rock exotica
GEAR FOR THE Z AXIS

Instructions for Use

AHP
APPALACHIAN HITCHING POST

FOR USE WITH **2”** RECEIVER

WARNING!
EXPERT USE ONLY

Made in the **USA** using foreign and domestic materials

Register your product at:
www.rockexotica.com/register

- These activities are inherently dangerous and carry a significant risk of injury or death that cannot be eliminated.
- These instructions DO NOT tell you everything you need to know.
- Do not use unless you can and will understand and assume all risks and responsibilities for all damage/injury/death that may result from use of this equipment or the activities undertaken with it.
- Everyone using this equipment must be given and thoroughly understand the instructions and refer to them before each use.
- You must always have a backup-never trust a life to a single tool.
- You must have a rescue plan and the means to implement it. Inert suspension in a harness can quickly result in death!
- Do not use around electrical hazards, moving machinery or near sharp edges or abrasive surfaces.
- We are not responsible for any direct, indirect or accidental consequences or damage resulting from the use of our products.
- Stay up to date! Regularly go to our website and read the latest user instructions.

WARNING: This product can expose you to chemicals including nickel acetate, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer. For information go to WWW.P65Warnings.ca.gov

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(EN) ENGLISH

INTRODUCTION

The Appalachian Hitching Post (AHP) is a vehicle-mounted interface designed to securely anchor a leg section of the Vortex. It is compatible with any of the approved configurations outlined in the Vortex user manual, provided the specific rigging principles for each configuration are followed. Installed into the 2” hitch receiver of a sufficiently large vehicle, the AHP provides for a simplified setup of the common Vortex configurations.
The AHP further facilitates placement of the Vortex with the optional 90° hitch adaptor, allowing for vehicle placements perpendicular to the edge.
With a rating at 36 kN, the AHP is suitable for anchoring the Vortex with a standard two-rope system, as well as providing additional anchor points for re-directs or primary connection points.

VORTEX SPECIFIC WARNINGS

Training on the safe and proper use of the Vortex is required prior to using the AHP. These instructions do not replace proper training with the Vortex or AHP. These warnings are not comprehensive–refer to the Vortex User Guide available at www.RockExotica.com

- Ensure that only compressive forces–not tensile forces are applied to the system as a whole.
- The Vortex is not like a standard tripod. The user must have a greater level of knowledge and understanding to secure and stabilize the Vortex.
- The Vortex head and feet must be secured to resist all movement.
- The head hinge joint and the Flat Foot ball joint loaded to their rotational limits can create a leverage effect that may damage components.
- The ball joints of the Flat Feet are not designed to withstand tensile forces. The leg, and/or the head, must be secured to ensure the ball joint is not subjected to tensile forces.
- All legs must be fully inserted into, or extend beyond the A-Frame head.
- The edges of the A-Frame Pulley Wheel are not fully enclosed. To avoid damaging the rope or adding unwanted friction to the system, it is essential that the rope running into and out of the Pulley Wheel is correctly aligned.
- Do not couple more than four (4) leg sections (three Outer plus one Inner Leg) together on any one leg.
- Check the ball-lock pins after insertion to ensure they are completely inserted and the locking balls are fully extended and locked.
- Vortex is limited to a 2 person load.

AHP SPECIFIC WARNINGS

- Vehicle mass must be sufficient to resist any movement generated by the rope system.
- Vehicle wheels must be chocked to prevent any wheel movement.
- Verify integrity of receiver hitch before each use. Ensure that it is sufficiently strong to withstand maximum potential forces generated during use.
- Ensure that the 5/8” receiver hitch pin is inserted properly and secured with safety clasp.
- Check the ball-lock pin after installing Vortex leg. Ensure pin is inserted through both sides of the AHP and the locking balls are fully extended and locked.
- Ensure that lateral forces are not applied during use to the Vortex leg pinned into the AHP.

Fig. 1

Included Contents
- AHP (1)
- 3/8 x 4.5” Ball-Lock Pin (1)

*Included connection pin looks similar to Vortex leg pins, but is longer. Take care to not mix pins. The AHP cannot properly connect to Vortex legs using any other pin.

