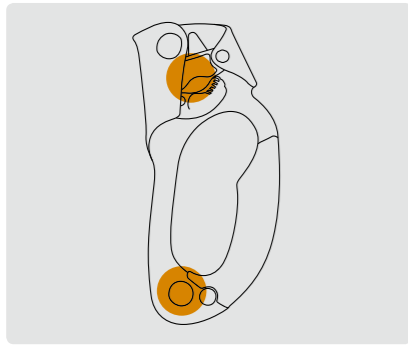


Technical information **Checking your equipment**



Handled rope clamps

Handled rope clamps are submitted to rough treatment in aid climbing. They are used for ascending ropes and for hauling packs loaded with equipment. They therefore run over kilometers of rope and must be in perfect working order.

Before each use, verify:

- the general condition of your ASCENSION handled rope clamp: no cracks, deformities, or sharp edges on the frame. Check that the rope runs freely through the device. Inspect the cam stop.

- the condition of the cam. It must be clean, all teeth should be present and in good condition, no traces of wear or corrosion.

- connection holes

Test the functioning of the opening and closing mechanisms of the cam; do a test on a rope (with a back-up belay), check that the device blocks.

Retire your rope clamp after a major impact.

... www.petzl.com/ppe

Information is non-exhaustive; consult the details of the inspection procedure to be carried out for each item of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) on its technical notice or at www.petzl.com/ppe

Technical information **Basics**

1 Prepare your equipment and provisions precisely

Get information about the equipment needed: adapt your equipment to the route you are planning to do, and don't forget the gear required if you need to retreat. Don't underestimate the supplies you will need (water, etc.). Anticipate the effects of isolation: a small injury can seem very big at the end of the world...

Spread the equipment, provisions and rescue gear between many packs so that everything is not lost if a bag falls.

2 Organize your gear

To be efficient on a big wall, you should organize your gear and distribute it to each climber according to his/her role. A well organized gear sling and harness will save precious time.

3 Establish a communication protocol

Communication is extremely important. It is essential to establish rules before starting. For example, when the leader says "off belay", the belay station is installed and the fixed ropes are anchored.

4 Set up solid belay stations

Be careful, on a big wall the station is used not only to belay, but also to haul bags, install a portaledge, etc.

5 Protect your ropes from rubbing and adapt your rope ascent technique

For fixed lines, think about setting up intermediate anchors, deviations, and rope protectors, or use a bag to protect a rub point. During an ascent, always stay on two independent systems (two ascenders or one ascender and one GRIGRI). Always remain connected to your ascender with a lanyard. Adapt your ascent techniques to the route's features. Ascender/ascender, ascender/CROLL, ascender/GRIGRI, ascender/CROLL with PANTIN (big overhang).

Beware: A fall, even a small one, on a webbing lanyard, such as a daisy chain or other such lanyard, may transmit an extremely violent shock to the harness and the climber.

Technical information **Tips**



A. Pitons

The strength of a piton placement depends on the shape of piton, how it is placed, rock quality and the experience level of the climber that placed it.

Working principle: during a fall, the piton must lock into the crack. Force (F), applied to the carabiner torques the piton blade. This torque locks the piton into place. A piton placement must not rely only on friction or compression.

Well placed pitons.

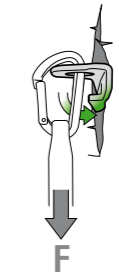
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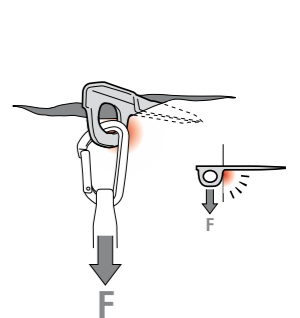
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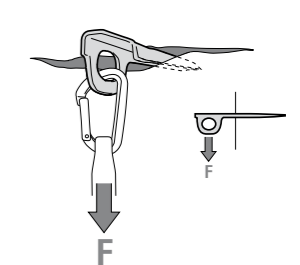
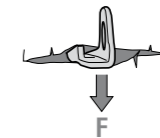
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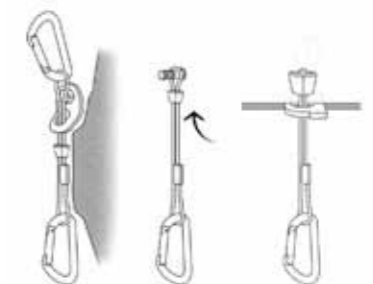
Poorly placed pitons.



