

WILD COUNTRY VARIABLE CONTROLLER

GENERAL INFORMATION

These instructions must be read and understood before this equipment is used, please retain this information for future reference.

Adhere strictly to the following advice and recommendations, if in doubt please contact Wild Country Ltd.

The information in these instructions is not exhaustive and cannot be substituted for comprehensive instruction by trained and competent persons.

This product should only be used by trained and competent persons or the user should be under the supervision of a trained and competent person.

Climbing and mountaineering are hazardous. Even correct selection, maintenance and use of correct equipment cannot eliminate the potential for danger, serious injury or death.

It is the users responsibility at all times to ensure that he or she understands the correct and safe use of any equipment supplied by Wild Country Ltd., uses it only for the purposes for which it is designed and practices all proper safety procedures. The manufacturer or supplier will not accept any responsibility for damage, injury or death resulting from misuse.

USE

This product is designed for climbing and mountaineering purposes, for use in normal climatic conditions and in temperatures not exceeding 50°C. This product should be used as instructed. It may be used in conjunction with any appropriate item of CE approved PPE (where relevant) of suitable specification (conforming to the requirements of European Directive 89/686/EEC) with due consideration to the limitations of each individual piece of equipment and of the belay system as a whole. No alterations or markings should be made to it.

The safety that this product provides depends upon its strength, the quality of the rock anchorage used and the integrity of the belay point. The strength will be reduced through age and general wear and tear dependant upon the amount of use to which it is put.

The following will cause a further reduction in strength:

- high impact load/fall arrest
- corrosion
- internal/external abrasion of textile components caused by grit penetration and rock abrasion.
- cuts in textile components
- prolonged exposure of textile components to ultra violet radiation
- placement and/or loading over tight radii
- sharp edges of rock or equipment

See maintenance and obsolescence for more details.

Be aware that this equipment can be damaged in a fall and consequently should always be examined for defects before reuse.

If this equipment exhibits signs of wear or defect or if there is any doubt about its serviceability, replace it. It is recommended that any equipment involved in a serious fall should be replaced. Where practical a history of use and inspection record should be kept.

Wearing a climbing helmet will help protect your head from injury if you fall.

When using belay techniques we recommend the use of appropriate gloves.

Foresee and take appropriate action in situations where rescue may be required.

IN USE

The safe use of the Belay Device is totally dependant on the skill of the user. The user should have the experience to assess the following:

The suitability of the Belay Device for the proposed fall arrest situation and its compatibility with the rope type and diameter.

HOW TO USE

Variable Controller is designed to act as a friction brake plate whether used with double 8.5-9.5 mm ropes or with a single 10-11 mm climbing rope. The VC should be used in conjunction with a locking round bar stock HMS-style karabiner.

Important: The variable action of this device gives two options:

Option 1 gives characteristics which are relatively 'forgiving' (i.e. Greater braking protection) when used with the broad end to the active rope (Fig. 1).

Option 2 gives the 'slickness' (i.e. Speed of rope feed) of modern deepslotted belay tools when used narrow end to the active rope (Fig. 2). To use, pass the rope or ropes through the Variable Controller as shown and clip the harness (Fig. 3) before loading the device, assess the situation and decide which of the two options you will need to use.

Holding a Fall:

All brake plates require the rope or ropes to pass through a 'Z' shape to generate enough friction to hold a fall (Figs. 1 & 2).

The device creates a 'U' shape and the belayer's hand on the inactive rope creates the second half of the 'Z'. It is very important for a climber bringing up a second from the top of a pitch to remember this fact. The Variable Controller forms a highly effective friction device in conjunction with a belay karabiner. When applied at the constant angle (i.e. The 'Z' shape), hand pressure will be magnified to create enough friction to hold a fall.

Paying Out Rope:

Try pulling the active rope quickly (as when feeding rope to a leader clipping protection). You will find that the ease of use varies according to the way round the device is used. Practice using the VC to familiarise yourself with its characteristics.

Repelling:

Use the broader end towards the active rope (Fig. 1) when using thin ropes or when rappelling vertical walls or overhangs. On easy angled rock or with thicker ropes, use with the narrow end towards the active rope (Fig. 2). On long pitched or on multi-pitch rapels, care must be taken to avoid excessive build up of heat. To avoid this danger, ensure that rapel speed is controlled.

