

THE MATT CORNELL — ROPE — SADDLE

This harness is designed for work positioning in tree care applications only and is not for fall arrest.

Intended for work-at-height experts.
Misuse may result in death or serious injury.

All components and the configured system
meet or exceed ANSI Z133.



Original Drawings by Will Ott, Certified Arborist



User's Guide

The Matt Cornell Rope Saddle (MCRS) is a seat harness and work positioning device for professionals climbing on a single or double line. The MCRS employs rope, rather than webbing, as the main support connecting padding and rings. This allows the user to adjust the fit as well as the placement of the rings. The user can also replace the rope, meaning the padding can be used for much longer than a traditional harness.

In this guide, dangerous use or configuration of the MCRS is represented with an X or a skull and cross-bones. These scenarios could result in serious injury or death.

Proper use and configuration of the MCRS is represented by a check mark.

Life support rated connections are shown in GREEN.
Connections or cords that are NOT life support rated are shown in RED.
Items not included with the MCRS are shown in BLUE.

Specifications:



Maximum User Weight: 275lbs (124kg)
Maximum Weight Including Equipment: 300lbs (136kg)
Equipment Loop Maximum Weight: 15lbs (7kg)



Breaking Strength: 5400lbs (2267kg)

Maximum Rope Life: 2 years

Maximum Padding Life: 20 years

Materials: Leather, polyester, industrial belting material, nylon

Warning

The Matt Cornell Rope Saddle (MCRS) is for expert use only. It is the user's responsibility to climb safely and have the proper instruction. It is imperative that the user practice extensively with the MCRS in a no-risk situation before using the MCRS in any situation in which injury may occur. Be aware that any at-height activity, including climbing, comes with inherent danger that no tool or instruction can completely negate.

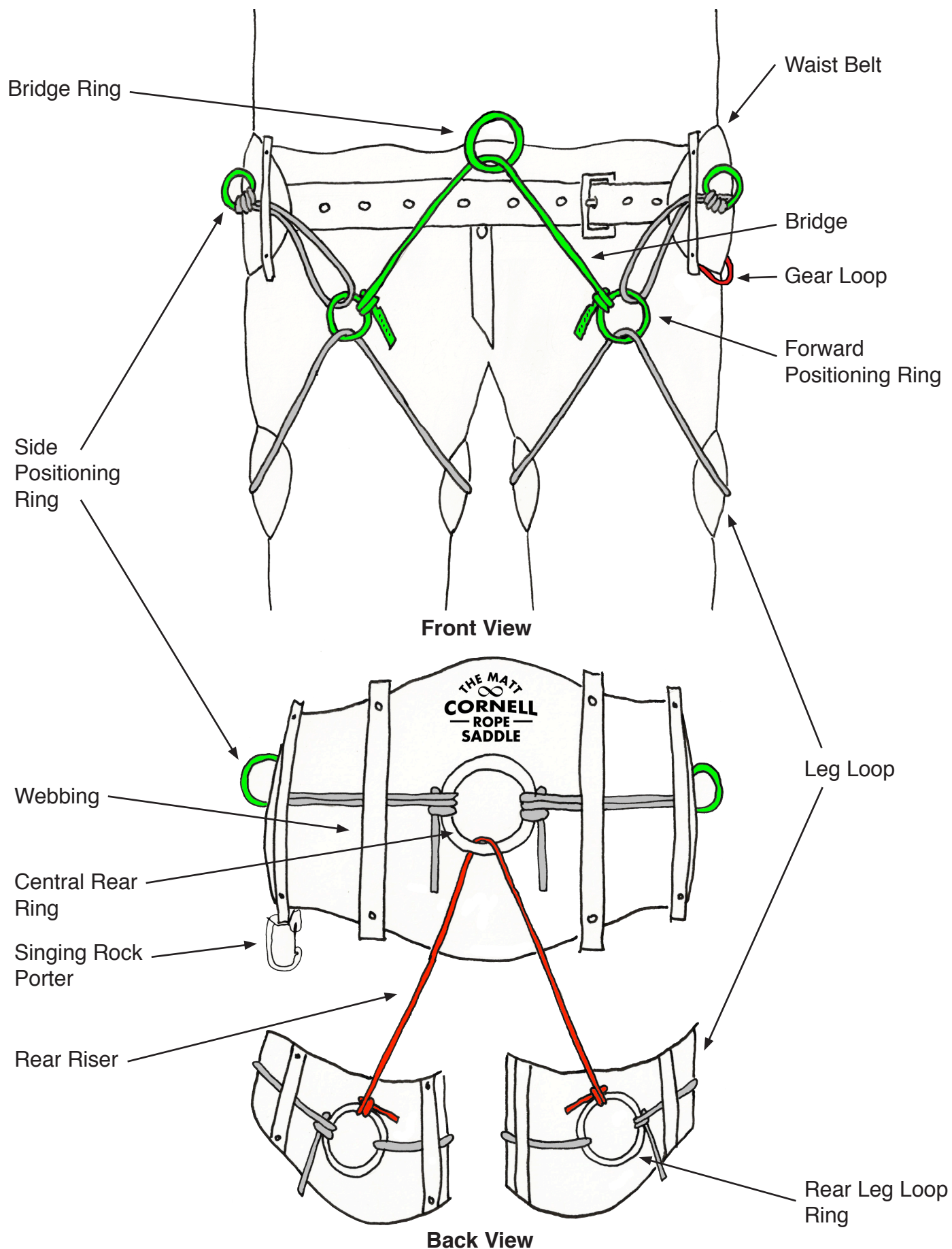
READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS COMPLETELY AND CAREFULLY BEFORE USE.

The Matt Cornell Rope Saddle is

- NOT for use by novices in climbing techniques
- NOT a training device
- NOT to be used for extreme activities, speeds, and/or in extreme conditions
- NOT for use by anyone not willing to take full responsibility for their own life
- NOT to be used by people over 275lbs (125kg) or for multi-person loads
- NOT a fall arrest device

Note on construction: The MCRS is composed completely of purpose designed cordage. These ropes were carefully selected and constructed for durability and safety.

1 Part Nomenclature



2 Inspection and Fit

The quality and condition of your equipment is integral to your safety. The Matt Cornell Rope Saddle (MCRS) should be inspected thoroughly before each use.

Before Each Use:

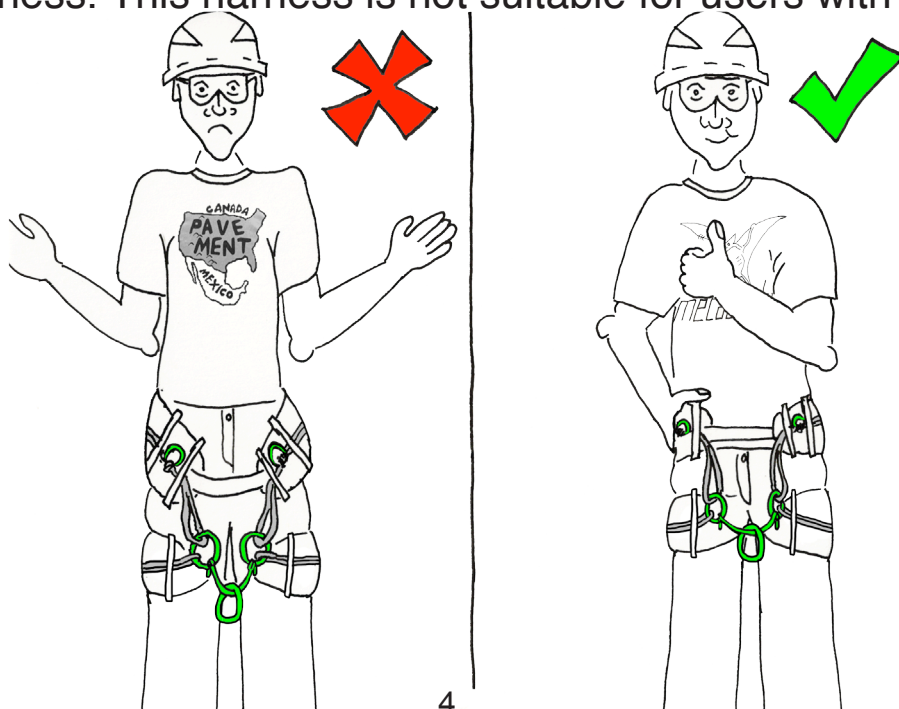
- Inspect the full length of the ropes in the harness for wear, abrasions, cuts, frays, or damage. **Any damage to the ropes must be replaced immediately.**
- Inspect the padding for any damage, cuts, or wear.
- Inspect all aluminum rings for wear, cracks, dents, or bends.
- Inspect all knots. Make sure they are tight, have at least four inches of tail, and that the tails are pointing down.
- Inspect any equipment loops for damage or loose knots.

During Each Use:

Continually monitor the condition of the MCRS and any connections in the climbing system.

Fit:

Proper fit of the MCRS is imperative for safety. The MCRS should fit tightly above the hips, with the leg loops snug around the upper thigh. The MCRS should be tight enough that, in the event of inversion, the user will not fall out of the harness. This harness is not suitable for users with upper leg amputations.

