, Attach the rope by passing the end through the screw pin shackle, and tie a double fisherman's knot, to act as a stopper knot, or knot block. While not quite as nice as a spliced connection, the stopper knot works well during the snaring process, and has the added bonus of being easy to attach and detach from the rope without tools, this makes it possible to use the nonworking end of your climbline as your hook rope, and when done, stowing the hook on your harness, as a relatively small package.

