

 User Instruction



Quality Gear for Life

Picket Cable
162000

Made in the USA
Seattle Manufacturing Corporation
6930 Salashan Parkway
Ferndale, Washington 98248
800.426.6251 | www.smcgear.net

 **WARNING**

- YOU COULD BE KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED IF YOU DO NOT READ AND UNDERSTAND THE USER INSTRUCTION BEFORE USING THIS PIECE OF EQUIPMENT
- SPECIAL TRAINING AND KNOWLEDGE ARE REQUIRED TO USE THIS EQUIPMENT
- YOU MUST THOROUGHLY READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE USE.
- USE AND INSPECT THIS EQUIPMENT ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS.

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162008

Information for your permanent records:

Date of Purchase: _____

Purchased From: _____

Part Number: _____

BEFORE USE

The techniques employed in the proper and safe use of this equipment may only be learned through PERSONAL instruction received from an instructor who is well-qualified in all phases of vertical rope work. Such instruction will include an evaluation of your comprehension of, and ability to perform, the tasks required to safely and efficiently use this equipment. Never attempt its use until you have received such instruction and are believed competent by your instructor.

INSPECTION FOR USE

Visually and by touch, inspect this picket cable and swage for kinks, fraying, corrosion, and gouges. Inspect the quicklink for cracks, distortion, corrosion, scratches, or gouges, sharp edges or rough areas, and a smoothly turning collar. Compare this cable and quicklink with a new model if necessary to determine its condition. Remove it from service if there is any doubt about its safety or serviceability.

MAINTENANCE AFTER USE

Carefully clean and dry this cable and link to remove all dirt or foreign material and moisture. Minor sharp edges may be smoothed with a fine abrasive cloth, before cleaning. Store in a clean, dry place, detached from the picket. All chemical products, corrosive material, and solvents should be regarded as harmful to the well being of this product. If this product comes into contact with any chemicals, it should be removed from service.

REMOVAL FROM SERVICE

This picket cable should be removed from service if it has been dropped, or exposed to heat sufficient to alter its surface appearance, or if the swage has become separated or cracked, or if distortion of any part is apparent, or signs of fraying, or if any cracks are apparent, or if it has scratches or gouges of more than a superficial nature, or the picket cable has been disassembled. The cost to inspect and repair a picket cable that is visually damaged, or that may have been damaged by impact loading or other abuse, will exceed the cost of its replacement with a new model.

RECORDS

It is suggested that the user of this picket cable and quicklink keep a permanent record listing the date and results of each usage inspection. Such record should show, as a minimum, inspection for all of the following conditions:

- Cleanliness
- Dryness
- Free from corrosion and distortion
- Swage is not separated or cracked
- Cable is free of kinks and fraying
- Quicklink is free of cracks, distortion, scratches, sharp edges, or gouges
- Quicklink has smoothly turning collar
- User Information Sheet is present

USE OF THIS USER INSTRUCTION SHEET

It is suggested that this User Instruction sheet be retained in a permanent record after it is separated from the picket cable, and that a copy of it be kept with the picket cable. It is suggested that the user refer to this User Instruction sheet before and after each use of the picket cable.

LIFESPAN

The service life of picket cables is largely dependent on the type of use and the environment used in. Under moderate use, with limited exposure to moisture, salt water, corrosive agents, excessive loads, shock loading and excessive wear, picket cables may last many years. However, many events such as taking a large dynamic load, dropping, or other events which cause physical damage, can reduce the lifespan of this picket cable dramatically.

You must inspect your picket cable frequently and take personal responsibility for evaluating its condition and retiring unsafe gear. Inspection is extremely important, but visual inspection only will not assure that damage has not occurred. If history of the picket cable is unknown or if based on the history of the use of this picket cable there is any doubt regarding the safety of this picket cable, it should be removed from service. You should destroy retired gear to prevent future use.