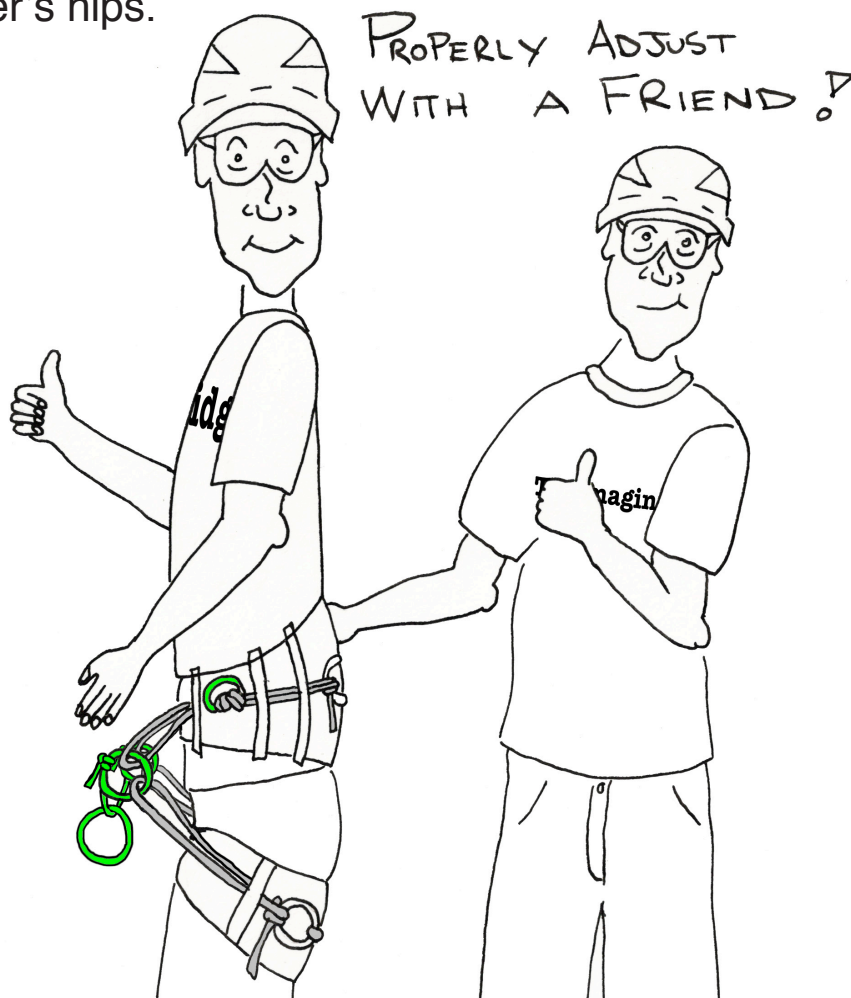


3 Adjustment

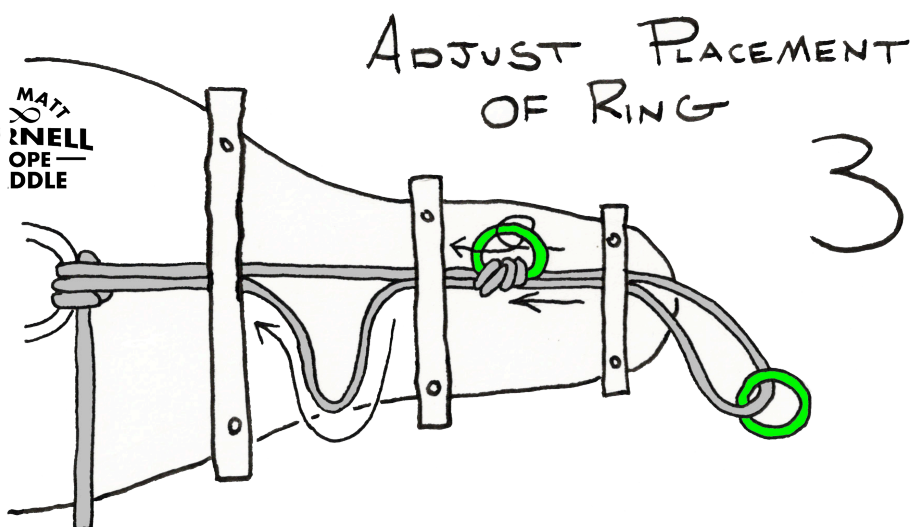
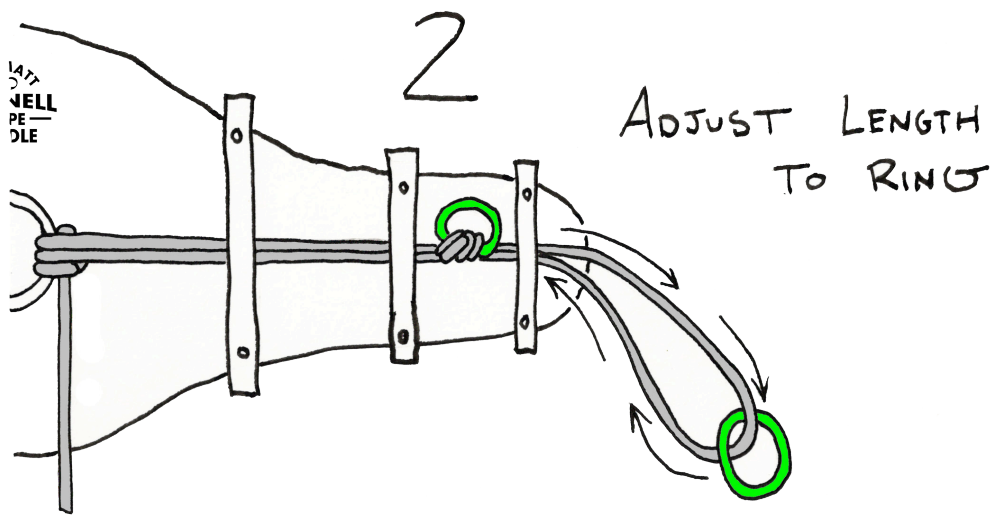
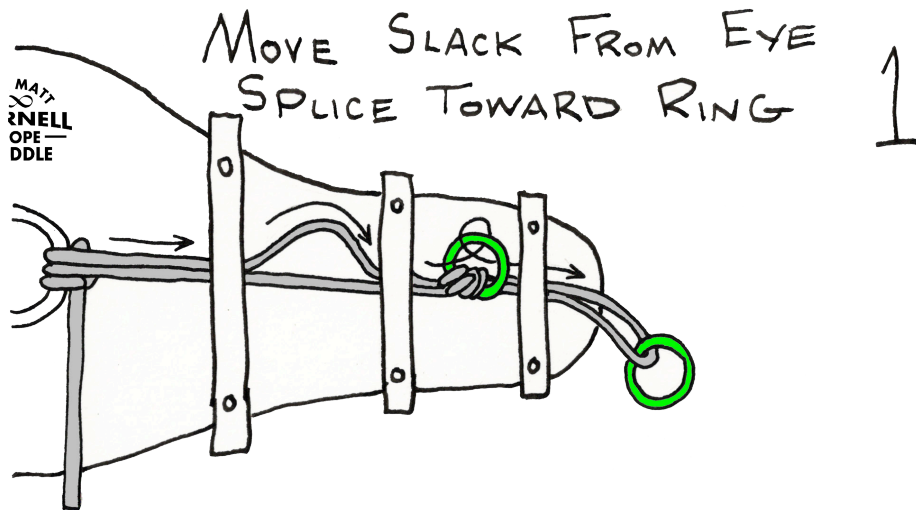
One of the benefits of the rope construction of the Matt Cornell Rope Saddle (MCRS) is the ability to adjust every aspect of the harness. The fit of the *Leg Loops*, the fit of the *Waist Belt*, the length of the *Bridge*, and the positioning of the *Side Positioning Rings* and *Forward Positioning Rings* are all adjustable. *Equipment Loops* can be added and adjusted to suit the needs of the user. The MCRS offers unrivaled customization. However, DO NOT customize the harness in ways not outlined in this user's guide.

In order to properly adjust the MCRS for a good fit, adjust it while wearing the harness. Ask a friend to help you adjust the ropes on the rear of the harness. Once adjusted to fit the user, the MCRS should retain fit and should not require additional adjustment.

To adjust the fit of the *Waist Belt*, adjust the buckle on the front of the harness. The *Waist Belt* should be tight enough that the harness cannot fall below the user's hips.

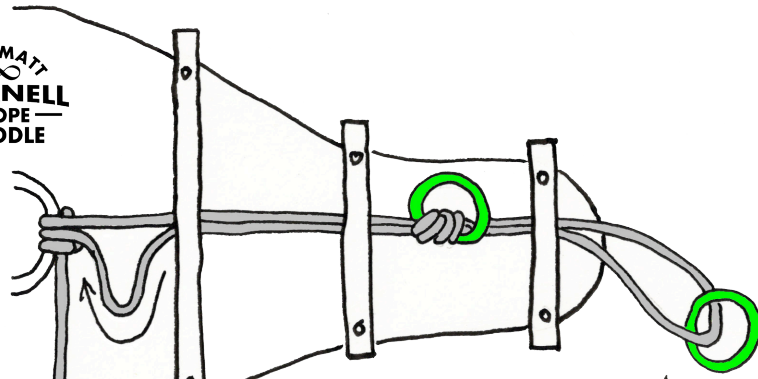


To adjust the amount of rope from the *Waist Belt* to the *Forward Positioning Rings* and the placement of the *Side Positioning Rings*:



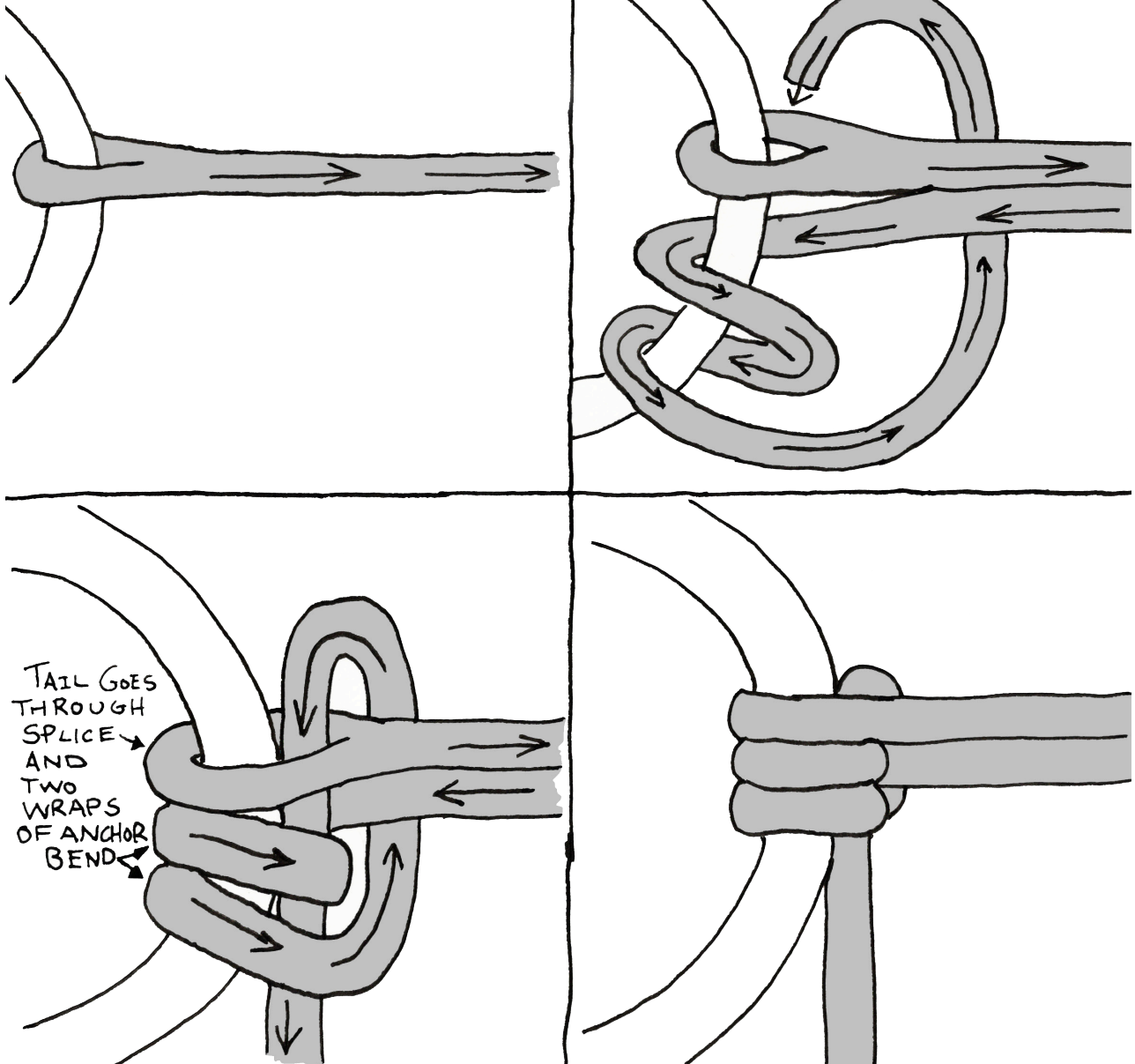
MATT
CORNELL
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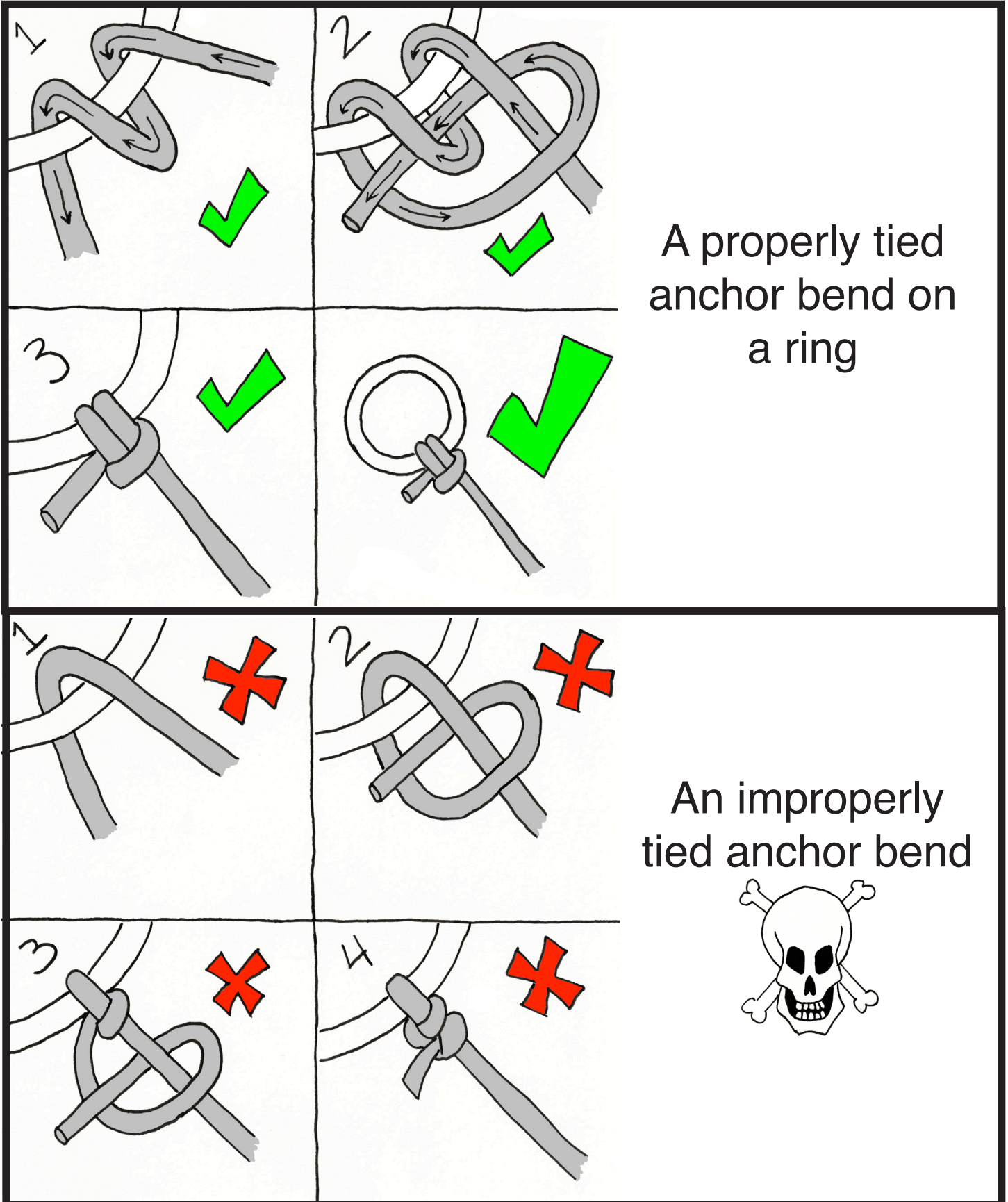
HAVE A FRIEND ADJUST SLACK
INTO REAR RING AND SET ANCHOR BEND

