

Aid climbing tech tips

Basics

1 Carefully plan all aspects of the climb

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.).

2 Organize your gear

To be efficient in aid climbing, you should organize your gear and distribute it to each climber according to his/her role. Well organized gear loops and harness will save precious time.

3 Establish a communication protocol

Communication is extremely important. It is essential to decide on procedures before the start. For example, when the leader says «off belay», the belay station is installed and the fixed ropes are anchored.

4 Set up a solid belay station

Be careful, in aid climbing the station is used not only to belay, but also to haul bags, install a portaledge, etc.

5 Protect your ropes from abrasion

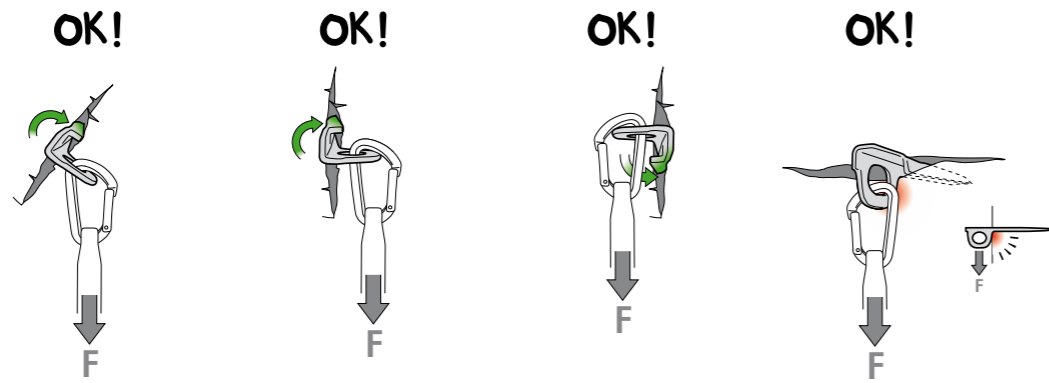
For fixed lines, remember to set up intermediate anchors and deviations and install rope protection or haul bags. All too often someone ends up climbing up a half-cut rope.

A. Pitons

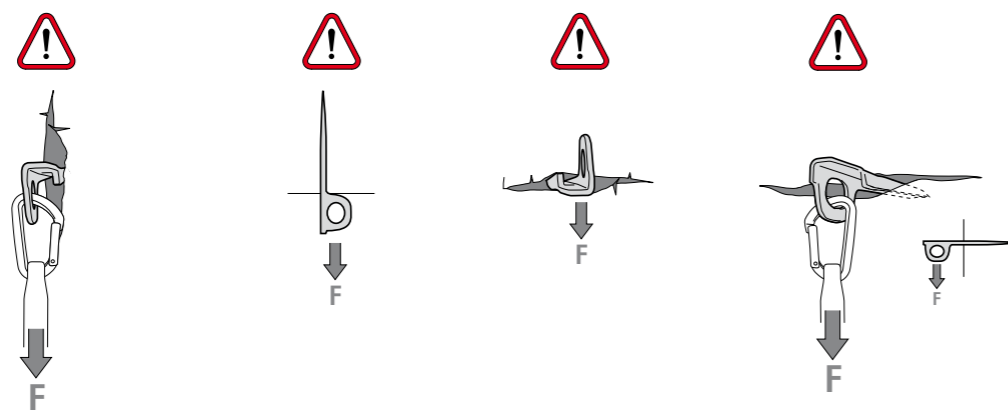
The strength of a piton placement depends on the shape of piton, how it is placed, rock quality and the experience level of the climber that placed it.

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 should not rely only by on friction or compression.

