

Lanyard Crossing

This technique is useful on stems where a climber's lanyard is slipping down due to lack of friction or when topping out to make them feel more secure and help prevent the lanyard from popping off.

Instead of passing the lanyard around from left to right (or right to left) and clipping to the opposite D ring, it is passed between the climber and the tree first and then back around before clipping it to the D ring as normal. The main image shows a side on view.

i: shows a top down view to give a better idea.

ii: the main image shows the lanyard on the sides D's but this also works on the front D's. The advantage of the side D's is that it allows the climber to get their center of gravity closer to the trunk without maxing out the lanyard when working on thin stems. However for thicker stems using front D's can often be more comfortable as it allows the climber more room to move.

Devices such as the Thompson Tree Tools Hipster (shown) and ART Positioner 2 are well suited to this technique as their release mechanism is on the underside of the device. Take extra care with the Petzl Zillion and hitch based devices where the release mechanism of the device is on top of the line or in a position where the line could cross it.