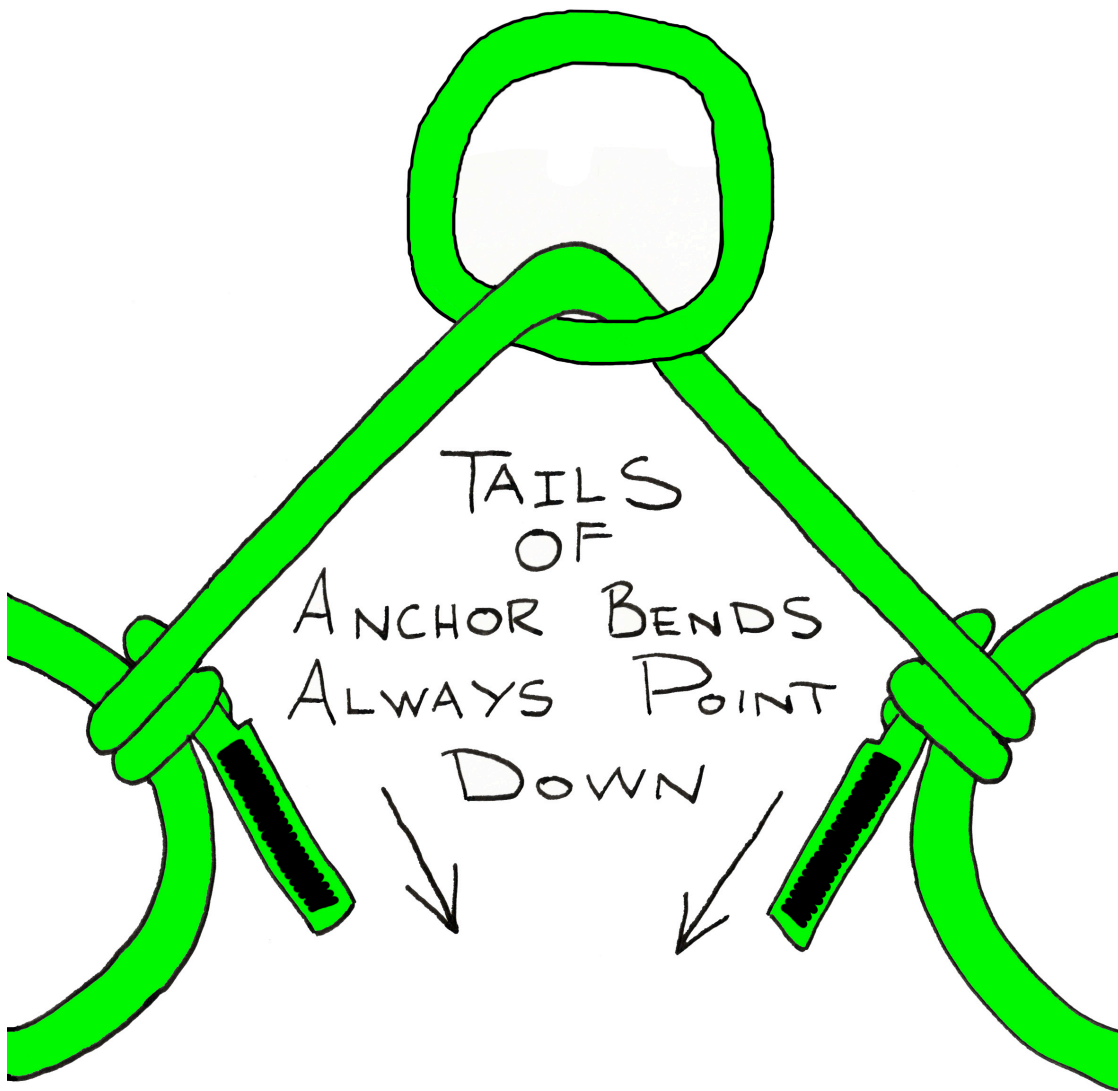
Ensure that the rope is tied on the *Central Rear Ring* with an anchor bend **through** the splice in the rope.



Repeat this process for the other side of the Matt Cornell Rope Saddle.

To adjust the fit of the *Leg Loops*, loosen the anchor bend on the *Rear Leg Loop Ring*, adjust the rope to the proper fit, and re-tie the anchor bend on the *Rear Leg Loop Ring*.



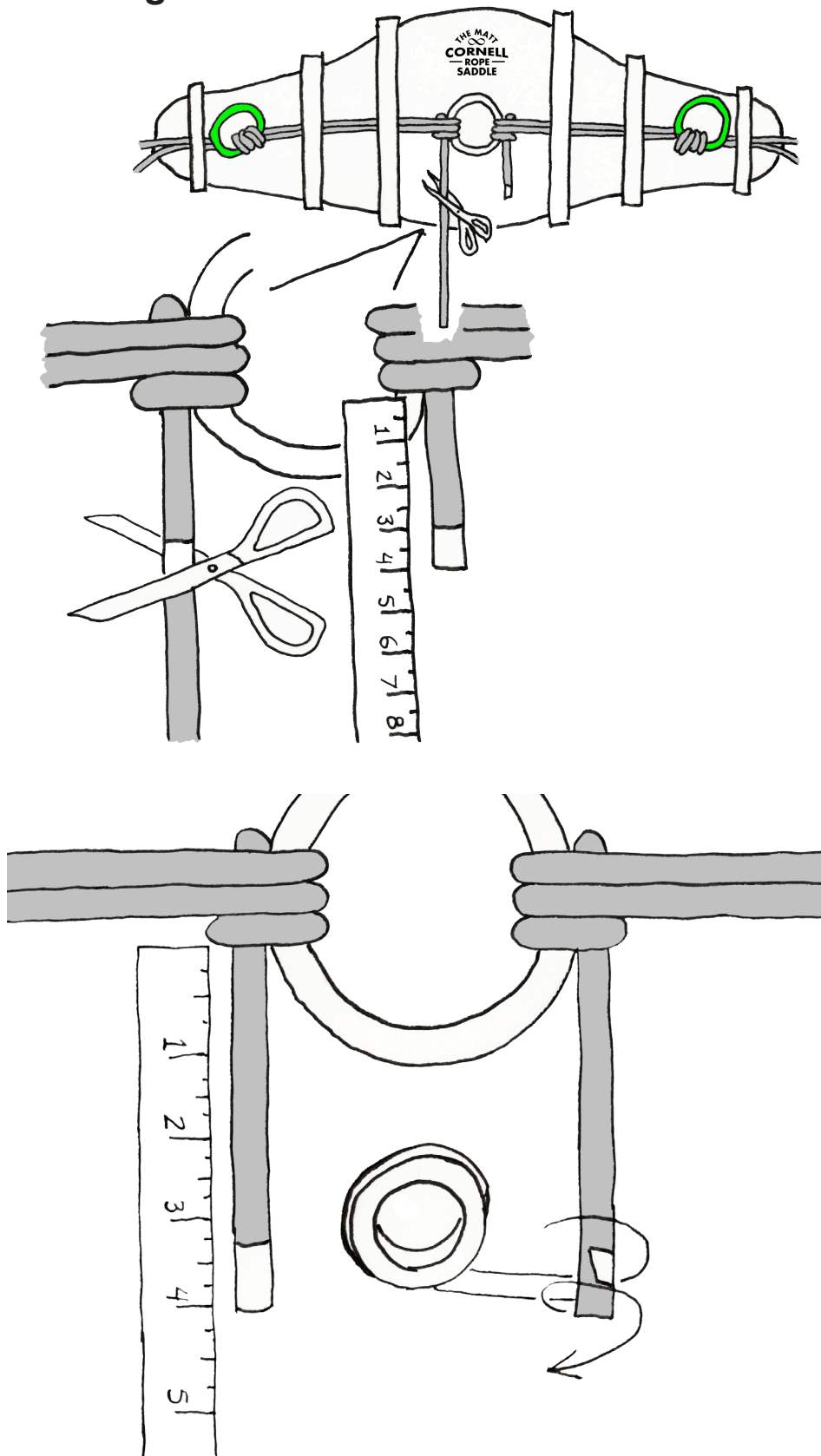


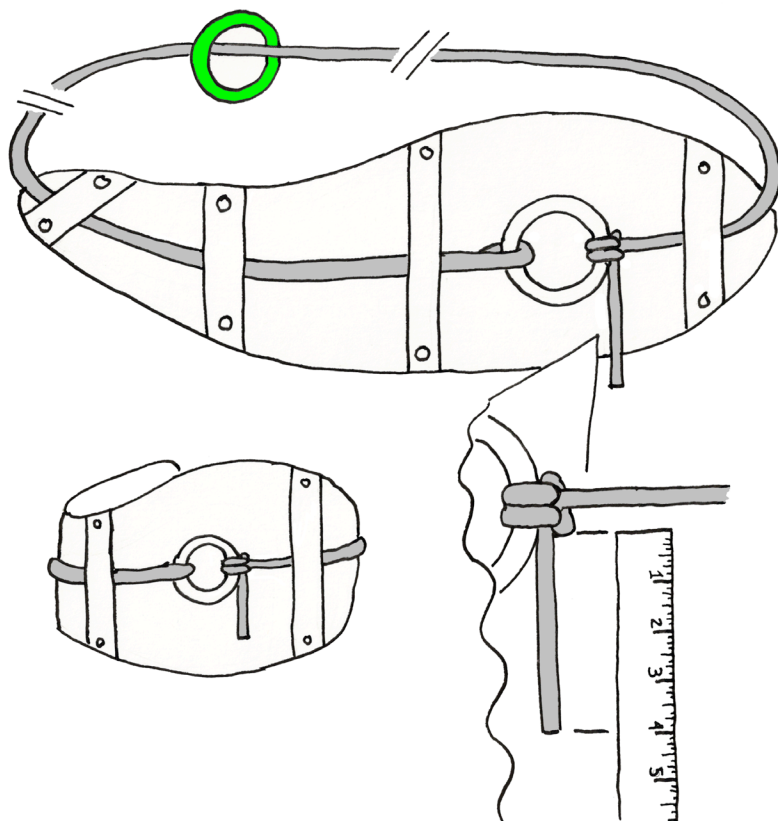
To adjust the length of the *Bridge*, loosen the anchor bends on the *Forward Positioning Rings*, adjust the *Bridge* to the desired length, and re-tie the anchor bends on the *Forward Positioning Rings*.

