BUCKINGHAM MFG.

** IMPORTANT INFORMATION **

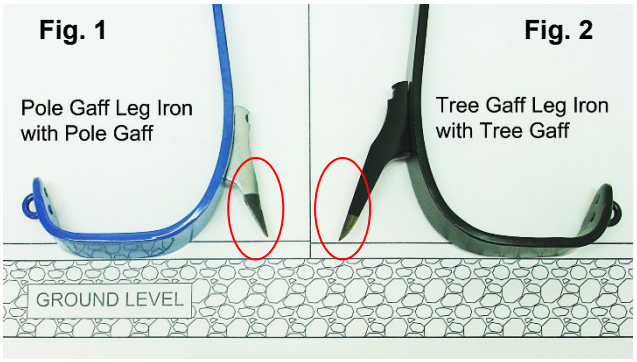
CLIMBERS (Aluminum / Steel / Titanium)

Warning: Do not use this product if you cannot understand and follow the instructions and warnings that come with it and complete all necessary functions.

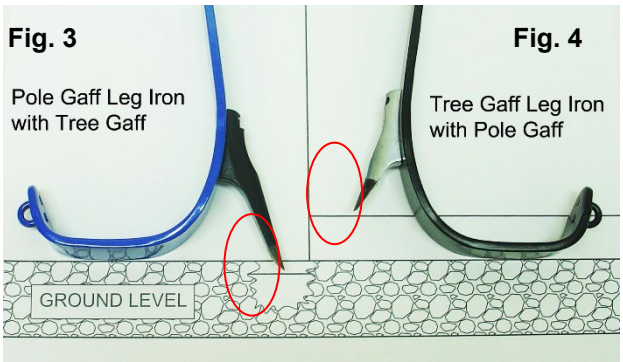
READ CAREFULLY

- Buckingham climbers are not intended for, and not to be used by, individuals not properly trained. Use by such persons could cause a fall and result in serious injury or death.
- This product is designed to be used by a person with a maximum weight of 350 lbs. when fully equipped.
- Proper fit of the climber requires that the leg iron, with pad attached, extend from the instep to a range of 2”-4” (approximately four fingers) below the bottom of the inside projection of the knee joint. Slight adjustment up or down may be needed based on your particular climbing style to reach a maximum level of comfort.
- Buckingham climbers are manufactured in accordance to the ASTM F887 standard.
- Climbers are designed and intended to be used for ascending, descending, and maintaining the working position on poles or trees. Kicking or jamming gaffs into a pole or tree should be avoided. When descending, do not take long steps, jump or try to coast or slide, as this could shorten product use life or may cause the climber to break which may result in a fall leading to serious injury or death.
- Buckingham recommends completing the plane and pole cut out test defined by the ASTM F887 standard when climbers are first received, and whenever gaffs have been maintained. Also as stated in OSHA 1910.268 (g)(2)(iii) a gaff cut-out test shall be performed at least weekly when in use.
- The point of the gaff should function as a chisel, cutting its way into the pole or tree. It should not have to be driven like a spike or needle. Spike or needle pointed gaffs, due to the reduction in cross-sectional area, may break or cause you to cut-out and may result in a fall and cause serious injury or death.
- Pole climbers have relatively short gaffs (approx. 1-1/2 inches). Tree climbers have relatively long gaffs (approx. 3-1/2 inches for permanent gaff type, approx. 2-1/2 inches for replaceable gaff type) so they can penetrate tree bark and reach solid trunk wood. Buckingham’s Hybrid Tree Gaffs (approx. 2-5/16 inches) for thick or thin bark trees.
- Gaff lengths when measured on the underside must not be less than 1-1/4" for pole gaffs (OSHA 1910.268(g)(2)(i) or 2 1/4" for tree gaffs.
- Buckingham Mfg. understands that under certain circumstances, pole gaffs are used to climb trees. These circumstances should be limited to climbing thin bark hardwoods such as Maple, Beech, Dead wood, or while working near the top of a tree where the bark has a tendency to be thinner. Only replaceable pole gaffs should be used on trees as they have a slightly longer length and greater projection from the climber shank than the permanent pole gaff. Use extreme caution while using replaceable pole gaffs on trees. As an alternative Buckingham has developed a Hybrid Tree Gaff. The hybrid gaff gives the user the convenience of keeping one gaff on the climber at all times whether you are climbing a tree with thick bark or thin bark.
- The gaff attachment location of the leg iron is dependent on whether a pole or tree climber as shown in Fig. 1 & 2. If you have a Pole Gaff Leg Iron and replace the Pole Gaff with a Tree Gaff, the tip of gaff will be below the stirrup as shown in Fig. 3. If you have a Tree Gaff Leg Iron and replace the Tree Gaff with a Pole Gaff, the tip of gaff will be slightly higher than that of a standard Pole Gaff Leg Iron as shown in Fig. 4. By using the Hybrid Tree Gaff users no longer need to worry about teetering on a gaff that’s too long, or cutting out on a gaff that’s too short as illustrated in with the conditions below as the tip does not sit below the bottom of the stirrup.

