



**Catalog 10**



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# A5 Innovation

**A**5 Adventures designs and manufactures equipment with adventure in mind. Our portaledges have been directly responsible for most of the successful extreme big wall ascents around the world in recent years, and our packs, haulbags, and web products are regarded by the experts of the field as the best for strength, durability, and optimal function. We are proud of our contribution to climber's needs, and intend to continue to be the innovative leaders in big-wall gear designs.

The same over-built construction required for our big-wall equipment is built into every product we make, which are all designed and manufactured with highly active pursuits in mind, and are handcrafted by threadworkers in Flagstaff, Arizona. Our designs and construction are the result of years of product testing and feedback from many experts in the climbing and outdoor fields. Our long list of original concepts and ideas includes the first hanging rope bag (The Rope Bucket™), the first hooking piton (the A5 Birdbeak™), the first completely ready to haul pack (the Astropack™), as well as a slew of innovative features for big wall hanging tents and haulable packs. At A5 Adventures, our aim is to innovate advanced systems and products. We are dedicated to quality.

—John Middendorf, Proprietor

# A5 Cliff Tents

The A5 Portaledge is the hanging tent of choice on extreme big wall ascents worldwide. Our strong and light one-, two-, and three-person portaledges have been used on difficult multi-day vertical ascents in Alaska, Antarctica, Africa, Baffin Island, Indian Himalaya, Pakistan Karakoram, Patagonia, and many other areas, including Zion, Yosemite, the Wind Rivers, the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, and the Chamonix Alps. From Catherine Destivelle's solo first ascent on the Dru in 1990 to John Middendorf and Xaver Bongard's standard pushing ascent of *The Grand Voyage* on the Great Trango Tower in 1992 to Brad Jarret, Chris Breemer, and Christian Santalices' 1995 ascent of *The Dream* on Escudo, A5 portaledges have been tested in the most extreme conditions the world over. Ascents which were once impossible due to extreme conditions are now comfortably survivable with A5 hanging bivouac shelter technology.

Our patent pending Expedition Stormfly™ features a completely enclosed system for warmth and protection in the most extreme conditions. Triple urethane coated waterproof material, two doors which act as vents, and corner tie-downs are part of this revolutionary system for complete protection in even the fiercest storms on big walls in the high altitude and remote ranges of the world.

Jared Ogden checking the weather during the first ascent of the North Face of Trango Tower, Pakistan.  
Photo by Willy Benegas.



# A5 Alpine Double Ledge

The A5 Alpine Double Ledge is the ledge of choice for remote alpine adventures where every pound must be carefully considered without sacrificing security. It features a six-point adjustable suspension, and two Sharkfin™ dividers which are angled to maximize room for two people. The Sharkfins are detachable for bivouacs with cozy partners or for use as a super roomy one-person ledge. It comes with its own haulbag and your choice of fly. For most conditions, the patent pending single seam standard fly is adequate. For high altitude and extremely windy conditions, the patent pending Expedition StormFly™ (shown here) is choice. The A5 Alpine Double Portaledge is the ultimate expeditionary two-person big-wall shelter, proven on hundreds of expeditions worldwide since 1988. Size: 43" x 75" Weights: Ledge 9 lbs. Standard fly: 3 1/2 lbs. Expedition Stormfly: 5 lbs.



Machined corners    Double butted tubes

## ENGINEERED QUALITY

A5 portaledge frames are constructed of 6061-T6 aircraft aluminum tubing and precision machined corners. Close tolerances ensure fast setup and disassembly. Lightweight and strong, the A5 frames are exceptionally rigid, and are designed to eliminate twisting and hourglassing. A5 portaledges are “bomber” in situations that would crumple any other design.



Above: John Middendorf on the summit rim of Great Trango Tower after climbing the strenuous and overhanging Wormhole pitch (5.9 A2) at 20,000'. Photo by Xaver Bongard.