Warning

DO NOT CUT THE BRIDGE ROPE. The *Bridge* has added stitching for safety, and cutting the *Bridge* could lead to serious injury or death.

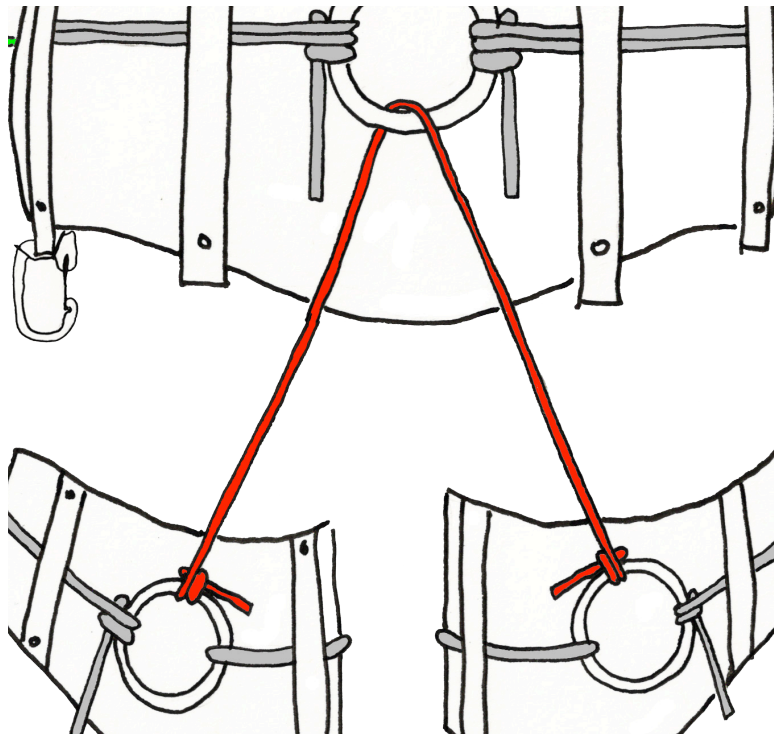
Once all ropes on the Matt Cornell Rope Saddle have been adjusted and the harness fits properly, trim the tails of all ropes except the *Bridge*. Tape the rope where you plan to cut it and carefully cut the tails. Use a lighter to carefully seal the ends of the rope. **The tails of the rope must always be at least 4 inches long.**





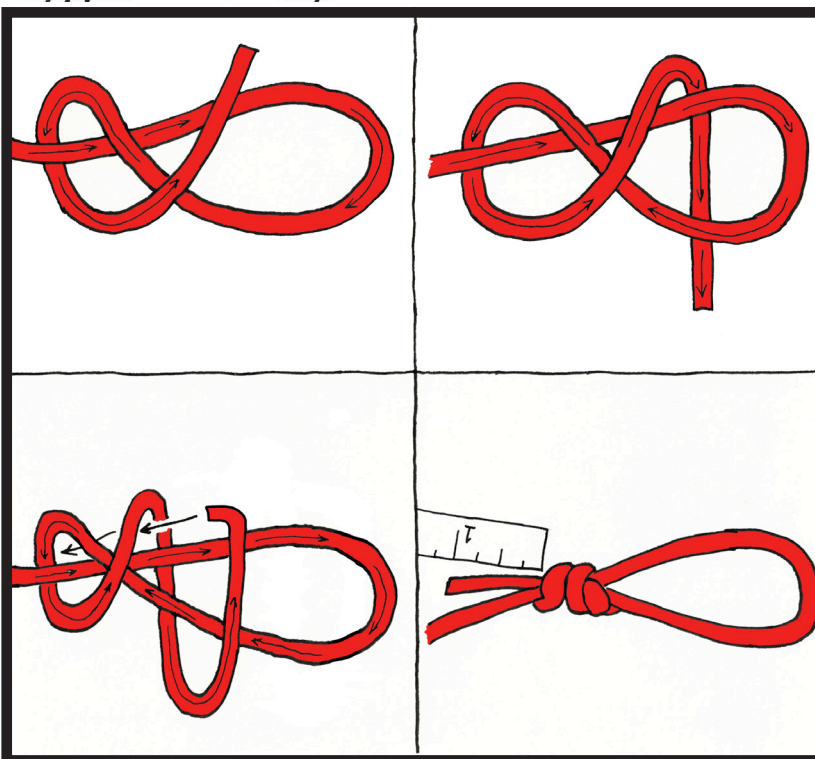
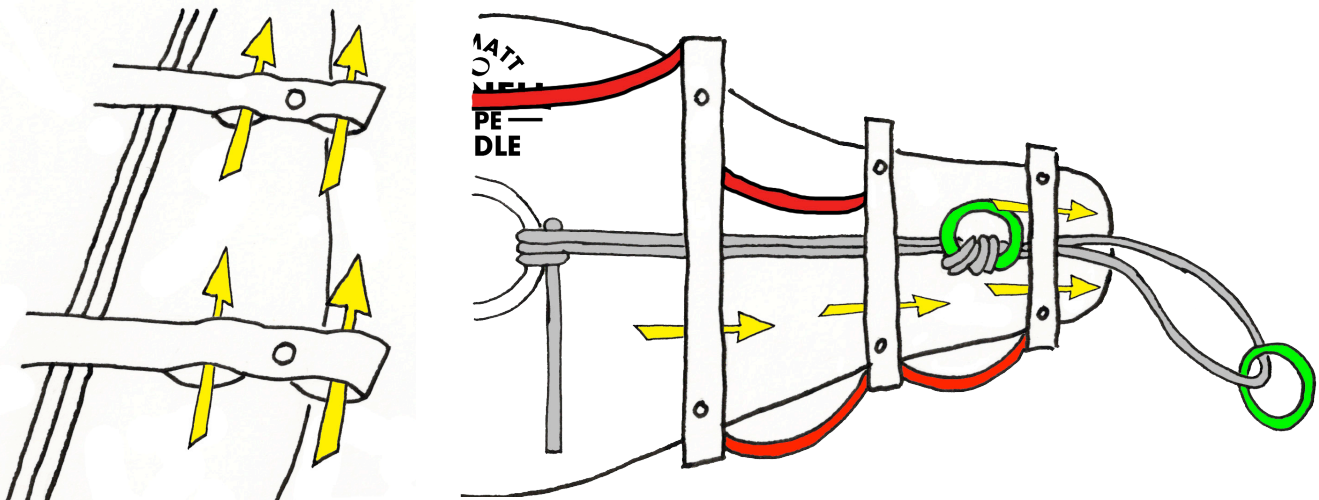
To adjust the red *Rear Riser* connecting the *Leg Loops* to the *Central Rear Ring*, loosen the knot on one *Rear Leg Loop Ring*, adjust the length of the bungee cord, and re-tie the knot on the *Rear Leg Loop Ring*.

The *Rear Riser* is intended solely to add support to the *Leg Loops*. Its maximum load is 4.4lbs (2kg). Its RED color indicates this cord is not suitable for life support.



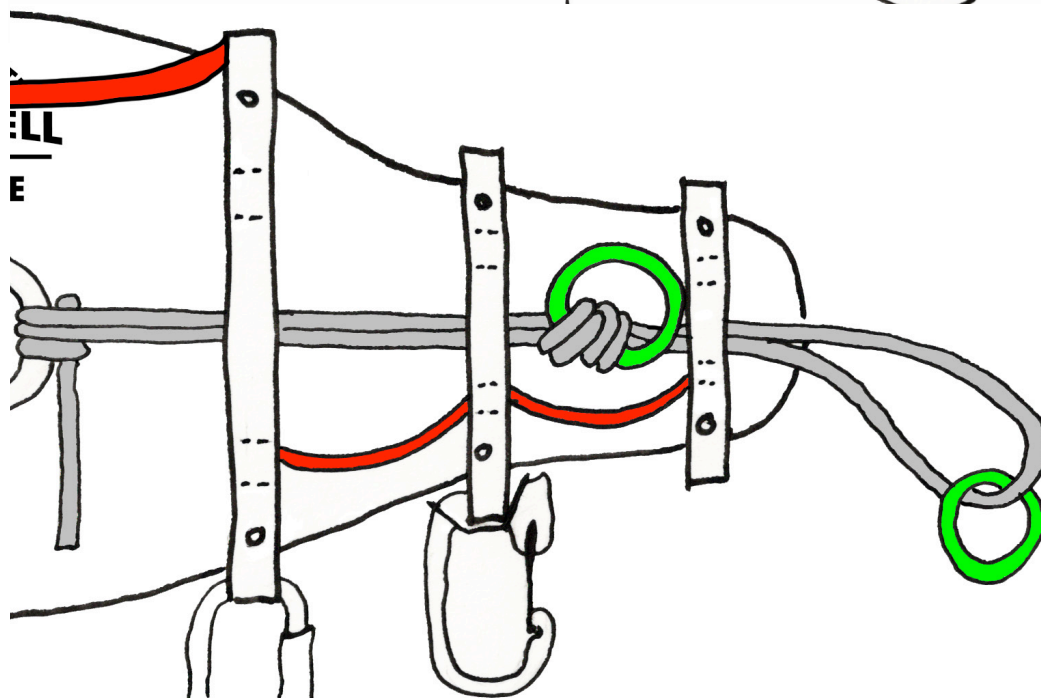
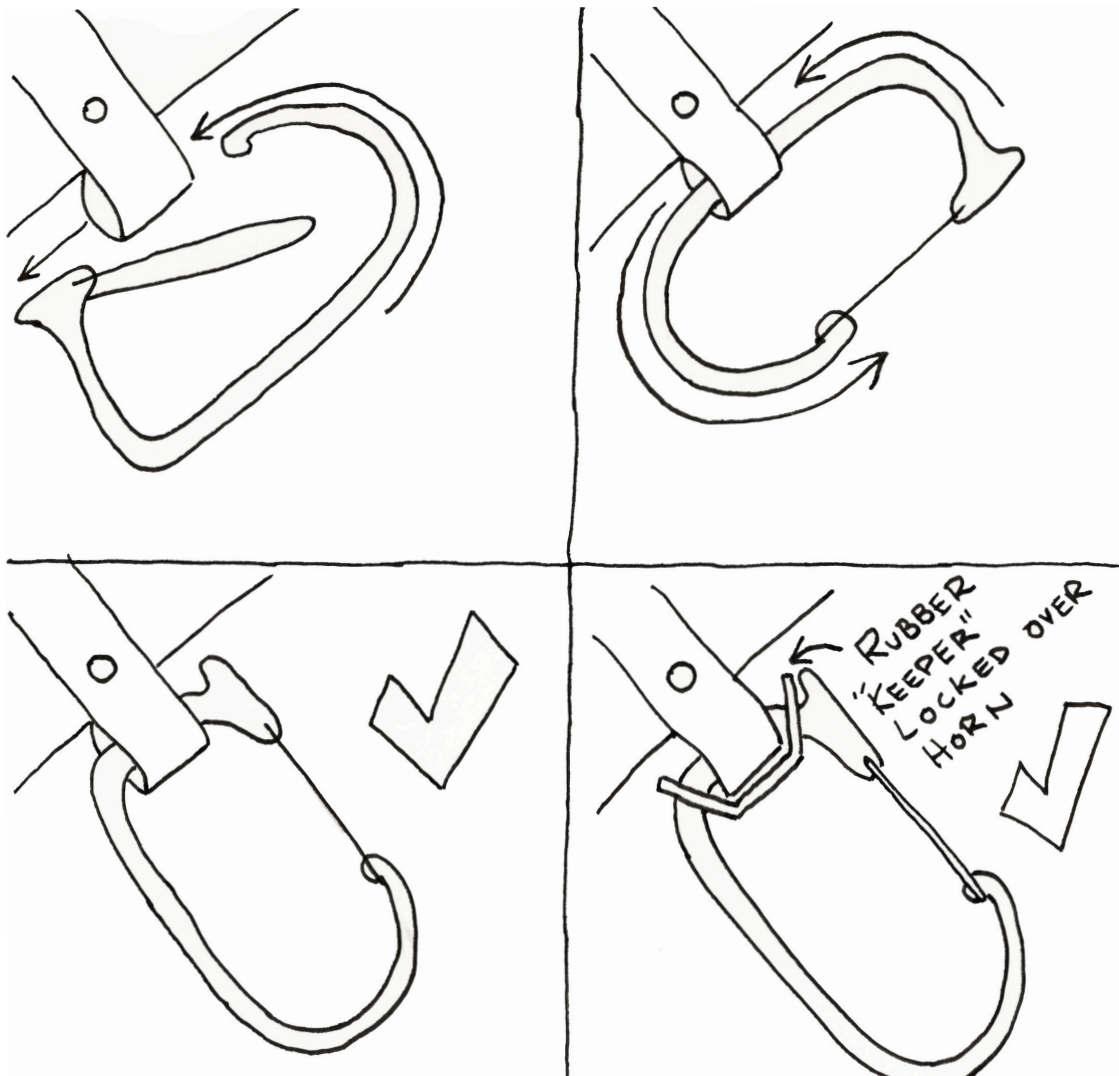
Equipment Loops can be added to the Matt Cornell Rope Saddle (MCRS) in a multitude of different configurations. The included accessory cord and bungee cord allow the user to customize the setup and placement of these loops. The included plastic tubing is intended to cover the accessory or bungee cords. This stiffens the cord and allows it to better hold its intended shape. The included cords are the color RED, indicating they are not suitable for life support. DO NOT use any other color cord for equipment loops. **These cords are not for life support and should never be used to hold any body weight. The weight limit for these cords is 15lbs (7kg).**

