

Cinch FAQ's

NOTE: Please read the new [instructions](#) and watch the video demonstration

Q: Is the Cinch an Autolocking Belay Device?

A: No. We prefer the term, "Locking Assist". In most situations, the Cinch provides a fairly positive lock-off but you should never take your hand off of the brake end of the rope or fail to adhere to proper belay procedures.

Q: Is it a good idea to have beginners belay me with a Cinch?

A: No. It takes just as much, or more, skill to belay with a Cinch as it does with a traditional belay device like the Pyramid. In the hands on an inexperienced or inattentive belayer, the Cinch, as with any belay device, can be deadly.

Q: Will the Cinch always lock up?

A: No. Just as with any device, you can, and will drop your climber if you don't pay attention or if you use it incorrectly.

Q: The instructions and the marking on the Cinch says that it is rated for UIAA/CE certified single ropes but it seems to lock off just fine on my 8.4mm rope half ropes. Why can't I use it to belay with this rope?

A: Your 8.4mm rope (Or any rope less than 8.9mm as of this writing on 02/06) is not rated by either the CE or the UIAA for single rope use. Do not use the Cinch with any rope that is not rated as a single rope by the CE or UIAA.

Q: Why do you say that the Cinch can be use with any UIAA/CE single rope but my Cinch is marked 9.4 – 11mm? Can I use it with my 9mm single rope?

A: We say 9.4 to 11mm because that is the sweet spot for rope handling and lowering. The Cinch will lock off well on the 8.9 and 9mm single ropes but the release and lowering function get difficult and abrupt.

Q: Can I use the Cinch with my static ropes?

A: We don't recommend the use of the Cinch with static ropes. It does not release and lower consistently and this use has been known to damage the release lever.

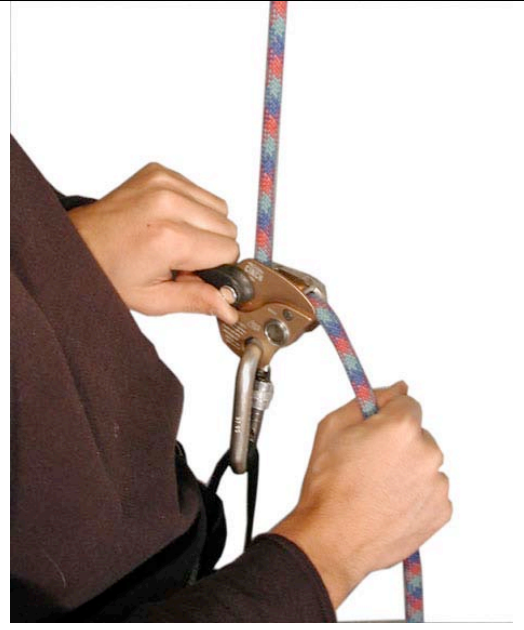
Q: The Cinch looks like it would be awesome for rope soloing. Can I use it for that?

A: We can not, under any circumstances, recommend the Cinch for soloing, either TR or lead. We've done an enormous amount of testing on it, all to get it dialed for belaying and lowering rock climbers. We haven't spent one second testing it for soloing. So, if you do try it, AMFYOYO. Here's the way my lawyer wants me to say the same thing... The Cinch is not designed or approved for solo or self belaying under any circumstances. Using the Cinch in this manner can result in death and/or serious injury. Other uses for the Cinch have not been tested and are not approved uses. The Cinch was not designed as a self belay device and such improper use is potentially fatal. The Cinch is designed, sold, and approved for use only as

illustrated in the pamphlet that the Cinch is sold with. Use of the Cinch in any manner not illustrated in that pamphlet can result in death and/or serious injury. The user is responsible for learning the correct way to operate the Cinch and operating the Cinch correctly. The user is responsible for any and all death, injury and/or risks arising out of his or her use of the Cinch. If you do not accept this responsibility, do not use the Cinch. THE MANUFACTURER AND RESELLERS OF THE CINCH EXPLICITLY DISCLAIM ANY AND ALL RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY FOR ANY DEATH, INJURY OR DAMAGE TO ANY PERSON OR PROPERTY THAT MAY OCCUR THAT IS RELATED TO THE USE OF THIS PRODUCT.

Q: Why is it sometimes hard to release the Cinch?

A: Be sure to read, understand and follow the [instructions](#) for lowering with the Cinch. If you just crank back the lever it may be hard to release and may damage the lever. Using the thumb on the pivot, as shown in the photo on the right. The Cinch is not designed to use on UIAA Double or Twin ropes. See the above Q&A. While it may feel like it locks off adequately on these smaller ropes, it may be extremely difficult to release and place the user in a dangerous situation.



