Tether and Bridge Length

Peterk1234 · Oct 10, 2018

1 2 Next ›

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Peterk1234

Well-Known Member

Joined: Oct 23, 2017
Messages: 805
Location: Massachusetts

Oct 10, 2018 #1

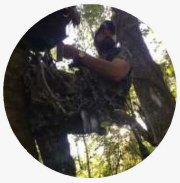
There has been a lot of talk about the subject, most recently on the MANTIS..... WHATS UP TETHRDNATION thread. So I started to think about this quite a bit over the past couple of days and wondering what if anything may I be doing wrong or should do differently. @DaveT1963 mentioned that he was setting near chest height; most others are setting at chin height or so. I also found that a lot of people are using pretty short bridges. Many folks also talk about the longer bridge and tether getting in the way of the bow. It is probably that comment that confuses me the most.

I have a 32 inch bridge and I set my tether above my head (I am six feet tall). So I end up with a pretty long system. I sit and I lean. I use a sitdrag. It is very, very comfortable. Of all the practice shooting I have done this summer, I have never felt that the ropes interfered with my bow. So it got me thinking. Am I hanging out too far? I have played with hanging out even further than I am now, and it definitely played with my accuracy. I would be screwed with out the bubble on my sight, because hanging out definitely imparts some bow lean. I have found it very important to have perfect grip, meaning no pressure being placed on the grip by my fingers; just let that bow rest naturally on that meaty section at the base of my thumb. I think the more upright you can be, the easier it is to place an accurate shot. But I cannot say for certain, because I settled in on a position at this point and have not messed with it (too close to hunting season). Being too upright limits your ability to get around the tree and takes sitting out of the equation.

I like the long tether. It gives me a lot of freedom to move and stay comfortable. I have no hip pinch. And it is a fairly neutral feeling when sitting. I would imagine that a short tether is not conducive to sitting because it would increase the pressure on your knees when against the trees. So, what if anything should I be doing differently, and what is getting negatively impacted by my positioning? Below is a pic of how far out I am hanging, and you can get a glimpse of bridge and tether length. Thx Pete

Ex. 1114
Crüzr v. Tethrd


ardBall



kyler1945
Well-Known Member
SH Member
Joined: Dec 4, 2016
Messages: 7,010
Location: Willis, TX

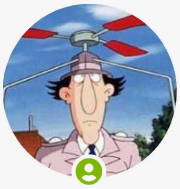
Oct 10, 2018 #2

Off topic - that picture proves to me two things - camouflage is overrated, and that I want to do everything in my power to have the tree between me and the deer when I draw, until just before I shoot.

I'm tall too, so I stick way out the side of the tree regardless of tether length/height.

I don't think you should change anything. If you're able to stay in the tree comfortably for hours, safely, and have no issues making shots at any angle, you've reached saddle nirvana.

Jgetch, Peterk1234 and Mengle



elk yinzer
Well-Known Member
Joined: Oct 23, 2017
Messages: 3,240
Location: State College, PA

Oct 10, 2018 #3

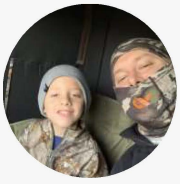
I like a 24" bridge and a low and short tether.

I think of my low tether/short bridge paired with a platform as a hybrid system between a treestand and a more purist traditional saddle. In my mind it is best of both worlds. I am probably more upright even than most leaners, I am just a few degrees from standing.

I do not walk around the tree or need to in order to shoot 360 degrees on any tree I can climb with my sticks. I just pivot around enough to shoot.

I don't believe it is necessary, or beneficial to keep the tree between me and deer. In fact I believe any movement at all is counterproductive. I am comfortable leaning and standing 95% of the time and switch that up with some different sitting positions a couple minutes at a time.

Those are just my beliefs and what I arrived at with experimentation. The takeaway from all these type threads are that there are a lot of varying setups. And sitters are aliens from another galaxy here to destroy our society.



d_rek
Well-Known Member
Joined: Sep 25, 2014
Messages: 2,495
Location: SELP Michigan

Oct 10, 2018 #4

> elk yinzer said:
>
> And sitters are aliens from another galaxy here to destroy our society.