The MCRS includes a number of tunnels through the webbing sewn to the harness's padding. The accessory and bungee cords can be threaded through these tunnels and secured with a scaffold knot. **These cords should never be secured to any of the *Forward or Side Positioning Rings*, the *Bridge*, or the *Bridge Ring*.**



A properly tied scaffold knot
Note: The knot will slide and choke the loop onto the webbing of the harness

Carabiners and tool clips can also be used in the tunnels of the Matt Cornell Rope Saddle. **However, they should never be used for weights over 15lbs (7kg). The maximum load of the included Singing Rock Porter is 11lbs (5kg).** Use the included rubber keeper around the webbing of the saddle and over the horn of the included tool clip to keep it in place.



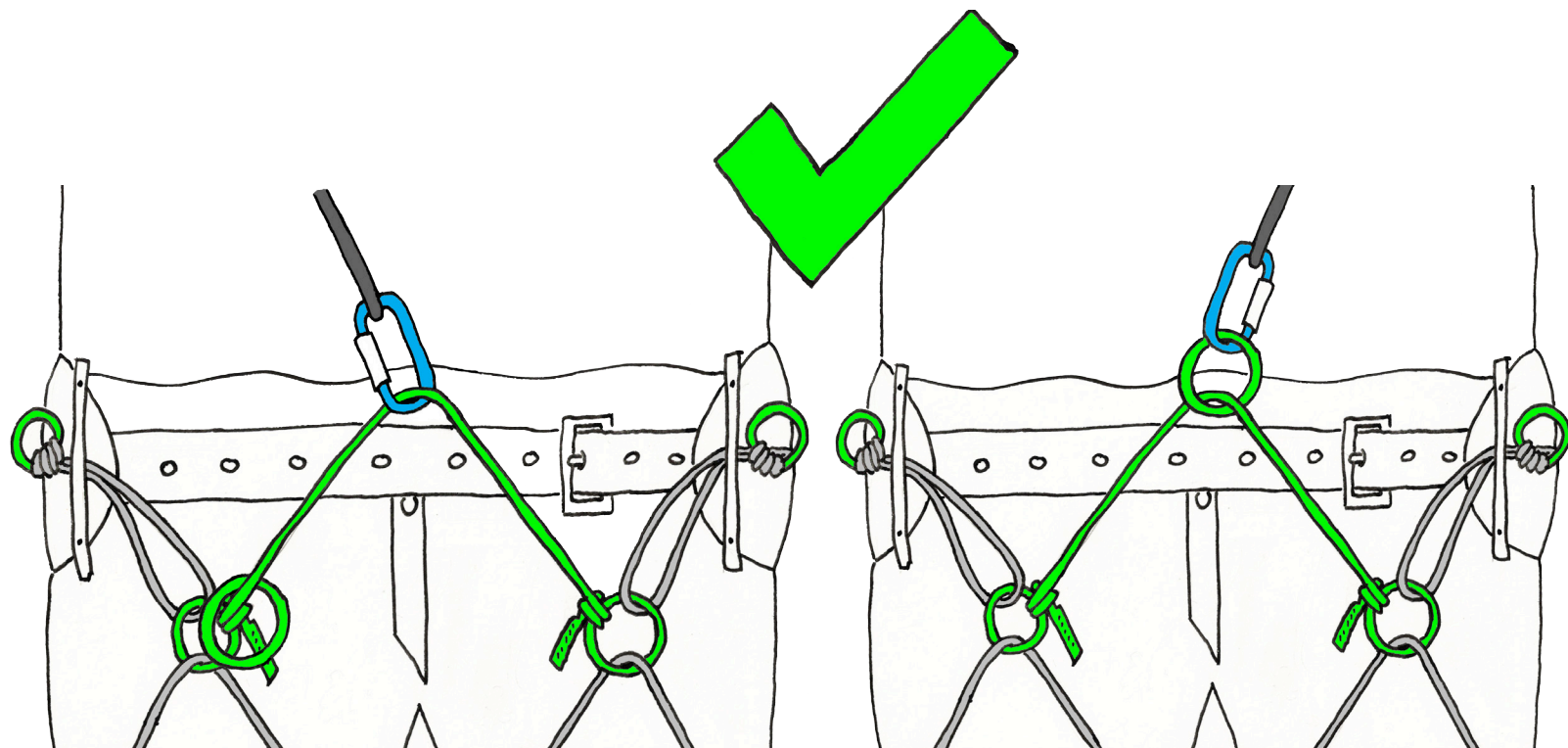
4 Tie In Points

⚠ Warning

The **ONLY** life support rated tie in points are the color **GREEN**. **NEVER** tie in to anything that is not **GREEN**. The **GREEN** components on the Matt Cornell Rope Saddle are the *Bridge*, *Bridge Ring*, *Side Positioning Rings*, and the *Forward Positioning Rings*. Do not add any green colored components to the Matt Cornell Rope Saddle.

Seat Harness:

When used as a seat harness, the *Bridge* or *Bridge Ring* can be used to connect to the climbing line.

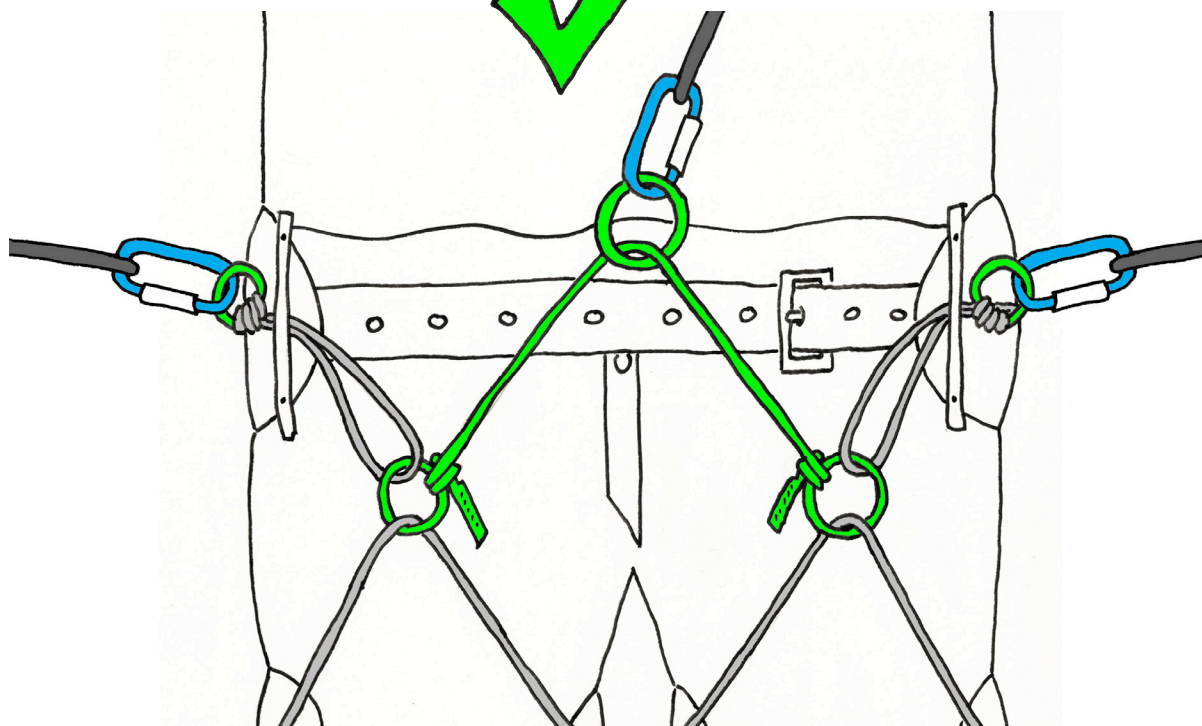
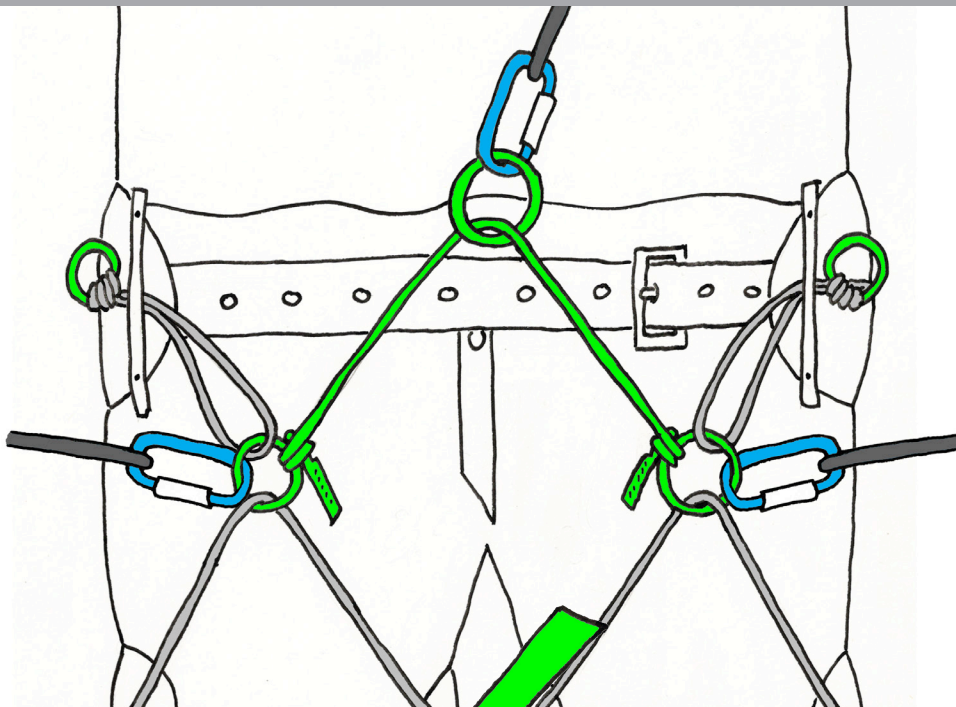