Q: Why does this thing feed so smoothly?

A: It feeds smoothly because the rope runs in a straight path through the device. It doesn't have to bend around an axle or carabiner.

Q: So how does it catch a fall?

A: The rope moving through the opening will cause the lever plate (the silver colored plate) to rotate and stop the rope from sliding through.

Q: Is there a wrong way to hold it?

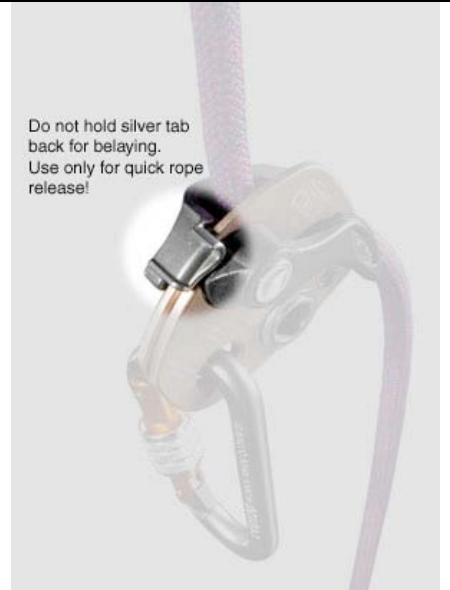
A: You bet. The best way to hold the Cinch while belaying is to pinch the pivot points between your thumb and index finger while grasping the rope with your other three fingers. This is shown clearly in the photo at right. This leaves those three fingers acting as your “brake” hand. Holding the Cinch in any other way may prevent it from working properly. Do not feed rope by holding back the silver tab on the top of the Cinch. See picture with next question. Doing so may prevent the Cinch from working properly.



Correct technique for holding the Cinch. Use the left hand to feed rope. Note: hands can be switched.

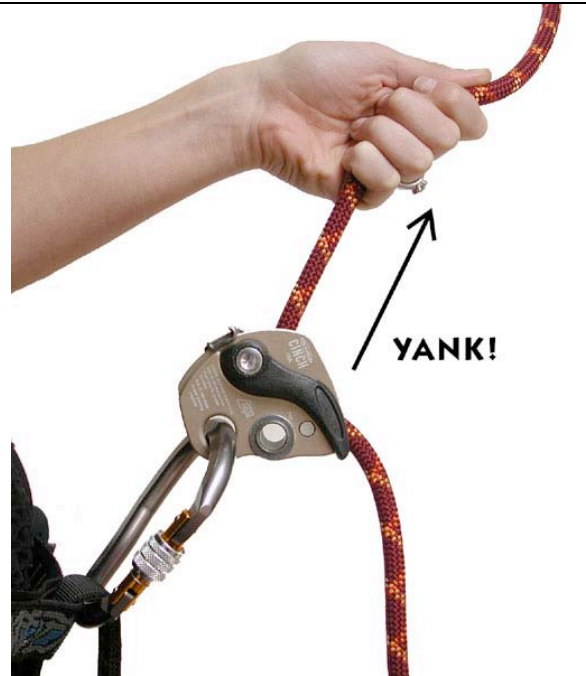
Q: The Cinch just locked up while I was feeding out rope for a clip and I ended up short-roping the leader. Do I have to pull the release lever to feed rope again?

A: No. If there is only slight tension on the lead rope, you can pull back on the small silver tab with your thumb to release some rope quickly. As soon as enough rope is fed out, revert to the regular hand position for belaying. Do not use this silver tab to hold the Cinch open while belaying.



Q: Is there a procedure you recommend for determining if the Cinch is rigged properly before I start belaying or rappelling?

A: Absolutely. After you have placed the rope into the Cinch and attached it to your harness with a locking carabiner, **YANK** the rope that goes to the climber or anchors. If it locks up, the Cinch is rigged correctly. If the rope slips, start over but lay the rope in the Cinch the other way. Don't forget to **YANK** again.



Q: It's kind of tough to lower a heavy climber or rappel with the Cinch. What is the best way to do this?

A: The best way that we have found is to place your thumb below the pivot point and then pull down on the lever with your hands or fingers. Push with your thumb while you pull down with your fingers to "pry" the lever back. Redirect the brake end of the rope through a carabiner clipped to your leg loop for the smoothest lowering and best control.