# A5 Cliff Cabaña

The A5 Cliff Cabaña™ is a larger ledge for situations where the comfort of a roomy tent is worth the extra pounds. This ledge is ROOMY! The interior of this ledge feels like the proverbial cabaña. And this ledge is STRONG! We've designed the frame (the same ledge frame that we use for our 3-person Diamond ledge) to be rock solid even with three people hanging out on it during dinner or the social hour. Features include a three point divider, strong and easy-to-adjust cam buckle suspension system, reinforced drain holes in the bed, and for ease in set-up, our Fold-Over Bed Tensioning System™. It comes with our patent pending Cliff Cabaña Expedition Stormfly™ for withstanding any conditions mother nature may throw at you.

Size: 51" wide by 86" long.

Weight: Ledge 13 1/2 lbs. (equivalent to 6 1/2 quarts of water) Fly: 6 lbs. (3 quarts)



## COMPACT TO PACK AND FAST TO SET- UP.

All A5 portaledges fit compactly in their own haulbag and can be set up anywhere, requiring only a single anchor point. Set-up takes just a few minutes and is a breeze thanks to A5's original Fold-over Bed Tensioning System™, in which the frame is assembled first, followed by tensioning of each end of the bed. The beds are constructed of tough nylon packcloth with ballistics scuffguards at wear points, and our suspensions feature strong and quickly adjustable cam-buckles. Comfort and strength is unsurpassed in A5 portaledges, the ultimate in vertical shelters.

"Don't be dropping that rack!"

Steve Gerberding about to send over some pitons during the first ascent of Kaos, El Cap.

Photo by Dave Bengston.



# A5 Diamond Ledge



The A5 Diamond Ledge™ is a fully enclosed, top and optionally bottom suspended two or three person ledge system. The Diamond Ledge features a patent pending single seam, enclosed fly design which was originally prototyped and designed by John Middendorf in 1993 for an attempt on a new route on the East Face of Cerro Torre. The bottom suspension anchors the ledge down in high winds, while the aerodynamic diamond shape prevents the wind from catching on any large flat surfaces during a storm. The Diamond ledge comes with a super-comfortable hammock that can be suspended underneath the ledge frame for a third person. Haulbags and equipment can also be stored underneath with access through a lower door. The A5 Diamond Ledge is built to exacting standards for the most extreme conditions.



Above: A5 now offers 3 sizes of ledge platforms to choose from. On the left is the Cliff Cabana/Diamond Ledge frame, the Alpine Double frame is in the center, and Single Ledge frame is on the right.



Right: The Diamond Ledge in action during the pioneering first ascent of the 4000 foot East Face of Escudo in the Chilean Patagonia, a major nailng route which was climbed alpine style without fixed ropes in a 19 day push. Photo by Chris Breemer.

# A5 Single Ledge



The A5 single ledge is a roomy one person platform and features a stable four-point suspension system which allows for a super comfortable hang while sitting on the center of the ledge with legs kicked out in space--great for those extended belays and enjoyable evenings after a long day.

Comes complete with hauling sack and standard rainfly. Packed with features, the A5 single ledge is undoubtedly the finest one person portaledge in the world!

Size: 29.5" x 84" Weight with fly: 10.5 lbs.

## Simply Stormproof

Our standard flies feature our patent-pending single vertical seam design for maximum waterproofness and are constructed of urethane coated oxford nylon and a full length ballistics nylon scuffguard. An integrated stuffsack system allows for ultimate preparedness during times of mixed weather, because the fly can be clipped into the suspension ready to deploy at any time. A double drawstring closure and two tensioning straps below the ledge secure the fly tightly to the frame.

## POLE KITS

We now offer custom length poles for all our portaledge models. Our pole system creates more interior room by extending out the fly.



## BREATHABLE FLYS AVAILABLE.

For most big-wall conditions, our stock triple-urethane coated completely waterproof material is the best choice because of the extraordinary wet conditions found during many big wall storms. For certain specialized conditions where it will be exclusively cold and dry, breathable portaledge flies are a viable choice. Call A5 for more information.