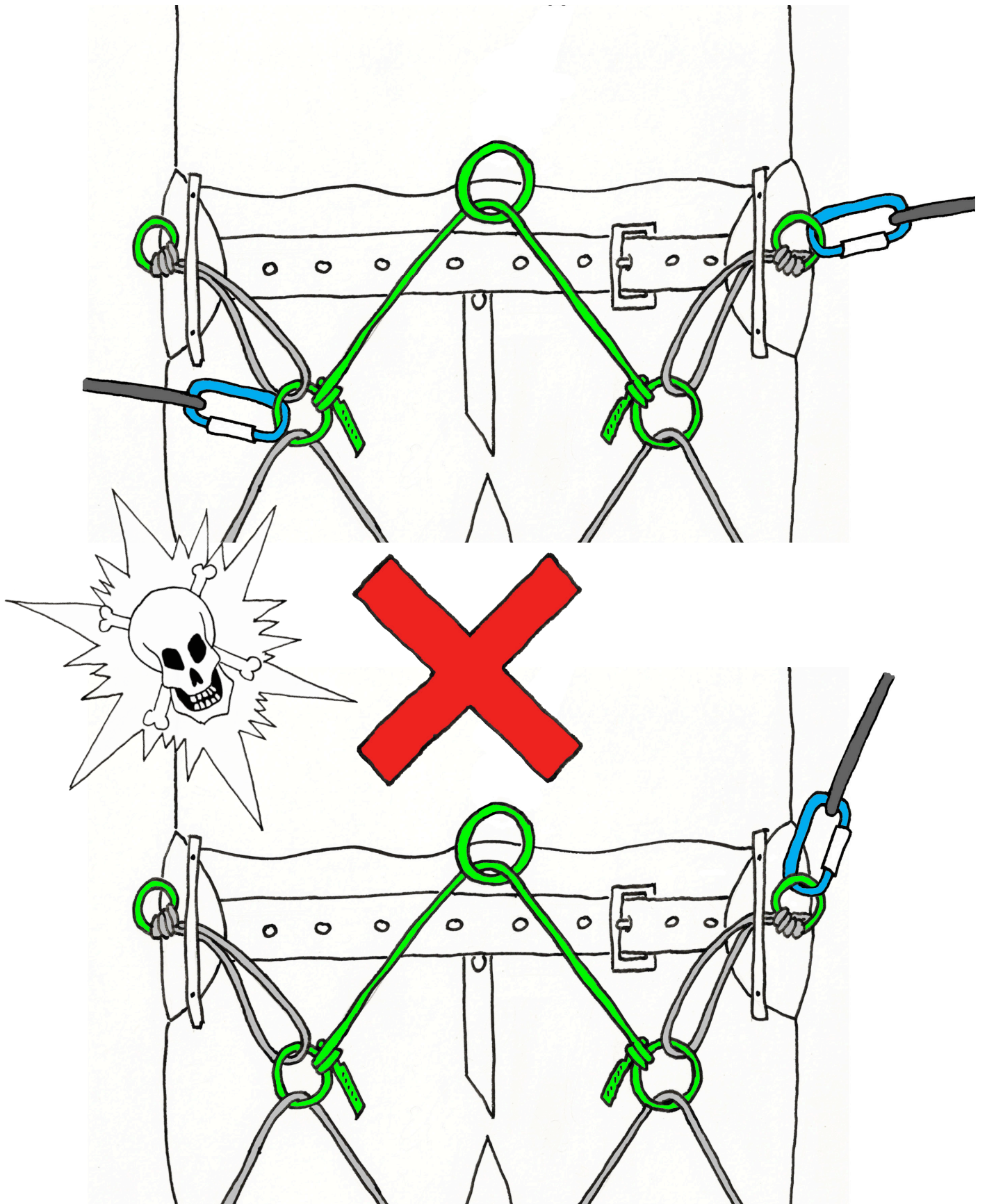
Work Positioning Device:

When used as a work positioning device, a lanyard can be connected to BOTH *Forward Positioning Rings* or BOTH *Upper Positioning Rings*.

⚠ Warning

DO NOT connect to only one ring, or one *Forward Positioning Ring* and one *Upper Positioning Ring*. You must connect from one side to the other at the same level on the harness.





5 Care and Additional Info

If necessary, the Matt Cornell Rope Saddle (MCRS) can be washed in cold water. Do not use soap on the harness. Do not wash the leather pad. Use a product such as Obenauf's Heavy-Leather Preservative on the leather pad.

Store the MCRS in a cool dry place away from UV light.

If any part of the ropes on the MCRS, including the *Bridge*, are cut, abraded, or damaged, replace the ropes immediately. **Use only official Matt Cornell Rope Saddle Rebuild Kits and Matt Cornell Rope Saddle Replacement Bridges available from MCRS Retailers.**

If any part of the harness padding shows structural damage, retire the MCRS immediately.

If the ropes, including the *Bridge*, have been in use for more than two years, replace the ropes immediately. **Use only official Matt Cornell Rope Saddle Rebuild Kits and Matt Cornell Rope Saddle Replacement Bridges available from MCRS Retailers.**

If the padding has been in use for more than twenty years, retire the MCRS immediately.

Markings:

Verify that your harness is an official Matt Cornell Rope Saddle by checking for the Matt Cornell Rope Saddle Logo on the rear of the saddle.

Additional Information:

- Always have a rescue plan in place in case of any difficulties encountered while climbing
- Climbers must be physically and medically fit for climbing
- When using multiple pieces of equipment together, a failure in one piece of equipment can compromise the safety of other equipment
- When using multiple pieces of equipment, instructions and warnings for each piece of equipment must be followed

6 Rebuilding the MCRS

The ability to rebuild the Matt Cornell Rope Saddle (MCRS) makes it unique among tree climbing harnesses. The MCRS should be rebuilt with new ropes every two years, or if there is any wear or damage to the ropes.

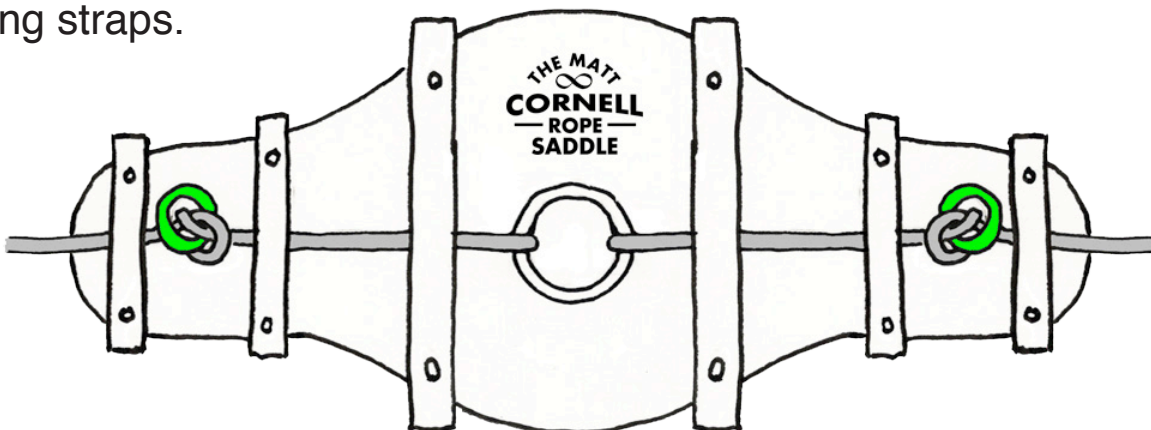
To rebuild the MCRS, use only a Matt Cornell Rope Saddle Rebuild Kit and Matt Cornell Rope Saddle Replacement Bridge from an official MCRS retailer. **Do not re-use any ropes or rings to rebuild the MCRS.** The Matt Cornell Rope Saddle Rebuild Kit includes all ropes and rings necessary to rebuild the harness. This includes:

- (1) *Central Rear Ring* with two spliced eye ropes
- (2) *Rear Leg Loop Ring* with one spliced eye rope
- (4) *GREEN Positioning Rings*
- (1) *GREEN Bridge rope* with two sewn ends
- (1) *GREEN Bridge Ring*
- (1) *RED Rear Riser*

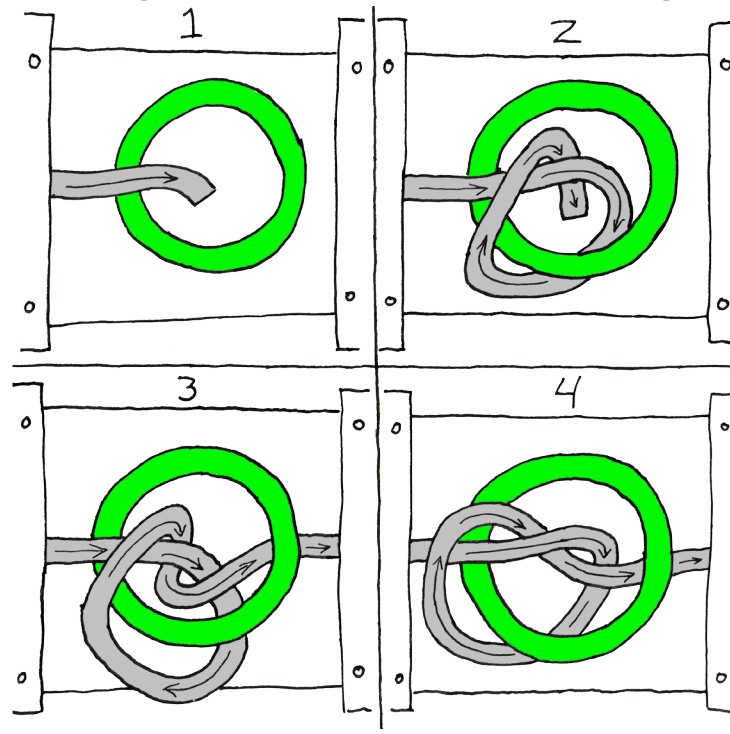
NOTE: To assure a proper fit, make the final adjustments to the harness while wearing it. Enlist a friend to help adjust the ropes and tie the anchor bend on the *Central Rear Ring*. SEE SECTION 3, Adjustment.

Begin with the three sections of the MCRS padding - *Waist Belt* and two *Leg Loops* - without any rope attached.