LOL. With you on this one. I don't know how anyone manages to sit in their saddle. Just could never figure out how to do it comfortably.

Tether height and bridge length is highly preferential. It's something everyone can and should play with to get their setup dialed in and comfortable.

I won't comment on benefits/disadvantages of a certain way to set either up since it is so specific to the user. You'll just have to tinker with them. Likely it will take a couple of hunts or even a season to really dial in your saddle setup.

Ex. 1114
Crüzr v. Tethrd

Personally I prefer a lower tether hookup - about eye level - and a shorter bridge of 18-24". This provides me with optimal comfort for my body type and flexibility in maneuverability by letting out additional tree tether length should the need arise. I am a stander and a leaner. I rotate between standing, leaning, and half lean/sit with knees resting against the trunk of the tree.



redsquirrel
Administrator
Staff member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 19, 2014
Messages: 15,420
Location: NJ

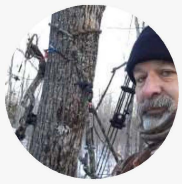
Oct 10, 2018 #5

> Peterk1234 said:
>
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Yes I think much of that talk lately can be confusing, especially for beginners. The standard advice around here for years has been to start with a bridge between 24-30" and a tether that hooks to the tree when you are standing at around eye-forehead height and start tweaking from there.

The people who are talking about setting a tether at chest height are using a platform and not moving around the tree. They need to have the tether low to move the bow over it to shoot. I'm moving around the tree to shoot and I need that extra distance. In the end all these variables are very individual. I can't always get away with putting my tether higher than my head but I'm short and stocky. You're tall and maybe your body shape is why it works better for you. Ultimately if it works, stick with it!

BRAVEHEART, DaveH and Peterk1234

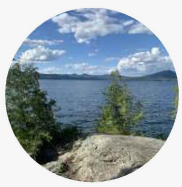


boyne bowhunter
Moderator
Staff member
SH Member
Joined: Aug 17, 2016
Messages: 8,968
Location: NW Michigan

Oct 10, 2018 #6

> d_rek said:
>
> LOL. With you on this one. I don't know how anyone manages to sit in their saddle. Just could never figure out how to do it comfortably.
>
> Tether height and bridge length is highly preferential. It's something everyone can and should play with to get their setup dialed in and comfortable.
>
> I won't comment on benefits/disadvantages of a certain way to set either up since it is so specific to the
>
> Click to expand...

I was a dedicated leaner in my Kestrel. I could never quite get comfortable sitting although I did sit for short periods of time. Funny, but in the Mantis I find myself more comfortable sitting than leaning. All other things the same. Must be the cut/fit of the saddle.



Benny
Member
Joined: Mar 2, 2018
Messages: 64

Oct 10, 2018 #7

There is tether height but I hardly ever see mentioned how far down people put their prussic or Ropeman. Especially the prussic because that adds like 6 **inch**es of distance from the tree with the stock kestrel

Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk

Ex. 1114
Crüzr v. Tethrd

heartdart



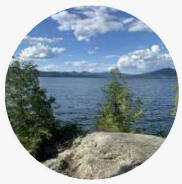
redsquirrel
Administrator
Staff member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 19, 2014
Messages: 15,420
Location: NJ

Oct 10, 2018 #8

> Benny said:
>
> There is tether height but I hardly ever see mentioned how far down people put their prussic or Ropeman. Especially the prussic because that adds like 6 **inch**es of distance from the tree with the stock kestrel
>
> Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk

That is a huge reason why I and many others have switched to a ropeman. Not only does it adjust easier but you don't loose that amount of adjustable distance that you do with a prussic.

Guff Dawg and bowhuntinde



Benny
Member
Joined: Mar 2, 2018
Messages: 64

Oct 10, 2018 #9

> redsquirrel said:
>
> That is a huge reason why I and many others have switched to a ropeman. Not only does it adjust easier but you don't loose that amount of adjustable distance that you do with a prussic.