Above: the North and South towers of Mt. Asgard, Baffin Island. Photo by Steve Quinlan.

# A5 Gear proven in the field by experts!

## Sue McDevitt

Sue is representative of a new generation of all-around climbers. Sue is a veteran of over 25 El Cap and Half Dome routes, including the first all-woman ascent of the Nose-in-a-day with Nancy Feagin (in 18 hours). Sue placed 4th in the Survival of the Fittest contest and has been featured in *Climbing Magazine*. Sue is a guide for the Yosemite Mountaineering School, specializing in guided big wall climbs, and of course, uses the best in big-wall gear: A5!

Photo right: Sue McDevitt racking up on a winter ascent of Mescalito.  
Photo by Dan McDevitt.

Below: Steve Gerberding on the west face of Middle Triple during a 10 day storm. Photo by Jay Smith.



## Steve Gerberding

From the Nose route in 1983 to the first ascent of the Reticent Wall in 1995, Steve Gerberding has climbed El Cap over 70 times. The list includes the Salathé, Lurking Fear, Zodiac, Tangerine Trip, Horse Chute, Muir Wall, North American Wall, New Dawn, Aurora, Mescalito, Shield, Tribal Rite, New Jersey Turnpike (now we're up to 1986), Zenyatta Mondatta, Wall of the Early Morning Light, Never-Never Land, Lunar Eclipse, Native Son, West Face, Space, Eagle's Way, Sea of Dreams, Lost in America, Atlantic Ocean Wall, Triple Direct, The Shortest Straw, Grape Race, The Real Nose, Octopussy, Gulf Stream, Flight of the Albatross, False Shield, Tempest, Wyoming Sheep Ranch, and the Bad Seed. Steve has climbed El Cap 29 separate times in a single push since 1990, with times ranging from 11 hours on the Nose, to 24 hours on the North American Wall, to 36 hours on the Pacific Ocean Wall. Steve has also climbed first-ascents on big walls in remote regions, including Back-to-the-Front and Badlands in Patagonia's Cerro Torre group.

# A5 Deluxe Haulbag

Our deluxe haulbag extends the boundaries of innovative haulbag design. We start with all the original A5 concepts which define the modern haulbag (see our Grade VI description), then add some amazing features. The top riverbag-style closure keeps out bad weather and allows for effective overpacking with our over-the-top cam buckle strap. Our triple padded and anatomically curved shoulder and waist straps maximize carrying comfort. The suspension straps have a top and bottom scuff, and inside you will find daisy chains and a pocket. We offer our deluxe haulbag in two models: the slightly more durable (but more expensive) 33 ounce urethane coated material, and the proven white 28 ounce vinyl coated nylon. Our haulbags are uniquely designed from extensive experience in the vertical field.



Another exclusive A5 haulbag feature: the riverbag style closure.



Left: The A5 belay seat fits into the tuck-away pocket on all our haulbags for backpack carrying support.

Photo Right: "And only to find it is time to carry all that stuff back down!" Silvia Vidal on top of El Capitan.

Photo left: A5 Haulbags in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison.  
Photo by Jeff Burton.





# Grade VI Haulbag

A5 Haulbags are the proven standard all over the world for extreme big-wall ascents. Constructed of the tough vinyl coated nylon fabric which is famous for its durability, frictionless hauling, and waterproofness, A5 Haulbags feature an offset four-point suspension which runs full-length down the sides (unlike some competitor's models) and around the bottom for maximum security when your life depends on it. All seams are protected from abrasion including the shoulder straps and bottom seam which have their own scuffguards. A full strength clip-in loop for securing the haulbag at belays is integrated into the suspension. A packcloth skirt and external drawstring closure seal the bag tight and give it a streamlined bullet shape for hauling. An inside zippered pocket keeps small items accessible. Carrying loads to the base is no problem with our fully padded and original A5 suspension system: the padded waist belt is removable, and the integral padded shoulder straps pack inside the original A5 Tuck-Away™ pocket quickly for easy access and snag-free hauling. Our haulbags are the toughest on the market and have been known to survive unharmed after 2000 foot plummets from the top of a wall, fully packed and tossed. Volume: 10,000 cubic inches. Weight: 5 pounds.