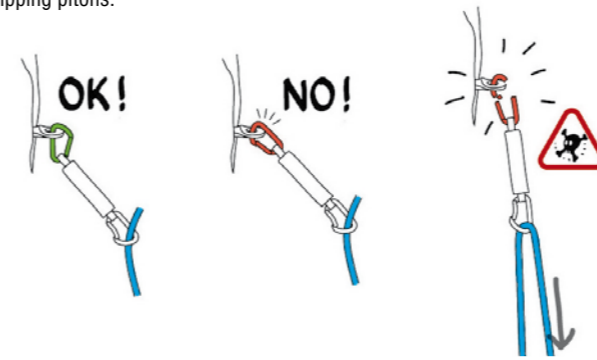
Well placed pitons



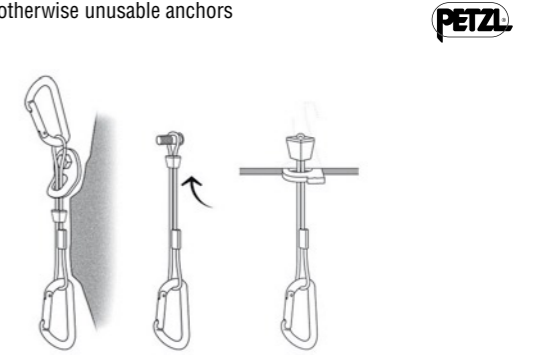
Poorly placed pitons



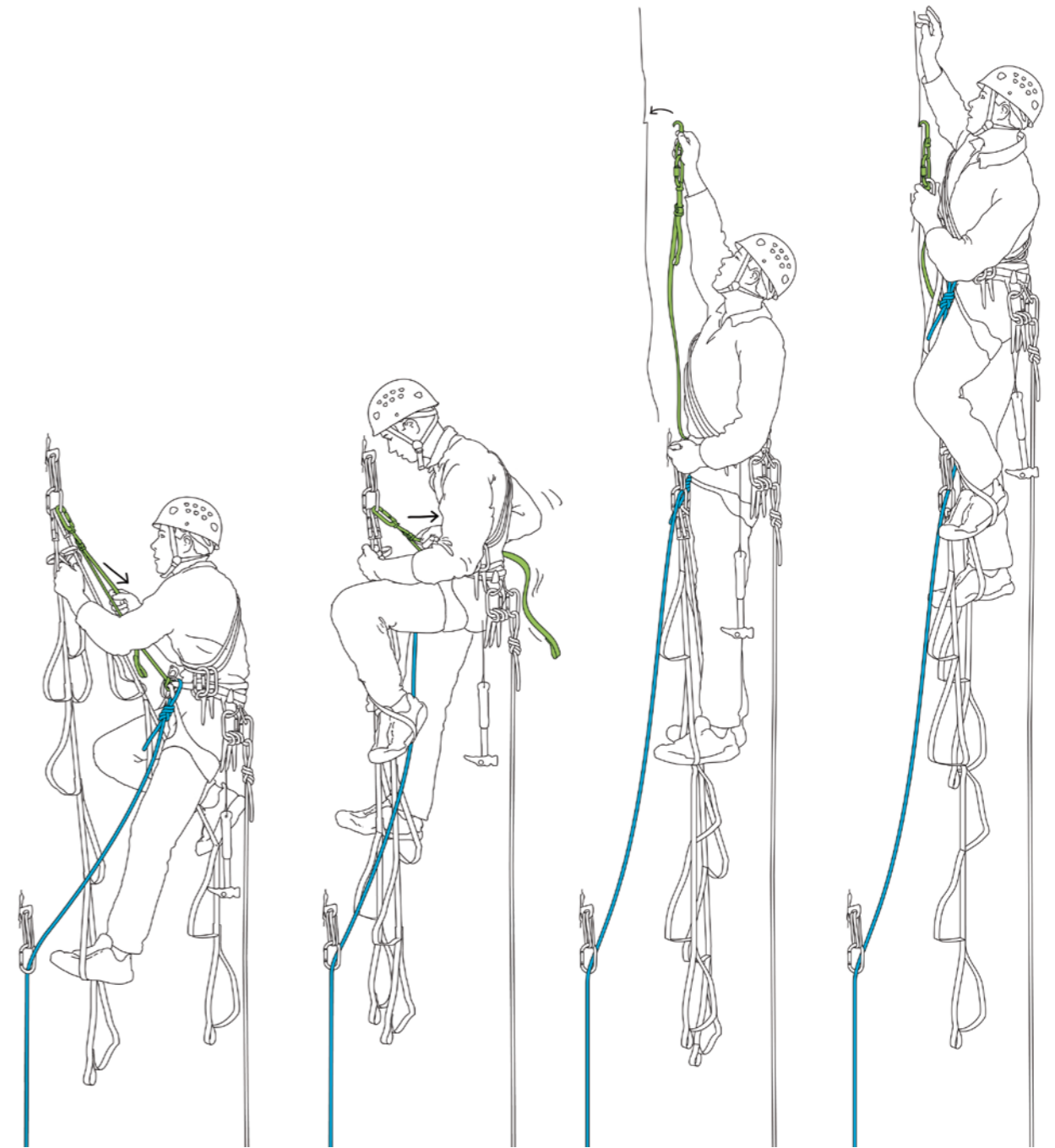
Clipping pitons.



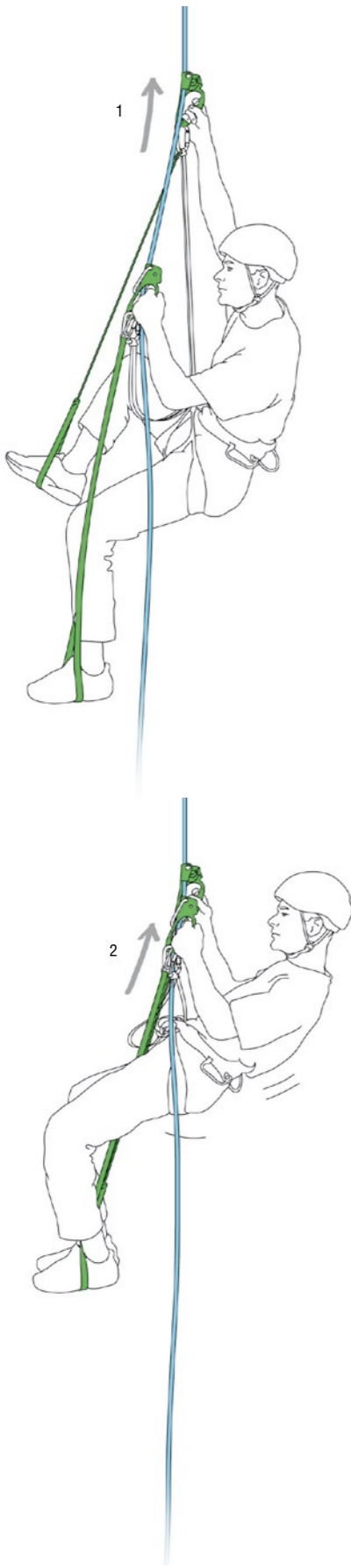
Tip: clipping otherwise unusable anchors



