

Petzl announces new GRIGRI® lead belay technique

Petzl announces a new technique for belaying a leader when using its Grigri self-braking belay device. Dissemination of this new technique will be accomplished in three modes: a web video, a poster, and an updated technical notice soon to be delivered with each Grigri belay device.

Petzl has produced a new video which demonstrates the two acceptable lead belay techniques to be used with the Grigri. The video is featured on the Petzl website on the Grigri product page. Please note the exact URL to link to the video:

http://en.petzl.com/petzl/frontoffice/Sport/static/services/GRIGRI/video/grigri_movie_en.htm.

In conjunction with the video, a new technique poster (shown below) has been created for display in climbing gyms, walls, or shops. The poster outlines the new technique while also drawing attention to misuses and incorrect techniques.

In addition, the technical notice supplied with each Grigri belay device will be updated to incorporate the new technique.

If you require additional posters or have any questions or concerns regarding this new technique, please contact Petzl America at (801) 926-1500 or email - info@petzl.com.



actual poster size - 34" x 22"

1 Giving slack as the leader progresses

2 Giving slack quickly for clipping

3 Take up slack and return to position 1

Lowering

OK?

OK GOT YOU!

Lowering

- The leader is ready to be lowered, he calls to the belayer: "OK?"
- The belayer takes up slack.
- Then the belayer weighs the rope, with the brake hand on the braking side of the rope. OK!
- The leader puts his full weight onto the rope.
- The belayer holds the braking side of the rope while gradually pulling on the hands. The hands can assist in braking, but the rate of descent is controlled by varying the grip of the brake hand on the braking side of the rope. It is essential to practice with your rope, using a backup.

The basics

Pay attention!

OK!

NO!

NO!

etc...

The belayer must always hold the braking side of the rope.

OK!

1. Giving slack as the leader progresses

Get into the back of slipping post-tension in this position.

It's the most position for belaying.

To further feeding the rope, focus more on pushing the rope into the device rather than pulling it out (rotating movement).

This position allows you to:

- See or take in slack.
- Check a fall.

Your hands should always stay in this position except when you need to give slack quickly for clipping.

2. Giving slack quickly for clipping

This position must only be used temporarily for giving slack quickly when the leader is clipping.

Block your index finger against the lip on the sideplate, with the thumb pressing against the cam. The brake hand always holds the braking side of the rope.

Do not grip the device with your entire hand.

3. Take up, then give slack

Once the leader has clipped, your right hand must return immediately to position 1 (continuous progression) to take up slack.

Take up slack until the leader reaches the quiodrants.

Then begin giving slack again, with both hands always on the rope.