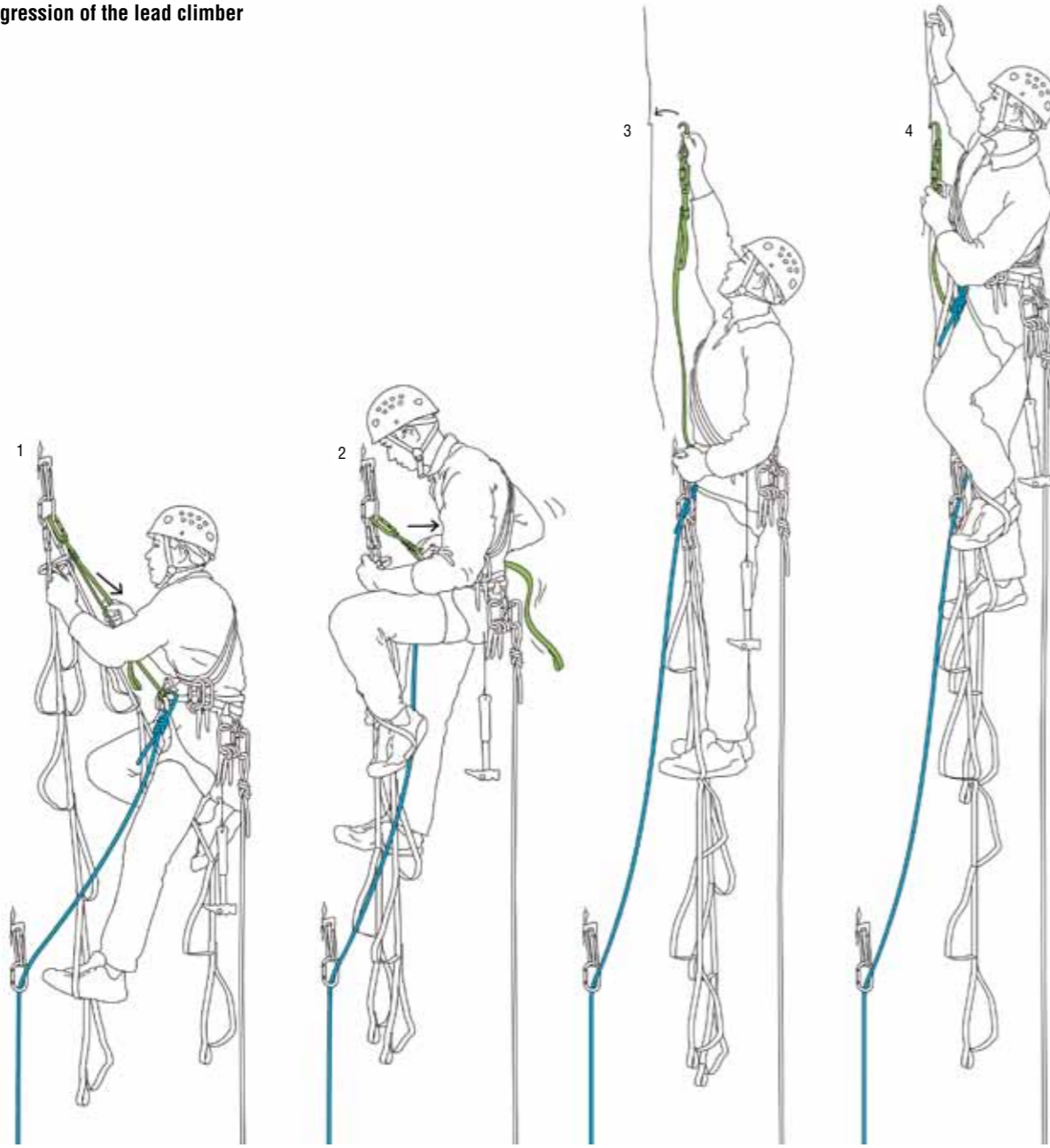
Clipping pitons.



Tip: clipping otherwise unusable anchors



B. Progression of the lead climber



Peter chimneying on Southern Crossing.