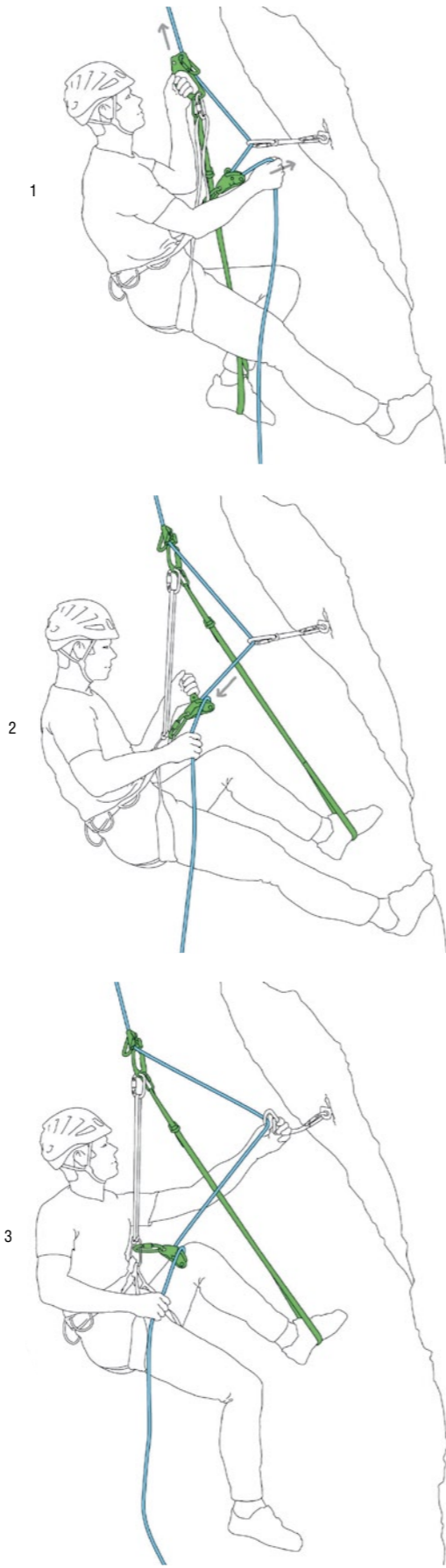
B. Lead climbing



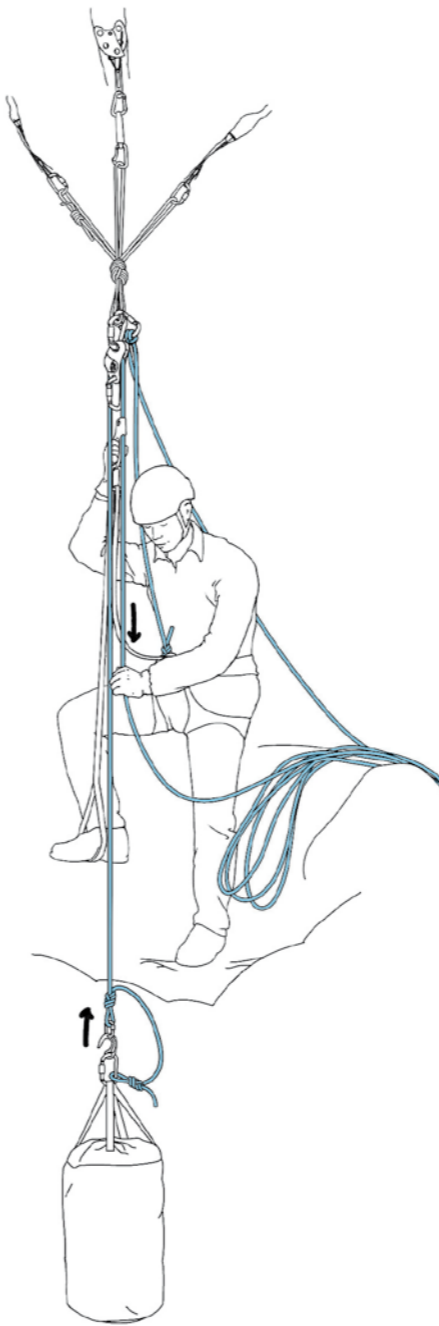
C. Ascending rope: ascender/ascender technique



D. Cleaning an aid route with the GRIGRI



E. Hauling a bag with a "progress capture" pulley



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PETZL