## A5 Belay Seat

Our sturdy Bosun's Chair features an adjustable back rest strap and a foam padded seat for a good hang in any vertical situation. Fits into the Tuck-Away™ shoulder strap pocket on A5 haulbags for additional backpack support.



The A5 Offset clip-in system allows better hanging access.



The mighty Barrille. Photo by Paul Turecki.

# A5 Haulpack

The A5 Haulpack is a medium sized haulbag for Grade V's, or a second haulbag for longer multi-day routes. For Grade VI routes where a sizable rack, water, food, bivy and rain gear must all be carried, the A5 Haulpack is the tool. For extreme big wall ascents where huge racks must be organized, the A5 Haulpack is an excellent gear bag acting as a protective sheath for the racks, with separate slings of pitons, camming devices, mashheads, hooks and Birdbeaks suspended from the hauling point while still allowing easy access to other items inside of the pack.



The A5 Haulpack features fully padded A5 Tuck-Away™ shoulder straps and removable waist belt, internal clip-in points for securing gear, removable top lid with pocket, and tough vinyl coated nylon fabric construction.

Volume: 4000 in<sup>3</sup>. Weight: 3 1/2 lbs.



Eivind Kallevik on Moby Dick, Ulamertorssuaq.



Ulamertorssuaq In Greenland.  
Photos by Hans-Jørgen Oppi Christiansen

# The A5 H<sub>2</sub>O Chalkbag

Here's another innovative A5 solution to the age-old problem of how to keep your chalk dry on a multi-day climb during which a few storms may be encountered. This chalkbag features an pile-lined inner waterproof bladder with a separated drawstring closure and a top-zippered flap system that will keep the elements out. Holds about a block and a half of chalk (3 oz.), enough for many pitches way up off the deck. If you use chalk and aren't afraid of cutting loose from the the aid slings 20 pitches up on a 5.11 A5 wall, this chalkbag is for you!



## THE A5 WARRANTY

Genuine A5 Adventures, Inc. products are fully warranted against defects in workmanship and materials. Should any flaw appear due to defective craftsmanship and materials, even after extended use, A5 Adventures will repair or replace, at our option, the product at no cost to the original purchaser.

## REPAIRS

If your A5 equipment needs repair due to normal wear and tear, or if you drop your packed A5 ledge 2000 feet (we've had a few of these), we will provide the necessary service for a reasonable charge plus shipping and handling. Please clean the item, along with a description of what needs attention, and we will respond with a quote and an estimation of the repair time. Call A5, Attn: Jason

## THE FINE PRINT

**DISCLAIMER:** Climbing is a dangerous activity. The gear sold by A5 is designed to create a safer, more efficient climbing system. It is the responsibility of the user to properly evaluate and understand an item's limitations and potential prior to in-field use, and to assume all risk and liability in connection therewith. A5 Adventures, Inc. shall not be liable for consequential damages, injury, or death arising from any use of the products sold by A5 Adventures, Inc.

## Big Wall Web Page



Don't miss the Big Wall Web Page on the Internet, a collection of big wall tales and pictures, with links to an online A5 Catalog, other climbing pages, the weather, and more. Find it at:

<http://www.primenet.com/~mids/>

## John Swenson Artwork

A5 is proud to offer cards from our esteemed cover artist. A set of 12 assorted Swenson cards with envelopes go for \$20 postpaid.