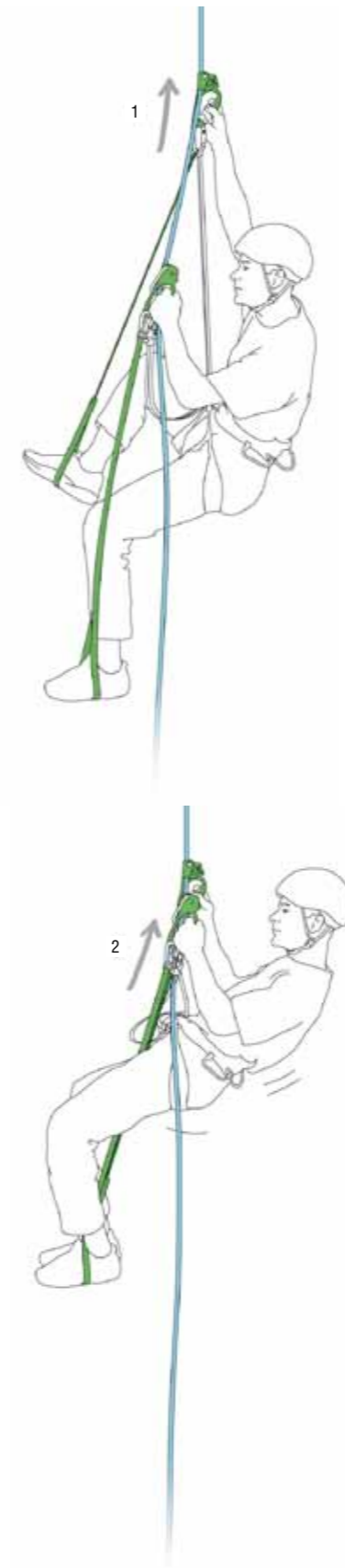
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Majka Burhardt on Southern Crossing, P5.

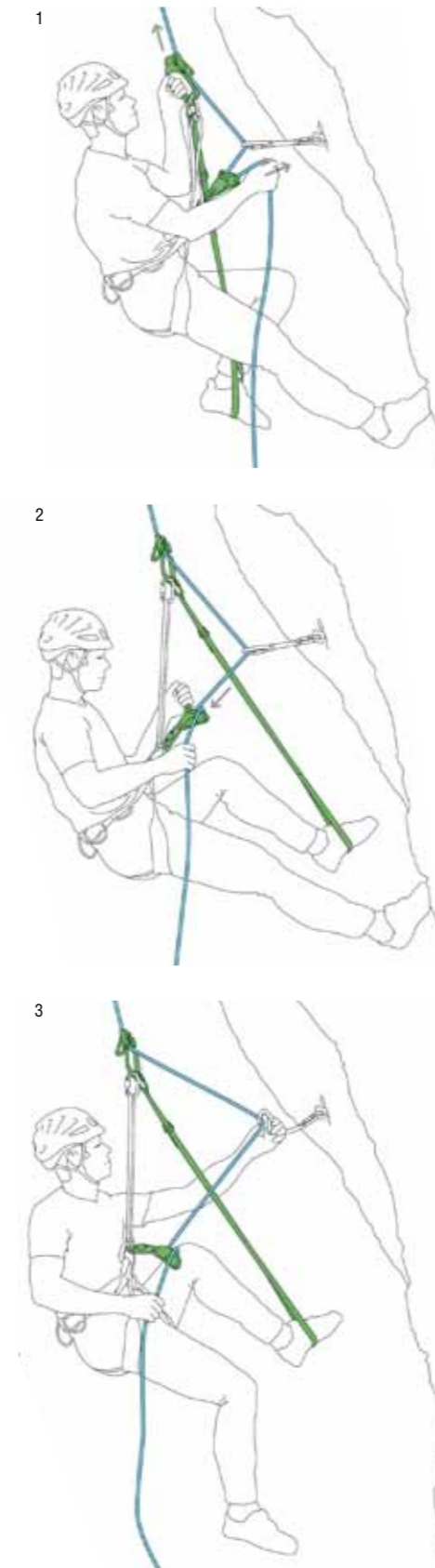


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C. Ascending the rope: double ascender technique



D. Cleaning an aid route with the GRIGRI



E. Hauling a bag with a progress capture pulley