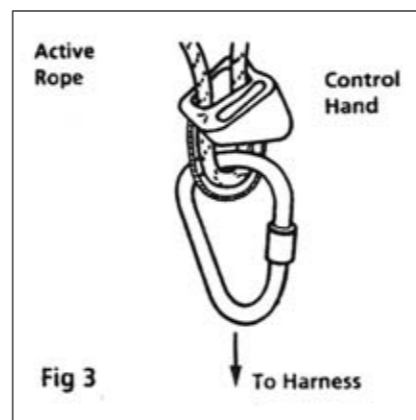
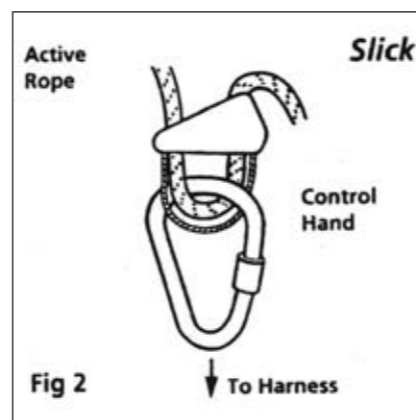
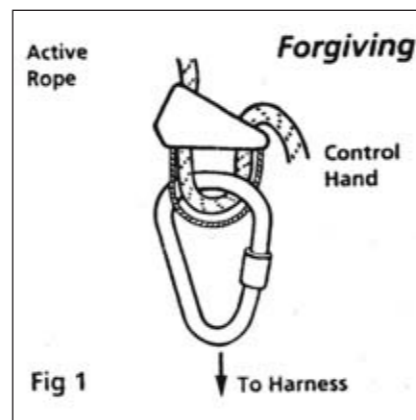
Lowering a Climber (or when rappelling): Control the rope by varying the grip and angle at which the rope is held. Practice will show the amount of pressure or angle required in different situations.

SEA WATER

It is essential that this equipment is cleaned as soon as is practical after exposure to sea water or any saline environment (e.g. when used on sea cliffs).

CHEMICALS AND CORROSIVE REAGENTS

Avoid all contact with chemical reagents as they will affect the performance of this product (e.g. vehicle battery acid, bleach etc.). Discard this product immediately if contact has or is suspected to have occurred (the product may be permanently weakened without showing any signs).



MAINTENANCE

This product is not user maintainable with the exception of cleaning and lubrication (where relevant).

CLEANING

First rinse the product in clean cold water of domestic supply quality. If still soiled rinse in warm water (maximum temperature 40°C) with pure soap. Thoroughly rinse and dry naturally in a warm ventilated room away from direct heat.

STORAGE

After any necessary cleaning store unpacked in a cool, dark, dry, ventilated place away from sharp edges, pressure, corrosives or any possible causes of damage. Wet equipment should first be allowed to dry as detailed above.

OBsolescence

This product will deteriorate over time in the course of normal use and because of this we are required to give an obsolescence date. It is difficult to be precise but a conservative estimate for this product is that it has a lifespan of 10 years from date of first use for metal components, however, please note that the following factors will further reduce the safe working life:

Metal Components: normal use, exposure to chemical reagents, heat contamination, high impact load or failure to maintain (clean/lubricate) as recommended. See above (use) In addition to the normal inspection required before use this product should be thoroughly examined at least once every three months by a competent person. If any defects are found as detailed above or are suspected this product should be withdrawn from use immediately.

WARNING

The safe working life of this product may be as little as one use in extreme circumstances.

TRANSPORTATION

Care should be taken to protect this product against risks such as those detailed under obsolescence. It is recommended that a rucksack or other suitable bag or container is used during transport.

MARKINGS

In addition to the general information accompanying this product the following information is marked on it:

Wild Country:
name of manufacturer/supplier.

Country of origin:
Taiwan

Three digit code:

batch/date code 'ABC'.

'A' First letter indicates year of manufacture e.g. A =Year 2000, B = Year 2001 etc.

'B' Second letter indicates manufacturer Wild Country internal reference.

'C' Third letter indicates month of manufacture e.g. A = January, B = February etc.

SPECIFICATIONS

Maximum Load:
2000Kg

Weight:
63g

Working Range:
8.5 (x2) to 11.5 mm
kernmantle climbing rope

Wild Country Ltd. reserves the right to modify without notice the designs & specifications of products described in these instructions. All weights, dimensions & sizing specifications where quoted are nominal.

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**WILD
COUNTRY**

Variable Controller Belay Device
Appareil d'assurage Variable Controller