STANDARD GAFF POSITIONS



INTERCHANGED GAFF POSITIONS



- Wear high quality climbing boots which are specifically designed for climbing application.
- Adjust climber straps securely for optimum fit around your feet and legs. Straps should be snug but never so tight as to restrict circulation.
- When climbers are not in use, place gaff guards over the gaff points to protect equipment and the handler (OSHA 1910.268(g)(2)(i).
- Store climbers separately from other climbing equipment.
- This equipment should be a personal issue to the employee using it.
- Please consult with your physician prior to using this product. Do not use this product under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

- Keep climber sets together. Fasten them together when they are stored or transported. Never climb with a mix matched set of climbers.
- Carry the climbers to the base of the pole or tree. Remove the gaff guards from the climbers and place them near the base of the pole or tree for attachment. After dismounting, immediately remove your climbers and place gaff guards over the gaffs. To minimize the danger of personal injury and / or damage to the equipment, never walk around while wearing climbers.
- Pole climbers may not be worn when working on ladders, in aerial lifts, while driving a vehicle or walking on rocky, hard, frozen, brushy or hilly terrain (OSHA 1910.268(g)(2)(iv).
- Do not repaint climbers. Paint can hide defects that can cause premature failure.
- The care, inspection, and proper use of safety equipment is the responsibility of you, the user, therefore:
  - Take proper care of your equipment at all times.
  - Use equipment for its intended purpose only.
  - Properly dispose of equipment unsafe for use.
- Fall protection equipment, (i.e. fall arrest, work positioning belts, climbers, retrieval, suspension etc.) should not be resold or provided to others for re-use after use by original user, as assurance cannot be granted that a used product meets criteria of applicable standards and is safe for use to a subsequent user.
- Ensure proper fit / size of product before use. This product cannot be returned unless it is in new / unused condition. Unauthorized modifications to the climbers such as but not limited to drilling, bending, twisting, etching, or scribing may reduce climber strength causing fracture or breakage. Therefore, product that has been modified or altered by customer misuse cannot be returned.

CLIMBERS WITH DOWEL & SCREW ATTACHMENT GAFFS (MANUFACTURE DATE OF 01/11 AND AFTER):

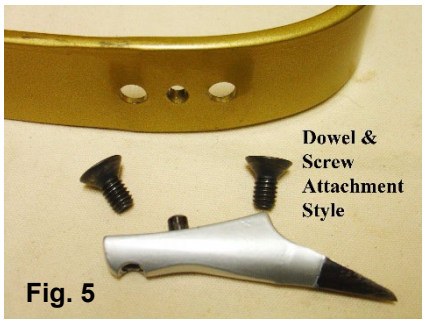


Fig. 5

Dowel & screw attachment style (Fig. 5) consists of three circular holes in the leg iron. The top and bottom holes are used for the gaff attachment screws and the center hole for the gaff dowel. This style is supplied with two 5/16”-18 x 5/8" long gaff attachment screws for steel and titanium climbers and 5/16"-18 x 7/8" long gaff attachment screws for aluminum climbers. Gaff screws for steel & titanium versus aluminum climbers are not interchangeable.
Note: Ensure the Gaff dowel is securely seated in gaff prior to attaching to leg iron.
Hand tighten the bottom gaff screw (nearest the gaff tip). Repeat hand tightening on the top gaff screw. Tighten using a 3/16” Allen wrench (with maximum torque to achieve complete and maximum tightness, this method can yield Buckingham’s 235 inch pound tightening recommendation for these screws). Note: use of a longer wrench can yield results exceeding the 235 inch pound recommendation and result in stripping and / or fracture of the screw head. Visually inspect to ensure screw heads are flush with the inside surface of the climber leg iron. Gaff attachment screws should be replaced after the first time removed, but if re-using, apply a low to medium strength thread sealant (Loctite® or equivalent) to prevent the screws from loosening. Screws may not be removable if a permanent type of thread sealant is used.

