



DANGERBUDDIES®

ASC-L & ASC-R ASCENDER OPERATION GUIDE



ASC-R



Thank you for your purchase of this Danger Buddies rope ascender. Please read these instructions in their entirety before using your new ascender and retain them to reference before each use. These instructions can also be viewed online at dangerbuddies.com/manuals.

CERTIFICATIONS

This ascender is certified to both UIAA and CE standards, meeting the requirements of EN567 and UIAA126. It should be used only on a proper static rope of diameter 8.0mm to 12.0mm, and the maximum load on the ascender should never exceed the ascender's rated strength of 4kN.

NOMENCLATURE



CAUTION Thoroughly inspect this ascender prior to each use. Check the overall ascender for signs of embedded dust, dirt, ice or any other foreign material that may impact its operation, especially the cam teeth/pivot and rope track.

Check the frame for any damage, including cracking, warping or excessive wear. Check the cam teeth to ensure they are not worn or damaged.

CAUTION Like all climbing hardware, ascenders can wear out over time and with use. Do not use this ascender if it is showing signs of wear or abuse. A damaged ascender may not engage the rope properly.

CAUTION Always inspect ancillary gear prior to using with this ascender, in accordance with the instructions that came with that gear, including, but not limited to:

- Slings, ropes and lanyards connecting you to the ascender;
- Climbing ropes connected through this ascender;
- Carabiners connected to your harness or ascender;
- Your climbing harness; and
- Any other devices you are using in conjunction with this ascender.

DANGER Do not use this product if you are not properly trained or qualified to use it. Reading this manual is not considered training; consult an AMGA certified guide or local coach if you require training on how to use this product. Never use just one ascender to climb a rope. Always incorporate a backup safety device. Even a perfectly rigged ascender can dislodge from the rope or slide down the rope in certain conditions.

USING YOUR ASCENDER

Your ascender is one device in your safety chain that consists of, at minimum, your rope, harness, ascender, lanyard and a backup device.

Attach the ascender to your harness using a suitable lanyard attached to a carabiner clipped to the harness lanyard attachment hole in your ascender. Never use an ascender that is not connected to your harness. The lanyard can be a properly weight-rated rope, climbing sling or other similar device rated for the application. To

reduce the risk of the lanyard detaching, a locking carabiner should be used. The lanyard can attach to your harness by using a second locking carabiner, girth hitch or other similar method of attachment that minimizes the risk of detachment.

Ensure your rope is properly rated for ascension and is between 8.0mm and 12.0mm thick. Properly anchor the static rope; if you do not know how to build a proper anchor, do not use this product. Seek professional advice and training from a certified mountain guide first. Attach the ascender to the rope with the "UP" arrow pointing up towards the anchor by positioning the rope in the ascender's rope channel and engaging the cam lever until the cam teeth contact the rope. Clip a carabiner through the rope carabiner hole. This is required to help ensure the ascender does not disengage from the rope. A climbing-rated non-locking carabiner is generally sufficient.



A carabiner placed inside the rope carabiner hole helps to prevent accidental disengagement of the ascender from the rope.

CAUTION Static ropes should be used when ascending. Static ropes are not the same as standard climbing ropes (dynamic ropes), and they feature negligible stretch. In addition to being generally easier to ascend due to minimized "bounce" on the rope as you ascend, a static rope minimizes the potential for a loaded rope to rub against any sharp surfaces as you ascend.

After connecting the ascender to the rope, attaching the rope-retaining carabiner through the rope carabiner hole, connecting your lanyard to your harness through the lanyard attachment hole and securing a proper backup device per the backup device manufacturer's instructions, you may begin to ascend the rope.

Advance the ascender up the rope by grasping the handle and sliding the ascender up the rope. The cam will allow the ascender to freely move in the upward direction. To lock the ascender into position, simply weight the ascender and allow the cam teeth to engage the rope. It is not necessary to use excessive downward force to "set" the teeth, and doing so could potentially damage your rope or ascender. Note: The ascender will always be able to move freely up the rope. It can't be "locked" from upward movement, but weighting the ascender will prevent upward movement.

To remove the ascender from the rope, slide it upwards along the rope while simultaneously disengaging the cam lever. Avoid ascending right to a knot in the rope; this can make disengaging the ascender extremely difficult because the cam teeth may not have clearance to disengage. The cam lever can be locked open by pulling the cam lever to the fully open position, simplifying disengagement of the ascender from the rope. Never attempt to ascend a rope with the cam lever in the locked open position, and never attempt to ascend a rope without using a carabiner through the rope carabiner hole to secure the rope in the rope track.



USE TIPS Danger Buddies offers both left- and right-handed ascenders. Either ascender can technically be used in either hand, but we always recommend using the proper hand in the ascender. Model ASC-L (orange) is designed to be used in the left hand, allowing operation of the cam lever with the left thumb. Model ASC-R (black) is designed for right-handed operation and allows you to reach the cam lever with your right thumb. The use of an ascender in the opposite hand will be awkward and make accessing the cam lever difficult, but can be done if needed. If using only one ascender, choosing which to purchase is not the same as being left-handed or right-handed. Many factors can influence your choice including your backup system, your purpose for ascension or which other accessories you plan to use while ascending. For example, if you are ascending for the specific purpose of photography, you may find it beneficial to purchase a left-handed ascender, even if you are right handed, since most cameras are only designed to be operated with the right hand on the shutter button.



Ascenders are ideal for rock climbing photography!

CAUTION When ascending a rope, always keep the rope taught between the anchor and the ascender. Never fall onto an ascender. Ascenders are not designed to carry the impact of a fall, and if you are using a static line, even a small fall from above your ascender will generate very large forces on you, your equipment and your anchor. Always remain below your ascender when ascending.

Always check the rope you are ascending for excessive dirt, mud, moisture, ice and other similar foreign material. A buildup of any of these can cause the ascender cam teeth to fail to engage the rope properly, allowing the ascender to slip down the rope. Always use a backup device on your rope to prevent this from occurring.

USE TIPS The lower accessory hole is the ideal location to attach a foot loop to make ascension easier. For details on ascending a rope with a foot loop, consult a climbing coach or a certified climbing guide to obtain the proper training.

The upper accessory hole is an ideal spot to secure gear during extended rests on a rope system (for example, during rock climbing photography). If you own a Danger Buddies CameraBuddy camera bag, this accessory hole can be used to tie off the CameraBuddy to remove its weight from your body during extended shooting sessions. To prevent any interference with the cam, only use this accessory hole while in a stationary position on the rope and while weighting the ascender. Remove any accessories from this mounting hole before ascending the rope.

WARRANTY

Danger Buddies LLC guarantees this ascender to be free from manufacturing defects for a period of 1 year from the date of purchase when purchased from an authorized distributor of Danger Buddies products. This warranty applies to the original purchaser only and covers repair and replacement of the ascender only; it does not cover incidental damage to any connected devices. Ascender teeth can wear with age, and this warranty does not cover this normal wear and tear. Misuse is also non-warrantable, and it is always the user's responsibility to inspect the ascender before each use, operate it properly and retire it when required.

To obtain warranty service, email us at:

feedback@dangerbuddies.com

Always remember, climbing has inherent risks that cannot always be mitigated, and specialized training is required to use this device properly. Use of this device is at your own risk. Always contact us if there is any question about your ascender. We can replace your worn or damaged gear, but we can't replace your life!