Definitely. I have another Ropeman coming in the mail this week for my tether. Before the season practicing, I didn't see the need for it on the tether like I did with my linesman belt. However, after 5 or 6 days hunting since Oct 1, I can't wait to mess with it. I lean when hunting but I feel too far from the tree. Thinking the Ropeman is going to help. Also made my bridge adjustable with a prussic till I dial that in. The little things I didn't realize practicing before the season..

Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk



fawnzy
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jul 4, 2014
Messages: 1,529

Oct 10, 2018 #10

I'm sure it's out there, but can someone post a picture of the rope man adjustable tether as it's attached to the saddle? Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk



Homebrew454
Well-Known Member
Joined: Oct 17, 2017
Messages: 1,510
Location: Wisconsin

Oct 10, 2018 #11

I had a 30 inch bridge on my sit drag as well and it was super comfy with no hip p**inch**. I assumed the new Mantis I got would be just as comfy with the 30 **inch** bridge but I get hip p**inch** when sitting and leaning in the Mantis. If I move the tether height down to chin to Adams Apple height it is manageable, for a period of time. If I move the bridge out (I'm guessing as I never measured) to around 40 inches it was almost as comfy as my sit drag with forehead tether.

I'm also 6 feet tall but 215 pounds with a 34-36 **inch** waist that is dependent on layers.

Ex. 1114
Crüzr v. Tethrd

I think the x large may have fit me better. I'm not certain if I will be able to use it with my late season clothes for Wisconsin weather. I have a diy saddle that I made with ckossuth's pattern and made it about an inch wider. It is more comfy and the bridge is 29 **inch**es... In the more typical range.

I'm certain that once I'm in saddle shape I could probably use the Mantis with a 34-36 **inch** bridge. I'm going to try it a few more times but will most likely add an amsteel whoopie sling as a bridge. I may also look at trading for an XL after season.

I will add that I am new to saddle hunting but have been practicing since April with my sit drag. I tried a preacher's seat last year but didn't find it comfy and thought it was bulky.

Sent from my SM-G935P using Tapatalk



redsquirrel
Administrator
Staff member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 19, 2014
Messages: 15,420
Location: NJ

Oct 10, 2018 #12

> fawnzy said:
>
> I'm sure it's out there, but can someone post a picture of the rope man adjustable tether as it's attached to the saddle? Thanks.
>
> Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk

Ex. 1114
Crüzr v. Tethrd

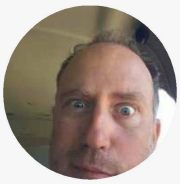
I have one with a kong duck if it helps



Here is mine with a Poppa man



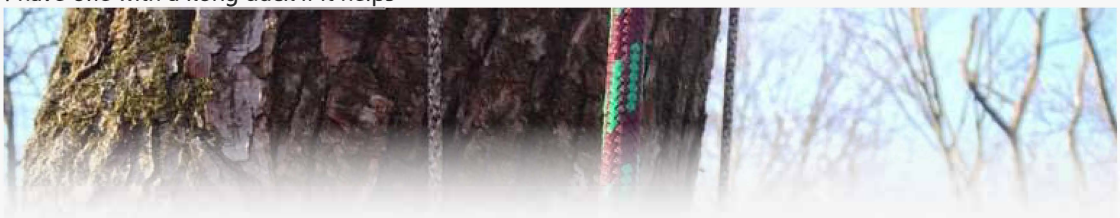
Peterk1234
Well-Known Member
Joined: Oct 23, 2017
Messages: 805
Location: Massachusetts



fawnzy
Well-Known Member
Joined: Jul 4, 2014
Messages: 1,529

redsquirrel said:

I have one with a kong duck if it helps



Click to expand...



