

Cinch FAQ's

Q: Is the Cinch an Automatic or Auto-locking Belay Device?

A: No. In most situations, the Cinch provides a fairly positive lock-off but you should never take your hand off of the brake end of the rope or fail to adhere to proper belay procedures.

Q: The instructions and the marking on the Cinch says that it is rated for ropes between 9.4mm and 11mm but it seems to lock off just fine on my 8.5mm rope. Why can't I use it to belay with this rope?

A: Your 8.5mm rope (Or any rope less than 9.4mm as of this writing on 12/04) is not rated by either the CE or the UIAA for single rope use. Do not use the Cinch with any rope that is not rated as a single rope by the CE or UIAA.

Q: Why is it so hard to release the Cinch on skinny ropes?

A: The Cinch is not designed to use on UIAA Double or Twin ropes. See the above Q&A. While it may feel like it locks off adequately on these smaller ropes, it may be extremely difficult to release and place the user in a dangerous situation.

Q: Why does this thing feed so smoothly?

A: It feeds smoothly because the rope runs in a straight path through the device. It doesn't have to bend around an axle or carabiner.

Q: So how does it catch a fall?

A: The rope moving through the opening will cause the lever plate (the silver colored plate) to rotate and stop the rope from sliding through.

Q: Is there a wrong way to hold it?

A: You bet. The only way to hold the Cinch while belaying is to cradle it in the palm of your hand between your third and fourth fingers. This is shown clearly in [Fig. 3](#) in the instructions and at right. This leaves your first and second fingers as the "brake" hand. Holding the Cinch in any other way may prevent it from working properly. Do not feed rope by holding back the silver tab on the top of the Cinch. See picture with next question. Doing so may prevent the Cinch from working properly.



Correct technique for holding the Cinch. Use the right hand to feed rope. Note: hands can be switched.

<p>Q: The Cinch just locked up while I was feeding out rope for a clip and I ended up short-roping the leader. Do I have to pull the release lever to feed rope again?</p>	<p>Do not hold silver tab back for belaying. Use only for quick rope release!</p>
<p>A: No. If there is only slight tension on the lead rope, you can pull back on the small silver tab with your thumb to release some rope quickly. As soon as enough rope is fed out, revert to the regular hand position for belaying. Do not use this silver tab to hold the Cinch open while belaying.</p>	

<p>Q: Is there a procedure you recommend for determining if the Cinch is rigged properly before I start belaying or rappelling?</p>	<p>YANK!</p>
<p>A: Absolutely. After you have placed the rope into the Cinch and attached it to your harness with a locking carabiner, YANK the rope that goes to the climber or anchors. If it locks up, the Cinch is rigged correctly. If the rope slips, start over but lay the rope in the Cinch the other way. Don't forget to YANK again.</p>	

Q: It's kind of tough to lower a heavy climber or rappel with the Cinch. What is the best way to do this?

A: The best way that we have found is to place your thumb below the handle pivot and then pull down on the handle with your hands or fingers. This way you can "feather" the handle to help control the lowering speed. Keep your hand on the brake end of the rope at all times.