If you require additional instructions or should questions arise concerning the proper use or condition of your equipment, contact Buckingham Manufacturing Co. at 1-800-937-2825.

INSPECTION:

Leg irons and gaffs must be inspected, maintained, and replaced by the user at regular intervals. This interval should be dictated by the amount of use the product receives rather than a set time frame. Therefore, Buckingham does not place a time limit on these operations. Due to the rigorous strain leg irons and gaffs endure, inspection is extremely important.

Climbers (pole and tree and hybrid tree) must have properly shaped gaffs. Never file the gaff to a needlepoint. When necessary to shape the gaff, it should be filed lengthwise on the flat underside. Crosswise file marks on a gaff cause stress risers, weaken the steel, and may result in a broken gaff. Never file on the beehive (rounded) side of a gaff, this will result in a mis-shaped gaff. Use a honing stone to repair minimal damage to the gaff (gaffs are nicked or damaged from contact with nails or pole hardware).

An improperly shaped gaff can cause cut-out, a fall, and serious injury or death. Use Buckingham gaff gauges as follows:

- P/N 6303 for all pole climbers with standard and CCA Gaffs.
- P/N 6306 for all climbers with tree gaffs and hybrid tree gaffs.

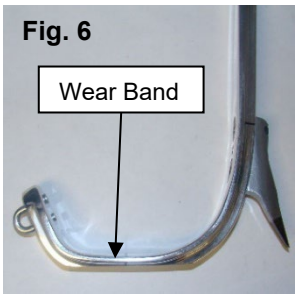
Complete gaff maintenance kits are also available (P/N 6025 for standard pole and CCA gaffs. P/N 6026 for tree gaffs and hybrid tree gaffs).
Note: Buckingham gaffs from the tip to approximately 1” up the gaff are coated with a rust inhibitor, as opposed to powder coating used on the remainder of the gaff, to aid in gaff penetration and proper gauging. The gaff gauge is recommended for use to check the gaff anytime other damage and / or excessive wear is suspected.

Climbers should be checked for but not be limited to the following before each use:

- Gaffs are not loose, cracked, or broken.
- Leg irons are not cracked, damaged and/or exhibit burn marks.
- Gaffs are properly attached to the climber leg iron using appropriate hardware.
- Gaff dowel is in place and properly seated in leg iron.
- Both gaff attachment screws are in place and are properly tightened.
- Climber straps are properly attached, are in good condition and as a minimum, do not have cuts, kinks, abrasions, burns, excessive swelling, excessive wear, discoloration, charring, broken fibers, loose stitching, elongated holes, loose or damaged buckles or rivets or chemical or physical exposures, etc.
- Climber pads are properly attached and in good condition, have no broken stitching, rivets, or loops. If equipped with hook and loop style pads ensure that the hook and loop is not worn or excessively dirty and that it properly adheres to itself.

- Sleeves are properly attached to the climber leg iron with the two barrel nuts and fasteners provided with the climber, are not cracked, or have broken or bent strap loops.
- Sleeves are adjusted for proper climber fit and are secured to the climber leg iron.
- Gaff length, width, thickness, point profile, and sharpness of cutting edges should be inspected with appropriate gauges which are available from Buckingham.
- Leg iron stirrup width & thickness for steel & titanium should be inspected using the appropriate 6303 gauge. For aluminum, if the stirrup section is worn so severe that the worn surface reaches the wear band (see Fig 6), these climbers must be destroyed and replaced with new.
- Climber split ring loop is not worn more than 1/2 of the way through the diameter (approximately .094"). Buckingham has become aware that in extreme cases the harder split ring may gradually wear into the softer split ring loop. Buckingham has performed testing and determined that with the wear limits given above, the split ring will fail well before the split ring loop. Therefore, any climber with a split ring loop worn more than 1/2 of the way through must be removed from service, discarded and replaced. It is normal for aluminum climbers to show some wear in the toe section due to abrasion caused by the harder material of the climber split ring. In this case, excessive wear that requires removal from service can be indicated by deep grooves worn to approximately 1/3 of the climber thickness.