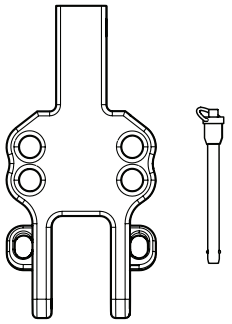


Fig. 2a - Direct to Hitch

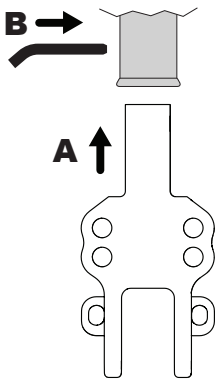


Fig. 2b - 90° Attachment

90° Attachment is optional

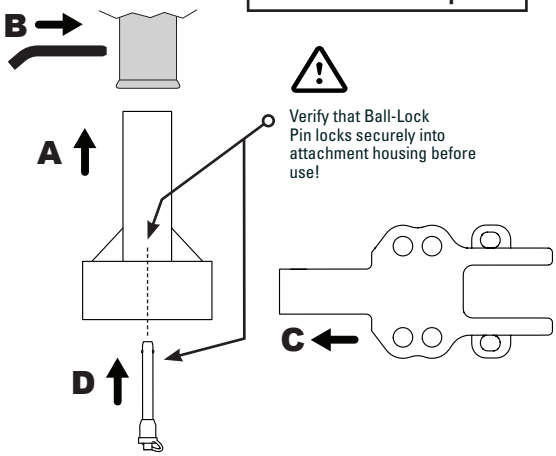


Fig. 2c

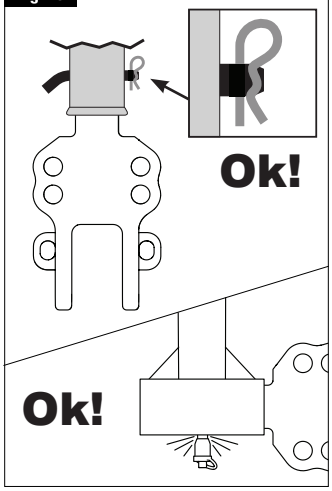


Fig. 3a

Warning!
Best practice will be to use the Vortex Inner Leg for direct connection to the AHP. However, the Vortex Outer Leg may also be used with the AHP – with either the stud end, or regular end.

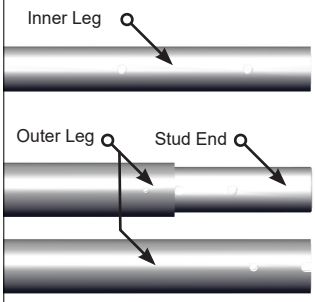


Fig. 3b

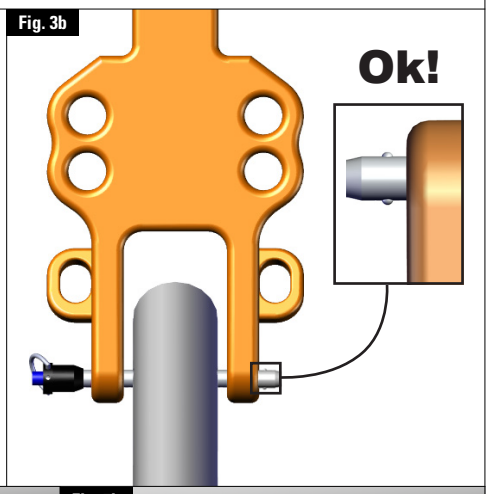
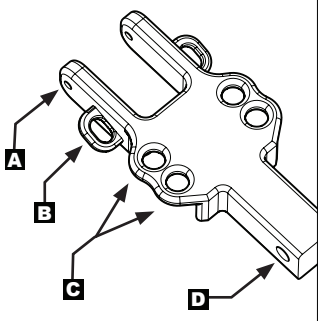


Fig. 4



A. 3/8” Leg Pin hole
B. Hobble strap connection points–not for life support
C. Rope system connection points
D. Receiver Hitch connection hole