Sorry red, not the tether, the bridge

Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk

Oct 10, 2018 #15



redsquirrel
Administrator
Staff member
SH Member

fawnzy said:

Sorry red, not the tether, the bridge

Sent from my iPhone using Tapatalk

Ex. 1114
Crüzr v. Tethrd

Joined: Feb 19, 2014
Messages: 15,420
Location: NJ

I think this was @Erniepower



Ex. 1114
Crüzr v. Tethrd



DaveT1963
Well-Known Member
Vendor Rep
Joined: Dec 2, 2014
Messages: 3,511

Oct 10, 2018 #16

folks I made that video as an example to try things. I normally set up at nose level, my rope man is right beside the tether on tree and I use a 20 **inch** bridge. Another advantage of using a low tether, for people that do prefer a ring of steps, is you can actually move the tether around the tree in the direction you want to walk there by not needing 3' of tether height. For those that lean with a platform try the chest high hookup and see how it feels to you. It doesn't have to be one method or the other, there are times where I will move my tether up a little higher, and there are there times will move it down a little lower on the same hunt... the key to staying all day is to relocate pressure points because if you try to stay in the same position for extended periods of time you will create pressure points. Anyway don't take my word for give it a shot and see if it works for you. I don't have any doubts in my mind that if someone was the sneak a few pictures of me throughout the season this year you would see me using a chest high hook up quite frequentl.. Because in my opinion, it is the easiest position to quickly get in position for a shot... I do not like to sit in my saddle because I don't like to try to shoot while sitting
I'd much rather be in a leaning position as that reduces the movement required for me to get in position for a shot. Comfort is a 3rd or 4th thought when I select gear and how I use it... my number one goal is that it allows me to execute a kill shot under the most circumstances, with little movement and noise, as quickly as possible. Others might want to sit in a lounge chair so be it.

Last edited: Oct 11, 2018

alwayshuntin, Cory, Benny and 1 other person



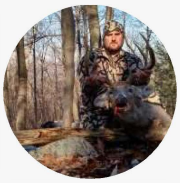
redsquirrel
Administrator
Staff member
SH Member
Joined: Feb 19, 2014
Messages: 15,420
Location: NJ

Oct 11, 2018 #17

> DaveT1963 said:
>
> the key to staying all day is to relocate pressure points because if you try to stay in the same position for extended periods of time you will create pressure points.

This is a great point! It does not get enough attention. I am always making small adjustments. Shift from one but cheek to the other, one knee to the other or raise my tether in the ropeman by just 1cm. Small adjustments make a huge difference for staying comfortable and staying out there longer.

heartdart, Guff Dawg and huntin_addict



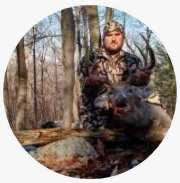
Gusarch
Active Member
Joined: Oct 12, 2017
Messages: 147
Location: Newville, PA

Oct 11, 2018 #18

I think your position is fine. If it works, it works. I was having trouble with my bridge and tether being in the road, but I think I was too upright. Relaxed, and allowed myself to lean farther, and everything got more comfy, and room to draw too. I like putting the tree between me and game, and hanging farther out gives me more leverage, movement is easier and smoother IMO.

Sent from my SM-G960U using Tapatalk

Ex. 1114
Crüzr v. Tethrd



Gusarch
Active Member
Joined: Oct 12, 2017
Messages: 147
Location: Newville, PA

Oct 11, 2018 #19

Oh, I just have to be careful... I can get to swinging to whatever beat I have in my head!

Sent from my SM-G960U using Tapatalk

BRAVEHEART, Guff Dawg, tam9492 and 2 others

Jgetch
Well-Known Member
Joined: Sep 14, 2017
Messages: 463
Location: Wisconsin

Oct 11, 2018 #20

For a couple hour sit (3-5hrs) I use my fleece saddle with a short bridge and chest high tether. I adjust up and down but always leaning shifting weight as necessary to stay comfortable.

If I plan to sit all day I'm an alien and seated in my preachers seat with a long bridge and tether above my head. Normally if a deer walks in I've seen it and have leaned away from the tree using my legs to be in a shooting position before it's danger close. However, sometimes they sneak in on ya. In that case I have my back band set up so that if I lean forward at my waist slightly it falls down to my waist and I can then lean slightly backwards at my waist to clear my tether for a shot giving me minimal movement when there's a deer right on top of me that I didn't know was coming.

I agree with everyone though, whatever feels comfortable and works. Some days I can't get very comfortable leaning and others I could lean the day away. Same with my preacher seat. Problem with the seat is that when it's really comfortable it can be a nap machine.

thi saddle related ›

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