As a general rule, assuming all inspection criteria is met, Buckingham recommends that all replaceable gaff climbers be replaced when the original gaff and one replacement set of gaffs have been worn out from normal use.
Leg irons should be replaced, and gaffs should be maintained or replaced at the earliest signs of wear.



If any evidence of excessive wear or deterioration as outlined is observed, immediately cease use, destroy the product, and replace it with new equipment. Should any unusual conditions not outlined above be observed, or you have reasonable doubt about a particular condition, remove the equipment from service and notify your Supervisor, Safety Director, or contact Buckingham Mfg. (1-800-937-2825) for clarification.

Failure to carefully and completely inspect your equipment could result in serious injury or death.

CLIMBER SLEEVE ATTACHMENT:

Attach the sleeve to the leg iron with the sleeve loop on the same side as the gaff (loop facing away from the wearer's leg) using the fasteners enclosed. Two fasteners (screws and barrel nuts) must be used to secure each sleeve to each leg iron. Insert barrel nuts from inside of leg iron and the screws from the outside (see Fig. 7). Tighten sleeve screw fasteners until snug, do not over tighten.
Note: screws with a thread locking patch have diminished resistance to loosening after the first three removals. It is recommended to replace the sleeve fasteners after they have been inserted and removed three times.

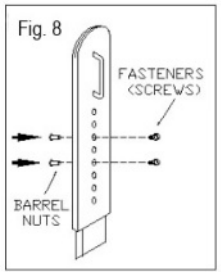


Fig. 7

CLIMBER PADS:

Buckingham climbers are sold with and without various styles of climber pads. See appropriate climber pad instructions for climbers supplied without attached climber pads.

Notes: Leg iron and pads are marked 'L' and 'R'. Ensure you attach the left side pad to left side leg iron and right side pad to right side leg iron.

Adjust the overall length of the climber with pad by sliding the adjustable climber sleeve to the desired position on the climber shank. Buckingham recommends the top of the climber pad be adjusted to a range of 2"-4" (approximately four fingers) below your projecting knee bone. Slight adjustment up or down may be needed based on your particular climbing style to reach a maximum level of comfort.

FOOTSTRAPS:

Buckingham climbers are sold with and without various style footstraps attached to the climber. See appropriate climber footstrap instructions for climbers supplied without attached footstraps.

WARNINGS:

- Completely read, understand, and follow all instructions, warnings, and guidelines pertaining to this and all associated equipment before use. Failure to do so could result in your serious injury or death.
- Buckingham climbers are not intended for, and not to be used by, individuals not properly trained. Use by such persons could cause a fall and result in serious injury or death.
- Only Buckingham Mfg. Co. or those people authorized in writing by Buckingham Mfg. Co. may make additions, alterations, modifications or repairs to this equipment.
- Buckingham Mfg. Co. prohibits the use of aftermarket components such as, but not limited to rope ascenders, replacement screws, etc. being used with Buckingham climbers.
- Buckingham climbers must not be drilled, tapped, riveted, bonded, welded or have any other means of attachment performed to or on the climber under any circumstance. Such modifications or use of aftermarket components shall void any and all warranties. Buckingham Mfg. Co. shall be held harmless for any injuries or deaths that may result from the use of such modified climbers or aftermarket components.
- Do not bend, etch, or scribe any component of the climber.
- Field modifications to the climbers, such as but not limited to, bending or twisting may reduce climber strength causing premature fracture or breakage. Therefore, any climber that has been permanently deformed must not be re-straightened, but immediately removed from service.
- Marking from etching or scribing could cause the climber to break at the marked point. If this condition exists immediately remove climber from service.

- Remove from service, discard and replace any climber with excessive wear in the split ring loop. Excessive wear is indicated by being worn more than 1/2 of the way through the diameter (approximately .094").
- Remove from service, discard and replace any climber with excessive wear in the toe section. Excessive wear is indicated by deep grooves worn to approximately 1/3 of the climber thickness.
- Climber accessories must be in good condition. Material shall be kept clean and leather shall be properly oiled. Climbing equipment that shows signs of excessive wear, or cracking of components, should be immediately discarded.
- Sleeves must be properly attached to the climber leg iron using appropriate hardware (screw fastener and barrel nut) and two points of attachment. Tighten sleeve screw fasteners until snug. Do not over tighten, torque to 25 inch pounds maximum.
- No equipment lasts forever. Therefore, should you have any doubt about the safety of your equipment, replace it.
- Remove any climber from service that has come into contact with an electrical arc.
- Do not use aluminum alloy climbers with climbing boots that have a steel heel guard. The heel guard wears deeply into the stirrup of the climber and will require premature replacement of the leg irons

CLEANING, STORAGE & MAINTENANCE

Proper cleaning storage and maintenance of your equipment will prolong its useful life and contribute toward its performance. Cleaning, storage and maintenance of equipment shall be conducted by the user's organization in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A dirty product should be washed with water and mild soap (a dish washing soap that removes grease such as Dawn) and rinsed in clean water, then allowed to dry thoroughly without using excessive heat.