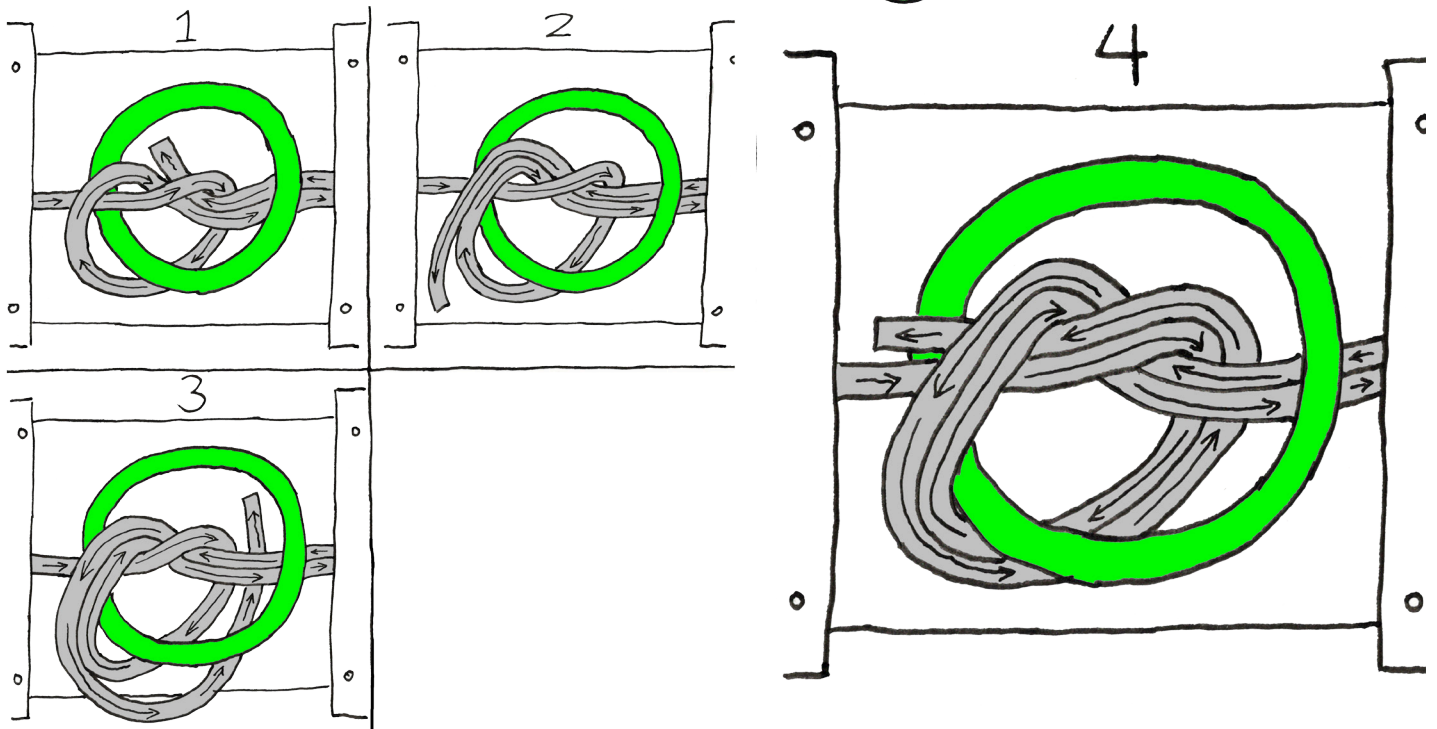
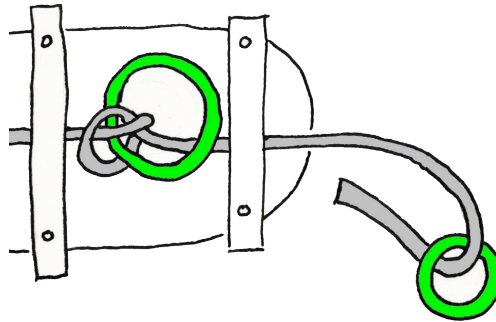
Place the *Central Rear Ring* with two ropes spliced onto it in the center of the *Waist Belt*. Thread each rope under two webbing straps, then tie an *Upper Position Ring* on each rope. Thread the ropes under the outer-most webbing straps.



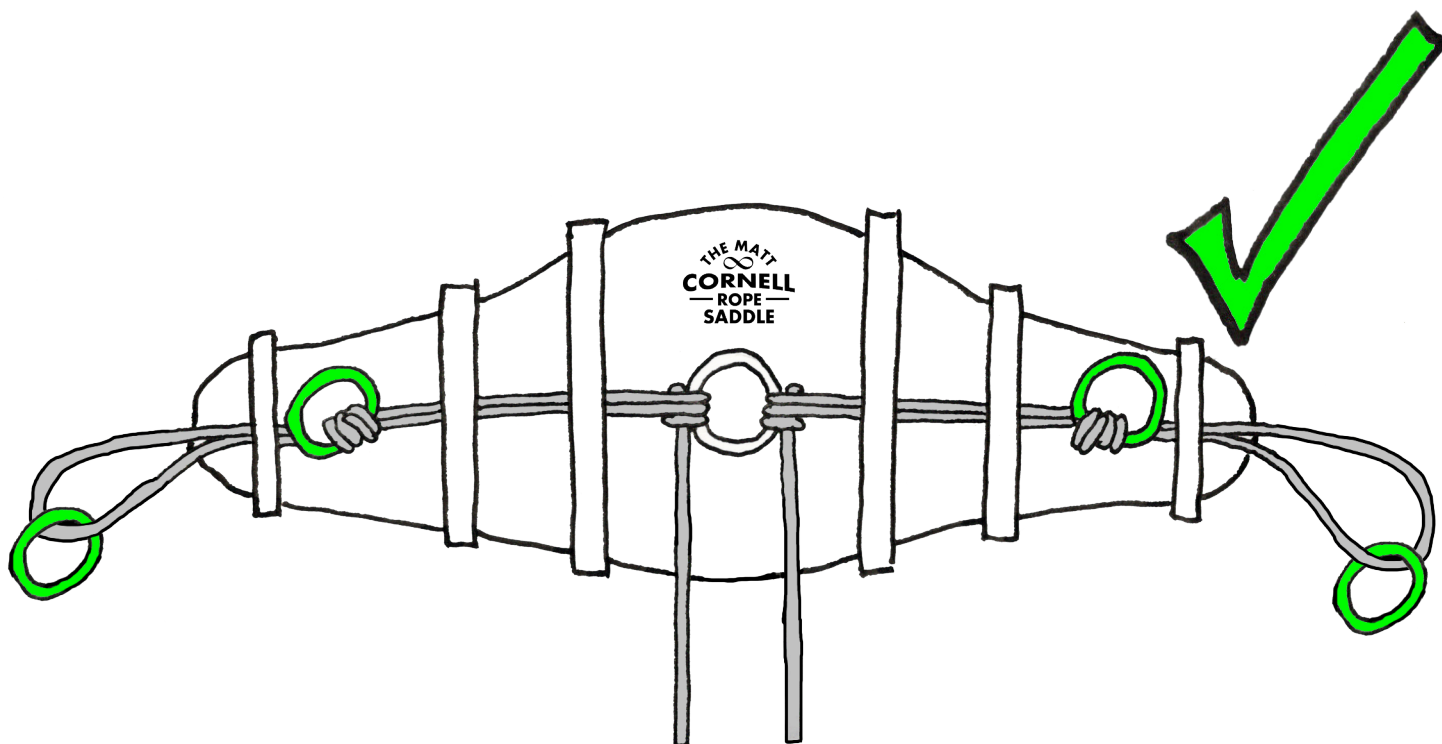
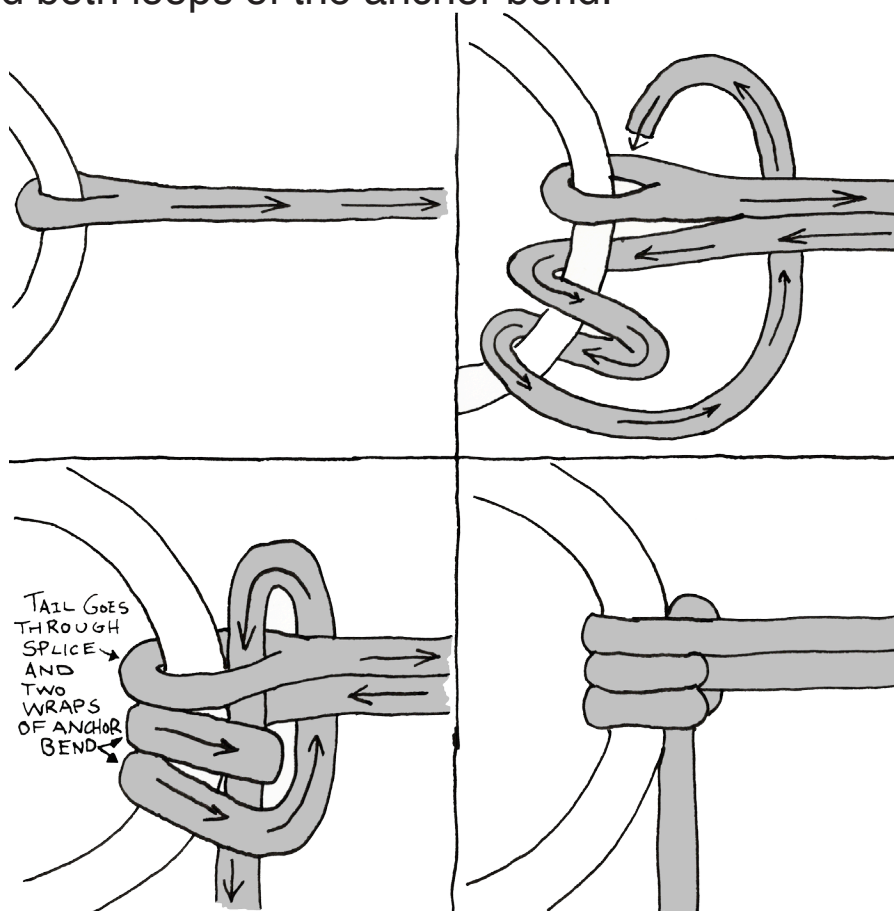
Attaching the *Upper Positioning Ring*



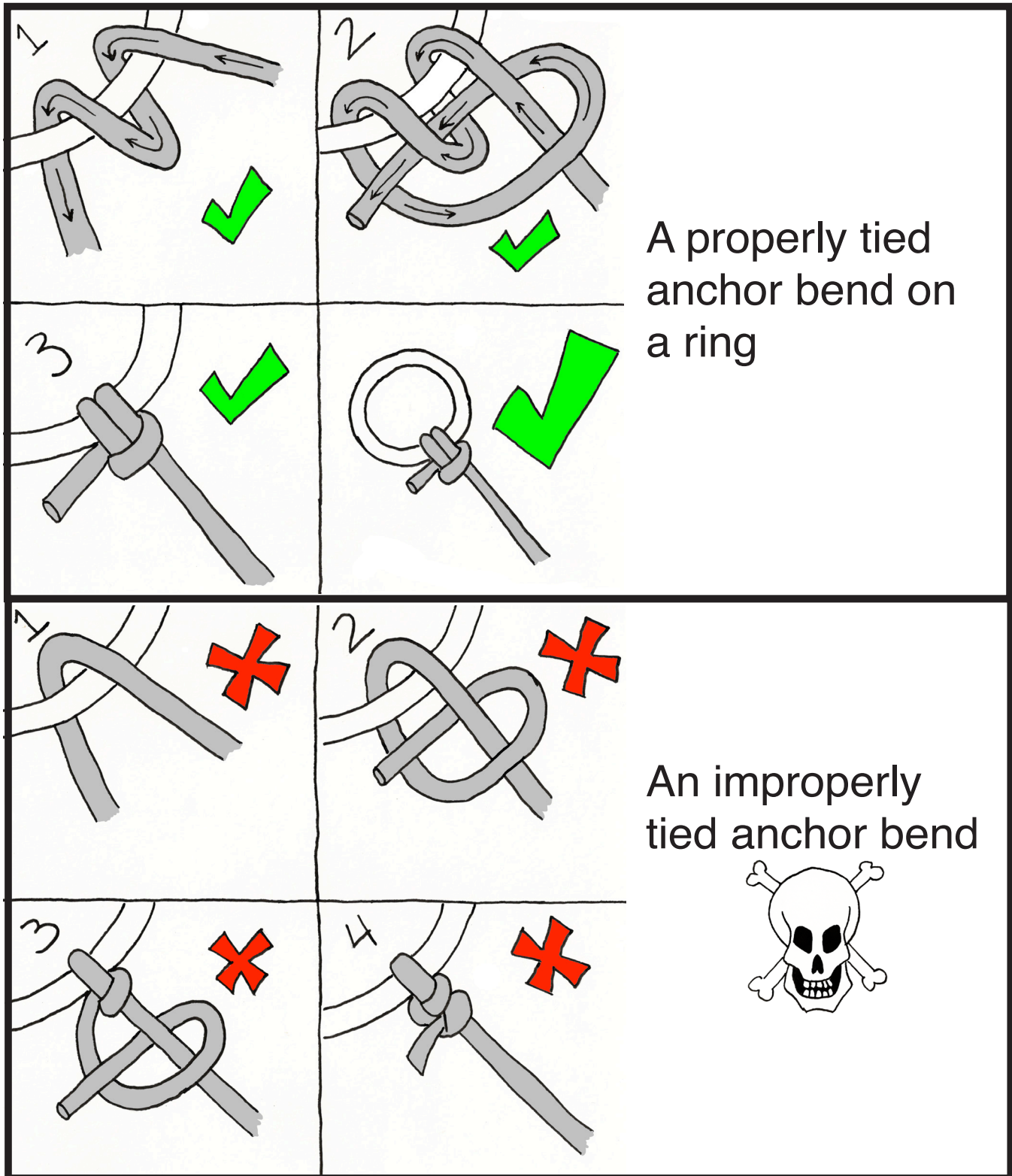
Run the rope through the *Forward Positioning Rings*, back through the last webbing strap, and complete the knot around the *Upper Positioning Rings*.



