

# ZMAG Rescue

## Guidelines for use of ZMAG GROUND PADS®

The *ZMAG Ground Pads*® are designed to replace pieces of conventional cribbing by providing safe and quick stabilization at a motor vehicle accident.

Since all field situations vary, great care should be taken to assure safety. Always be aware of shifting loads and changing conditions. Remember, No tool is the answer to ALL problems.

To place a ground pad in service, place it on firm ground near the vehicle to be stabilized. Set the pivoting box in the upright position and insert a 4 X 4 cribbing of appropriate length in the box.

Choose a 4 X 4 crib long enough to reach between the ground pad and a solid point on the vehicle at approximately a 45 degree angle.



With the 4 x 4 in place as a prop, set the system by giving the back plate of the ground pad a sharp blow with your hand or foot. This will tighten the system enough to allow you the use of both hands to secure the ratchet.

Extend the hook to a solid point on the vehicle. The specially designed hook will fit in most body holes. Try to get the strap low on the vehicle and in line with the 4 x 4.

In a controlled fashion, remove excess slack of webbing by hand and then work the ratchet handle to apply tension to the system. Snug is all that is needed to hold the prop in place. Don't overdo the ratchet to the point of twisting the pad or lifting the vehicle.

**REMEMBER:** Our goal is to stabilize. Not lift or move!!

To release the ratchet, pull up on the lever inside the “D” handle and rotate the handle over center. This will allow the spool to free wheel and release the strap.

#### ANCHOR POINTS:

As mentioned before, the strap hook is designed to fit into most of the holes found on the underside of a car. However there are a few more options. The hook can be engaged in the free floating “D” ring on the strap.



Example: Vehicle on its roof, nose down. Set your ground pads to the rear of the car. Prop to the underside of the bumper, and run the strap through the back window, around the “C” post and hook to the “D” ring.

The ground pads are also equipped with an attachment point known as “The Brighton Link” named after the upstate New York extraction team that discovered its need in competition.

The Brighton Link allows the strap to return to the base plate and give a much straighter pull thus making the entire system more stable and secure.

Many newer cars are too low or have too much plastic flaring making proper stabilization a challenge. Box cribs or step chocks may be ineffective. However a pair of Ground Pads tied together with props to the bumper brackets will easily hand the task.

The link allows the two pads to be tied together to form a large scissors jack type arrangement.





The picture on the left shows how two, three foot 4 x 4's can replace 30 pieces of cribbing on a pick up truck.

#### MAINTENANCE AND CARE:

The *ZMAG Ground Pads*® are made of top quality US made products. They should give years of dependable service with little maintenance.

To prepare the tool for the next use we recommend that you open the spool on the ratchet by pulling up on the release lever inside the D handle and rotate the handle over center.

After each use carefully inspect the strap for signs of abrasion. Clean any excess dirt or grit from the tool, lightly oil the ratchet assembly with a good grade of lubricant. Then firmly grasp the strap on both sides of the ratchet and pull in opposite directions. This will unwind all of the strap on the spool. The strap should now be passing straight through the spindle.

Return the handle to the folded position. Pull all of the strap through the ratchet until the hook is at the spool. Loosely coil the excess strap and store in the space between the pivoting box and back plate.



Stored in this fashion, the tool can be quickly put into service for the next call. Simply set the tool on the ground, pull the strap from the storage area, and extend the hook to the attachment point. Remove all slack by hand before engaging the ratchet.

#### 4 x 4 SELECTION:

An ideal 4 x 4 selection can be made from three (3) eight foot (8') 4 x 4's. Cut one eight footer in half, and cut the remaining two at the three foot mark. The resulting pieces will be:

- 2 pc – 3 foot long
- 2 pc – 4 foot long
- 2 pc – 5 foot long

This suggestion should work for the majority of your needs. Should need longer lengths, ZMAG offers a 4 x 4 coupling that will allow you to make a longer length from two smaller lengths.

We also offer a stand up storage rack to store 4 x 4's in any tall compartment.