LIMITED WARRANTY

SMC products are warranted to the original retail purchaser in accordance with the full Statement of Limited Warranty printed on our web site: www.smcgear.net. Items that are claimed to be defective must be returned under a pre-assigned Return Authorization/CC Number and should include a detailed description of the conditions existing during use of the item, the place and date of the original purchase as well as a copy of the original invoice or receipt. Items being sent in for inspection may or may not be returned if the product in question is deemed potentially unsafe or non-functional.

USING YOUR PICKET CABLE

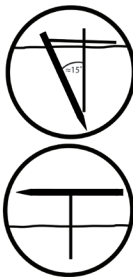
The Picket Cable can be attached to your SMC I Picket to create a more versatile snow anchor. The thin cable profile allows you to “cut” through the snow without having to use an ice axe or snow saw to dig out a slot. The thin profile also allows the cable to pass through the snow without disturbing it for the strongest possible snow placement. Included quicklink provides a semi-permanent attachment between the cable and the picket, locking the picket in place during use, yet also easily removable when not needed.

NOTICE

Accurate assessment of snow conditions and their potential for change during day/night is critical in determining correct picket placement.

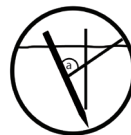
The Picket Cable is most effective when attached to the center point of the I Picket. Use the included Link to attach one loop of the cable to the desired hole of the I Picket. ALWAYS screw the collar closed completely to ensure a secure connection. If desired, the Picket Cable may also be girth hitched through a hole in the picket.

- In hard packed snow or ice, place the picket as a stake, driving the pointed end into the snow. Angle the picket (approx. 15°) back from the direction of pull and clip a carabiner into the hole closest to the surface of the snow.
- In softer snow and warming conditions, bury the picket as a deadman. Place the I Picket horizontally and perpendicular to the direction of pull. Clip the Picket Cable into the center hole. Pull the Picket Cable through the snow to “cut” a path as direct as possible to the direction of pull.



- In snow with varied consistency, place the picket vertically as a stake with the Picket Cable connected at the midpoint. Drive the pointed end into the snow, angle the picket back from the direction of pull. Pull the cable through the snow to “cut” a path as directly as possible to the direction of pull. The angle of the Picket Cable will determine how the I Picket reacts to a load.

- If (a) angle = 90°, Neutral Placement, the picket will pull straight ahead.
- If (a) angle >90°, Positive Placement, the picket will drive down deeper into the snow.
- If (a) angle <90°, Negative Placement, the picket will lift up out of the snow, resulting in early failure.



MBS OF PICKET CABLE ASSEMBLY ONLY - 8kN

When used with a picket in snow, the overall anchor strength will vary greatly with the snow quality/consistency and method and skill of placement. The minimum breaking strength represents the breaking strength of the Picket Cable ONLY, not the anchor. The snow is normally the weakest link in the snow anchor system.

WARNING

Climbing and Mountaineering are hazardous. Even correct selection, use and maintenance of equipment cannot eliminate the risk of injury or death. It is the user's responsibility to ensure understanding of the correct and safe use of this equipment, to use it only for the purposes for which it is designed, and to practice all proper safety procedures.

- Use the Picket Cable with Pickets only.
- Quick link screw collar must be screwed closed completely.
- A locking carabiner may be used in place of Quick link, but it MUST be locked.
- System Strength is dependent on snow composition, conditions, and picket placement. Snow conditions vary widely and it is the user's responsibility to know and understand how these conditions will affect the suitability of their system. Proper training and practice is required to use this product.
- SMC Products are for mountaineering/ rescue/ rock climbing use only. These activities are inherently dangerous. Any person using these products must first obtain qualified instruction on their use and is responsible for their own actions/decisions. FAILURE TO FOLLOW WARNINGS CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

If you do not completely understand any of the outlined user Instruction provided on this sheet or if you have any questions please contact SMC at 360-366-5534 or info@smcgear.net