A limited edition (of 750) 12" x 18" signed and numbered fine art print of our cover is available from the artist. For details, call John Swenson at 907-766-2097 in Haines, Alaska.

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**For further information,  
Call 520-779-5084,  
FAX 520-779-1040,  
email [A5info@aol.com](mailto:A5info@aol.com),  
or write: A5 Adventures,  
1109 S. Plaza Way #296,  
Flagstaff, Arizona 86001**

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# A5 Adventures Price List

## Hanging Bivouac Systems

	<u>Price</u>
Single Portaledge with fly	\$585.00
--Single fly only	\$225.00
Alpine Double Portaledge	
--with standard fly	\$655.00
--with Expedition StormFly™	\$750.00
--Expedition Stormfly only	\$350.00
Cliff Cabaña™ with EXP fly	\$875.00
Three-person Diamond Ledge™	\$1000.00
Pole Kit (specify ledge model)	\$20.00
A5 Silk-screened Logo	Call
Breathable Fabric Flies	Call
Tee-Bone Hammock™	\$180.00

## Haulbags

Vinyl Grade VI Haulbag	\$155.00
Deluxe Vinyl Haulbag	\$185.00
Deluxe Urethane Haulbag	\$245.00
Haul Pack	\$132.50

## Packs

Astropack™	\$128.50
Lechuguilla Pack™	\$125.00
Alpine Pack	\$132.50
Buddy Bag™ (Ballistics/Cordura)	\$25.00

## More Sewn Goods

Traveler's Duffel	\$84.50
H <sub>2</sub> O Chalk Bag™	\$26.50
Bolt Bag	\$26.50
Rope Bucket™	\$30.00

## Webbing Products

4-Step Aider (each)	\$23.50
5-Step Aider (each)	\$26.50
Alpine Aiders (each)	\$18.00
Daisy Chain-Regular	\$18.00
Daisy Chain-Long	\$20.00
Double Gear Sling	\$75.00
Small Double Gear Sling	\$60.00
Nose-in-a-day Gear Sling	\$26.50

## Hardware

A5 Birdbeak	\$8.00
Mash-head™ #1	\$2.00
Mash-head #2	\$2.00
Mash-head #3	\$2.50
Mash-head #4	\$2.50
Mash-head #5	\$3.00
Rivet Hanger (3/32")	\$2.00

## Stuff Bags

Stuff Bag--small	\$7.50
Stuff Bag--medium	\$8.50
Stuff Bag--large	\$10.50
Stuff Bag--extra large	\$12.50

## Miscellaneous

A5 Belay Seat	\$30.00
Gardner Hook	\$20.00
Big Wall Book	\$10.00
Wilderness Rock Drill	\$85.00
9/32" Collet for above	\$15.00

We strongly recommend seeing your dealer first, but we realize many climbers don't live near an A5 retail shop, so we offer our products by mail. We accept check, money order, Visa and MasterCard. Shipping for USA: \$5.00 for orders up to \$200, and \$8.00 for orders more than \$200. Arizona residents add 6.5% sales tax. Foreign orders will be charged at actual shipping cost plus \$3.00 handling. Call 602-779-5084, or FAX 520-779-1040.



A5 Tee-shirts with our famous "Overhanging Man" illustration. 100% cotton Haynes Beefy-t's. Medium, large, and extra-large. \$18.00

**A5 Adventures, Inc.**  
**1109 S. Plaza Way #296**  
**Flagstaff, AZ 86001**  
**520-779-5084**

# A5 Dealers

Our products are available from excellent climbing stores around the world. After reviewing our catalogue, we suggest that you take it along while visiting your local shop. If they are not yet one of our valued dealers, we offer a mail order service but please understand that immediate delivery may not be possible since all our products are individually handcrafted by quality threadworkers in Flagstaff, Arizona in a quality process that cannot be rushed. For more information on the latest A5 dealers, call 520-779-5084.