Thread the rope back through the inside two webbing loops on each side, then tie an anchor bend on the Central Rear Ring, passing the tail through the splice and both loops of the anchor bend.

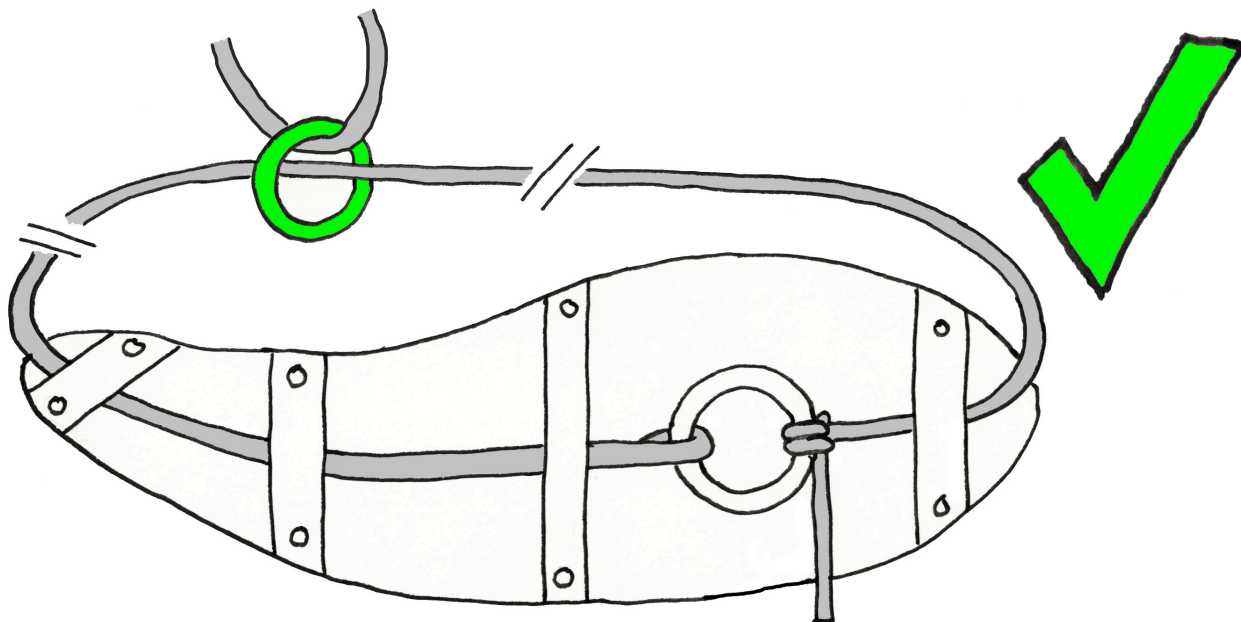


Next, place one of the *Rear Leg Loop Rings* on the widest part of the *Leg Loop*, between the third and fourth webbing loop. Thread the rope under the third, second, and first (the smallest) webbing loops, through one of the *Forward Positioning Rings*, and then through the last webbing loop. Attach the rope to the *Rear Leg Loop Ring* with an anchor bend.

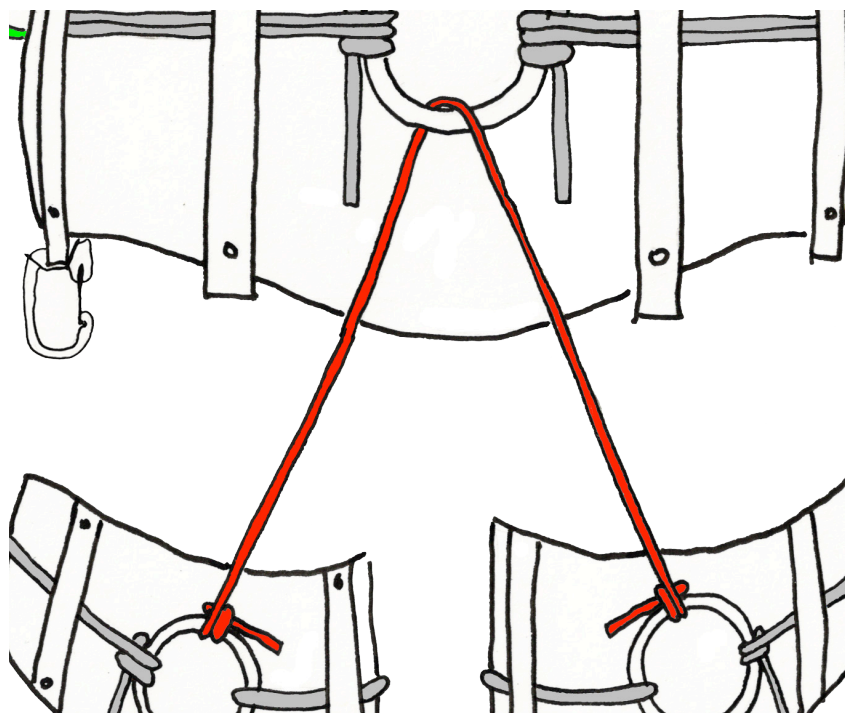


Note: The thinnest part of the *Leg Loops* should lay on the inside of the leg when the harness is configured. Make sure there are no twists or tangles in the ropes connected to the *Forward Positioning Rings*.

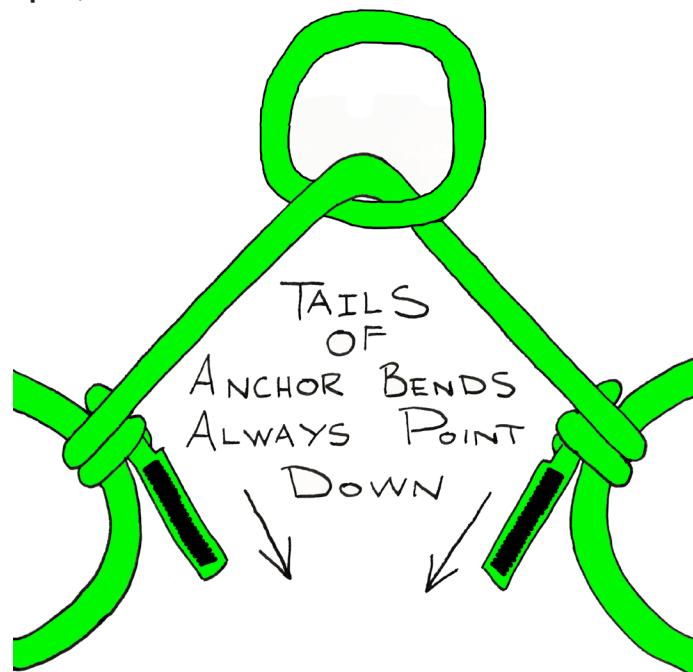
Mirror this process on the second *Leg Loop*.



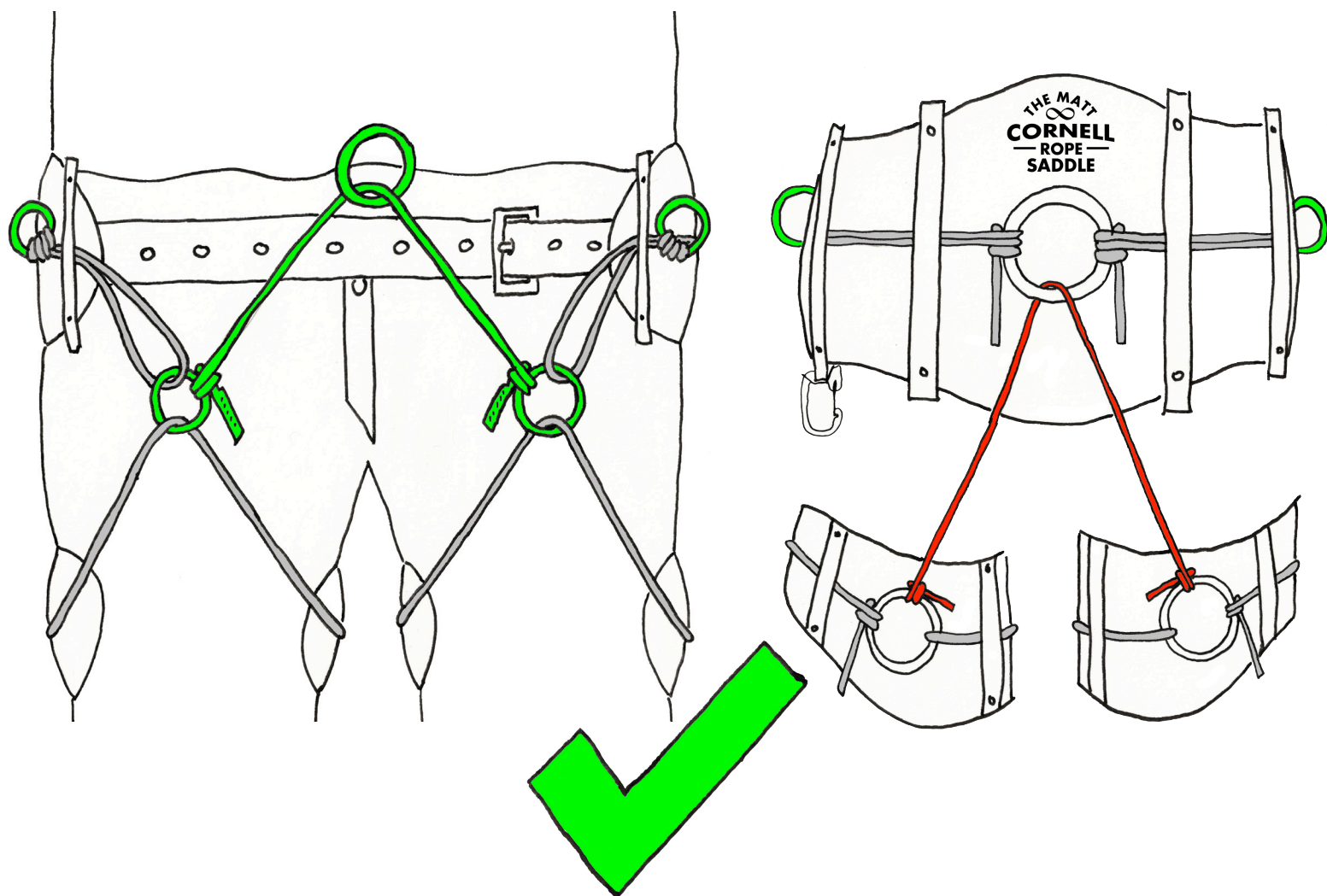
Attach the *Leg Loops* to the *Waist Belt* with the RED *Rear Riser*. Tie an anchor bend on one *Rear Leg Loop Ring*, run the cord through the *Central Rear Ring*, then tie an anchor bend on the second *Rear Leg Loop Ring*.



Using the *Bridge* rope, tie an anchor bend on each *Forward Positioning Ring*.



After the Matt Cornell Rope Saddle has been rebuilt and all knots, ropes, rings, and pads have been checked, see Section 3, Adjustment.



7 Warranty

The Matt Cornell Rope Saddle is guaranteed for 2 years for all manufacturing and material defects. Exceptions include:

- Modifications or alterations
- Improper configuration
- Incorrect use
- Incorrect storage
- Negligence

This warranty is for the original purchaser only, and is not transferrable.

Proof of purchase and current inspection log is required for all warranty claims.

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For any inquiries regarding the Matt Cornell Rope Saddle, contact:

TreeStuff.com
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info@treestuff.com