Equipment must be stored and transported in a manner that protects it from exposure and conditions that could result in damage. Store and transport in a clean and dry environment out of direct sunlight and away from extreme climate conditions and so that the equipment does not come into contact with, but not limited to, corrosive elements, solvents, oil, chemical agents or their vapors, fumes, moisture, or other degrading elements. Always store climbers with gaff guards properly attached to prevent damage and injury. If gaffs require reshaping use the appropriate gaff maintenance kit and follow the included instructions. Use PN 6025 gaff maintenance kit for pole gaffs and PN 6026 for tree gaffs.

Patented, for more information, visit BuckinghamMFG.com/Patents.

STATEMENT of OBSOLESCENCE:

Precise "useful life expectancy" or "shelf life" for this product is not specified, as the degree of use, conditions of use, and the degree of care and storage determines useful life. All users maintain responsibility to select proper equipment for the job, be properly trained in its use, and ensure all personnel support equipment passes inspection before each use. Upon evidence of defects, damage or deterioration, all equipment shall be removed from service immediately and tagged or marked as unusable or destroyed. Additionally, all equipment shall be inspected on a regular basis not to exceed one year by a Competent Person, as defined by OSHA/ANSI, to verify that the equipment is safe for use. In the event of any question or concern regarding the condition of such equipment, users shall remove the equipment from service for further inspection. All users must comply with OSHA/ANSI/ASTM standards prior to and in using such equipment. For more information regarding safe and appropriate use of equipment, please contact Buckingham Manufacturing at 1-800-937-2825.

INTERNATIONAL USERS:

Notwithstanding the above, please know that certain international jurisdictions require manufacturers of equipment to provide customers with a maximum useful lifespan (sometimes referred to as a "Statement of Obsolescence"). To the extent required, Buckingham personal protective equipment manufactured from synthetic fiber materials including but not limited to items such as webbing and/or rope are subject to a maximum useful lifespan of ten (10) years from the date of manufacture. As stated above proper usage, storage, maintenance, and care impacts the useful lifespan of equipment. Extreme circumstances may require that product must be retired after only one use. This statement is made in conformance and compliance with BS EN 365:2004. International users must ensure that product inspections are completed by Competent Persons as defined by international standards including but not limited to British Standard ("BS"). If equipment fails any inspections, it must be immediately withdrawn from service and destroyed. For more information regarding safe and appropriate use of equipment, please contact Buckingham Manufacturing at 1-800-937-2825.

OUR GUARANTEE:

We guarantee the equipment we manufacture to be free from defects in material and workmanship. We will repair any equipment deemed to be defective which is returned to us by the original purchaser. However, this guarantee is void if any product is changed or altered in any way, or if the product is used in a manner other than for which it is intended. This express guarantee supersedes all other expressed or implied guarantees, obligations or liabilities. There are no implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose and as such, all implied warranties are specifically disclaimed.

LIMITATION ON LIABILITY:

In no event will Buckingham or buyer be liable to the other for lost revenues, lost profits or any other indirect, consequential, special or punitive losses or damages, however caused, whether in action for breach of contract, strict liability, tort, or otherwise, even if advised of the possibility of such losses or damages. In no event will Buckingham's liability exceed the total amount paid by the buyer to Buckingham for the product or equipment giving rise to such claim(s).

Please see other terms and conditions relating to this product at https://buckinghammfg.com/terms-conditions/

REGISTRATION:

Before use of the product, ensure to register and confirm the product at www.buckinghammfg.com/register.

BUCKINGHAM MFG.
BINGHAMTON, NY
www.buckinghammfg.com
1-800-937-2825

Information contained in these written instructions supersedes all other information (written, audio, video etc.) produced by Buckingham Mfg. prior to the revision date of this document.