Fig. 5a

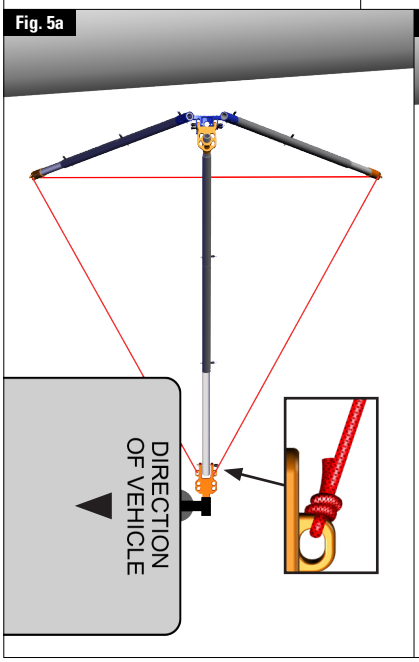
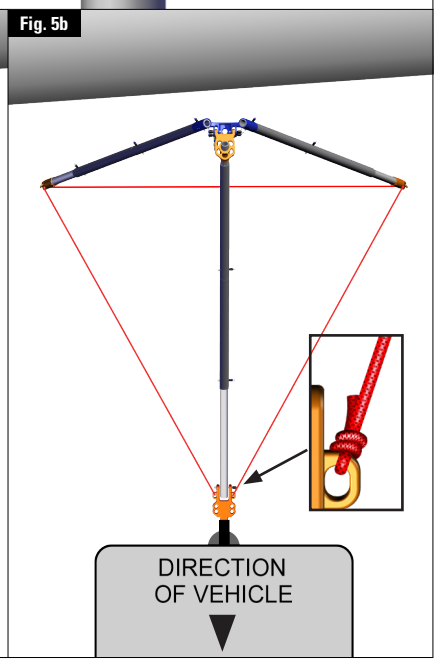


Fig. 5b



	AHP
Strength	36kN
WLL	5 kN
Height	2”
Width	6”
Length	12.5”
Weight	4.8 lbs

VORTEX
USER MANUAL

Warning!
The correct use of the AHP with the Vortex will involve the use of critical rigging concepts that you must understand and apply correctly. You must be trained in these concepts prior to using this product, and you must refer to the Arizona Vortex manual for guidance with the following:

Guylines
Guylines are essential for securing the Vortex head and preventing movement. Guylines are placed from the head of the system to anchor points below at specific angles determined by the Applied Force angle of the load on the system.

Applied Force
Applied force is the amount of force that will be acting on the Vortex during use. The magnitude and direction of the Applied force is calculated differently based on whether the Vortex is being used as an anchor frame or directional frame.

Hobble Straps
Hobble straps secure the feet of the Vortex in specific ways to prevent movement during use.

INSTALLATION

Position vehicle according to the desired position and direction of the Vortex. Secure the vehicle by setting the emergency brake, employing wheel chocks, and otherwise preventing movement, accounting for the maximum potential forces applied to the AHP and hitch during use of the Vortex.

Fig. 2a- Install Directly to 2" Receiver Hitch
Inspect vehicle receiver hitch prior to use. Verify hitch for use at maximum potential force. Slide the AHP into the vehicle receiver and ensure that the 5/8" receiver hitch pin goes through the large hole on the AHP and out the other side of receiver. Ensure that the receiver hitch pin is not able to fall out during use by making sure the safety clip is securely fastened to the hitch pin after installation. **See Fig. 2c.**

Fig. 2b - Install to 90° Attachment
Insert the 90° attachment (sold separately) into the hitch and ensure that the 5/8" receiver hitch pin goes through the large hole on the 90° attachment and out the other side of receiver. Ensure that the safety clip is securely fastened to the hitch pin after installation. **See Fig. 2c.**

Insert the AHP into the 90° attachment, until the attachment holes line up. Insert the 3/8" Ball-Lock Pin into the attachment holes, making sure that the end of the pin is inserted completely through the far side of the 90° attachment. Because the end of the pin is not visible, you must verify that the pin is locked securely in place! A loose pin can lead to serious damage or injury. **See Fig. 2c.**

Fig. 3a & 3b - Attaching the Vortex Leg
Attach the Vortex leg to the AHP using the supplied 3/8"Ball-Lock Pin and ensure that it has gone completely through both sides of the AHP. Note that the pin supplied with the AHP is longer than the pins used with the Vortex. Take care not to mix these pins. Ensure that the pin has passed through both sides of the AHP and is locked by pulling on it to make sure the ball locks are keeping it secure.