## ALASKA

Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking

## ARIZONA

The Edge (Flagstaff)

Mountain Sports (Flagstaff)

Desert Mountain Sports

Summit Hut (Tucson)

## CALIFORNIA

California Outfitters (Fresno)

Marmot Mountain Works (Berkeley)

Marmot Mountain Works (Kentfield)

Mountain Tools (Monterey)

Mountain High (Ridgecrest)

Nomad Ventures (Escondido)

Nomad Ventures (Carlsbad)

Nomad Ventures (Idyllwild)

Nomad Ventures (Joshua Tree)

Northern Mountain Supply (Eureka)

ProLithic Sports (Los Angeles)

Sierra Nevada Adventure Company

Sunrise Mountaineering (Livermore)

Sunrise Mountaineering (Walnut Creek)

Western Mountaineering (San Jose)

The Yosemite Mountain Shop

## COLORADO

Backcountry Experience

Boulder Mountaineer

Grand West Outfitters

Mountain Shop of Fort Collins

Naked Edge Mountaineering

Neptune Mountaineering

Summit Canyon Mountaineering

The Telluride Mountaineer

Telluride Sports

## IDAHO

Scott's Ski And Sports (Pocatello)

## MONTANA

Barrel Mountaineering (Bozeman)

Rocky Mountain Outfitter (Kalispell)

## NEVADA

Reno Mountain Sports

Desert Rock Sports

## NEW MEXICO

Snowy River Outfitters

## OREGON

Oregon Mountain Community

Climber's Choice International

## TEXAS

Mountain Sports (Arlington)



## UTAH

International Mountain Equipment

Black Diamond Retail Shop

Outdoor Outlet (Saint George)

Moab Rock Shop

## WASHINGTON

Mountain Gear (Spokane)

Marmot Mountain Works (Bellevue)

Swallow's Nest (Seattle)

Feathered Friends

## SOUTHEAST STATES

Black Dome Mountain Sports

High Country Outfitters (GA)

Mountain Ventures (GA)

Hills and Trails (Winston Salem, NC)

Sherrill (Greensboro, NC)

Mountain Trails (Winchester, VA)

Virginia Beach Rock Gym

## EAST COAST

Climb High (Shelburne, VT)

IME (North Conway, NH)

Campmor (Paramus, NJ)

The Mountaineer (Keene Valley, NY)

## CANADA

Mountain Equipment Co-op

## INTERNATIONAL

Australia: Trango Mountain Products

Japan: Lost Arrow LTD

United Kingdom: Outside (Sheffield)

United Kingdom: High Sports IC

Spain: Barrabes (Huesca)

France: Snell Sports (Chamonix)

France: Patagonia (Chamonix)

France: Expé (Pont-en-Royans)

Germany: Outdoor Unlimited (Gunnigen)

Germany: Sport Scheck

Switzerland: Bugaboo Sport (Fribourg)

Sweden: Naturens Rop (Stockholm)

Norway: Skandinavisk Hoyfjellsutstyr AS

# More Essentials...



## Seam Grip for sealing A5 Rainflies:

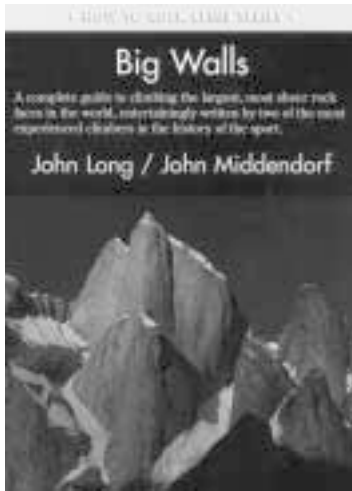
Sealing with thin liquid seam sealer is a joke for conditions found on big walls, as is depending on taped seams. The only viable solution for big wall conditions is McNett Corporation's Seamgrip™, a specially formulated urethane product that lays down a durable 100% waterproof seal that bonds permanently to nylon. McNett's order desk is at 1-800-221-7325 (Bellingham, WA).