Fig. 5a
When using the 90° attachment (sold separately), the vehicle sits perpendicular to the direction of the main line. Always use hobble straps, connected to the AHP as shown, when applicable to the chosen configuration of the Vortex.

Fig. 5b
When connecting the AHP directly to the receiver hitch, the vehicle sits parallel and in-line with the direction of the main line. Always use hobble straps, connected to the AHP as shown, when applicable to the chosen configuration of the Vortex.

While factors such as technician experience, time and location may influence the choice of Vortex configuration, Rock Exotica generally recommends using the Easel A-Frame due to the simple nature of the configuration and its adaptability to most situations.

USE

The four, 3/4" round rigging holes on the AHP may be used as either primary anchor points for your system, as change of direction anchor points, or a combination of the two. All rigging must be done in accordance with your agency's policies.

Great care must be taken when using the AHP to make sure the leg being pinned in the AHP slot is not being laterally loaded or binding in the slot. The legs of the AZV are not designed for excessive side loading.

If any chance exists for the Vortex configuration to be in tension (pulling outward on the frame), then appropriate guylines must be tied from the Vortex to the AHP or another suitable anchor to offset or mitigate tensile forces.

In all cases, a solid grasp of rigging concepts as well as the forces being applied to the system are required in order to utilize the AHP safely.

Intended Use Although the Vortex and AHP have many possible configurations, only the approved configurations shown as "OK" in the Vortex User Manual are allowed: Always verify proper positioning of your system and components. Make sure you use redundant systems. Slack must be kept out of the system. This product is intended for use by medically fit, specifically trained and experienced users.

Leverage Hazard This device or other equipment can lever against a connector (such as a carabiner) and break it, opening the connector and allowing the attached rope or device to fall out.

Inspect Before & After Use Check all parts for cracks, deformation, corrosion, wear, etc.

Inspection During Use Regularly inspect and monitor your system, confirming proper connections, equipment position, fully locked connectors, etc.

Thorough and specific training is absolutely essential before use.
Being at height is dangerous and it is up to you to reduce the risks as much as possible - but the risks can never be eliminated. There are many ways to misuse this equipment, too many to list or imagine. You must personally understand and assume all risks and responsibilities of using this equipment. If you cannot or do not want to do this, do not use this equipment.

Environmental Factors Moisture, ice, salt, sand, snow, chemicals and other factors can prevent proper operation or can greatly accelerate wear.

Compatibility Verify compatibility with other components of your system. Incompatible connections can cause detachment, breakage, etc.

Lifetime Unlimited for metal products, but will often be much less depending on conditions and frequency of use; it could even be a single use in some cases.

Retire from Service & Destroy if it:
1. Is significantly loaded.
2. Does not pass inspection or there is any doubt about its safety.
3. Is misused, altered, damaged, exposed to harmful chemicals, etc.

Consult the manufacturer if you have any doubts or concerns.

Maintenance & Storage Clean if necessary with fresh water, then allow to dry completely. Store in a dry place away from extremes of heat and cold and avoid chemical exposure.

Principal Material Aluminum alloy, anodized.

Repairs or Modifications to Equipment Are only allowed by the manufacturer or those authorized in writing by the manufacturer.

Detailed Inspection In addition to inspection before, during and after each use, a detailed inspection by a competent inspector must be done at least every 12 months or more frequently depending on amount and type of use.

Stay Up To Date! Regularly go to our website and read the latest user instructions. Copyright 2010 Rock Exotica Equipment LC

Rock Exotica 3-year guarantee
If your Rock Exotica product has a defect due to workmanship or materials please contact us for warranty service.This warranty does not cover damages caused by improper care, improper use, alterations and modifications, accidental damage or the natural breakdown of material over extended use and time.

DOCUMENTATION	
Model	
Complete Batch #	
Year of Manufacture	
Purchase Date	
Date of 1st Use	
User	

DATE	CONDITION	INSPECTOR	DATE (next inspection)