## UNITED STATES PLASTIC CORP.

Lima, Ohio. 1-800-537-9724

US Plastics Corporation's inexpensive selection of 8, 15, and 30 gallon "Open Head Shipping Containers with cover lock" (barrels) are excellent gear and water carrying containers for expeditionary climbs.



## Big Wall Tools and Techniques.

For the complete reference on big wall tips and techniques, check out *How to Rock Climb: Big Walls!* by John Middendorf and John Long, published by Chockstone Press, Evergreen, Colorado.



Cheat to win! Forrest Gardner's handcrafted hooks are for getting heinous on the steep edges.



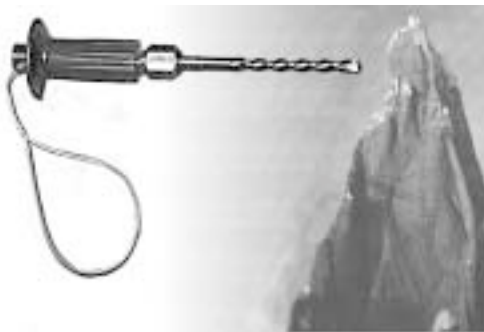
Recharge Your AA Nicads With The Sun

Rechargeable AA system for expeditions with new Nickel Metal Hydride battery technology (environmentally friendly rechargeable batteries). Available from the Real Goods Catalog 1-800-762-7325.



200 DA (Double Angle) Collets for the Hurricane Mountain Works Drill. Available from J&L Industrial Supply (Livonia, MI) 1-800-521-9520. The 9/32" collet is popular as it fits most drills made for the Rawl #14 taper system.

# Tools



## HURRICANE MOUNTAIN WORKS WILDERNESS HAND DRILL

The Hurricane Mountain Works hand drill is a compact rock drilling system which secures a drill in the holder and allows for quick change of bits in the field. An interchangeable collet system allows use of any size drills. Standard collet (included) accepts SDS carbide tipped bits. Other features include a hardened stainless steel body with anti-mushrooming steel insert on the striking surface, a rubber grip with flange for hand protection, and a spinning wrist loop. Comes with instructional brochure complete with drilling tips.

## A5 MASHHEADS™

Mashheads are speciality big-wall items for mashing into shallow grooves and pockets for aid placements.

A5 Mashheads are made from steel aircraft cable and genuine copper and aluminium Nicopress sleeves.

Size Min. Diam. Mash Mat'l. Cable Strength

#1	0.180" Copper	480 lbs.
#2	0.250" Copper	920 lbs.
#3	0.350" Alum.	1700 lbs.
#4	0.380" Alum.	2600 lbs.
#5	0.475" Alum.	2600 lbs.



## A5 BIRDBEAK™

THE ORIGINAL HOOKING PITON. The 4130 chrome-moly steel A5 Birdbeak™ has revolutionized difficult aid climbing. Used for the thinnest of thin vertical cracks. Swaged 3/32" cable. Most modern big wall routes require at least 3-5 beaks.

## A5 BOLT BAG

The ultimate bolt bag, with two internal pockets for organizing bolts and hangers, and four slot pockets for extra drill bits. Tough nylon ballistics construction with drawstring closure, full strength clip-in loop and side hammer holsters.



Photo: Todd Scarborough and Rick Phillips on Hogs and Horses A4+, "somewhere in North Carolina". Photo by Will Van De Berg.

# A5 Astropack

The Astropack™ is for the climber who wants both a comfortable pack to carry on long approaches and a haulable pack for multi-pitch routes. Imagine you're heading up the West Face of El Cap, poised to cruise 1500 feet of vertical stone. All your gear is loaded in the Astropack. At the base, simply tuck in the shoulder straps, pack away the waist belt, and you've got yourself a streamlined haulbag ready to haul. At the summit, pull out the shoulder straps and attach the waist belt for a comfortable descent. Whether you're climbing El Capitan, Astroman, the Diamond, or any other long day route, this pack is for you. The Astropack features ballistics nylon construction, an inside pocket which doubles as a lid in the carrying mode, and protective scuff guards for the shoulder straps and bottom seam. Volume: 2350 in<sup>3</sup>. Weight: 2 lbs.





# A5 Lechuguilla Pack

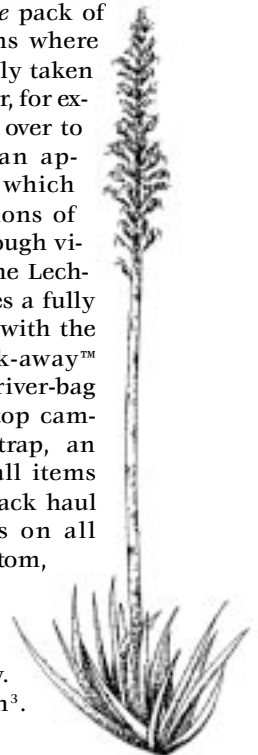


Above: Donald Davis and Steve Maynard in Lechuguilla Cave. Photo by Dave Jones.



Above: Torre de Paine. Photo by John Middendorf.

What began as a pack specifically designed for multi-day trips into the wondrous Lechuguilla cave has become the new standard for all adventures which involve stealth and energy-efficient movement over rugged terrain. This is *the* pack of choice for situations where the pack is frequently taken off in order to haul or, for example, to be passed over to a partner during an approach to a climb which involves short sections of 5th class. Made of tough vinyl coated nylon, the Lechuguilla pack features a fully padded suspension with the A5 original Tuck-away™ shoulder straps, a river-bag style closure with top cam-buckle tensioning strap, an inside key and small items pocket, front and back haul straps, scuffguards on all seams, and top, bottom, and side handles for the ultimate in carrying comfort and maneuverability. Volume 2350 in<sup>3</sup>. Weight: 3 lbs.

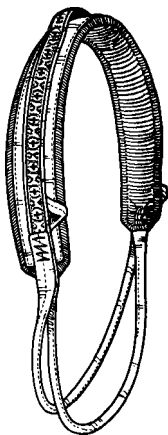


LECHUGUILLA



## A5 Buddy Bag

The A5 Buddy Bag™ is a great waist pocket which rides unobtrusively on the small of your back. Features an expandible baffle pouch with two clip-in loops on the wings, and fully taped seams. Cordura and ballistics nylon construction make this a sturdy bag that will be your pocket of choice for small accoutrements during active endeavors.



## Nose-in-a-day Gear Sling

The Nose-in-a-day™ gear sling is another unique product from A5. We have added incredible functionality to the standard, over-the-shoulder gear sling by adding a second gear loop. The two different length loops offer twice the sling space to organize the rack and biners, and each sling can be brought forward independently for quick and easy gear identification and selection on hard climbs. Designed for routes which require a double set of cams, this gear sling is set up for adventure. Two Nose-in-a-day gear slings can be connected for a lightweight double gear sling. Regular and large sizes.



## Big Wall Stuff Sacks

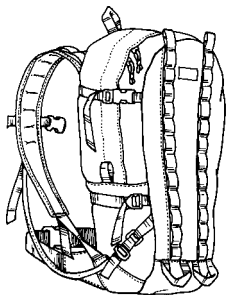
Good hanging stuff sacks are essential for keeping organized on a big wall. Our tough packcloth stuff bags will be your constant companions on all your big wall climbs.



## A5 Rope Bucket

The original Rope Bucket™. The A5 Rope Bucket is a rock climbing tool for multi-pitch routes. Packcloth construction and drawstring closure protects your rope from dirt and UV rays. On the rock, the rope bucket hangs from a two point suspension. The main compartment unzips and the expandible bellows folds open to form a bucket. Forget about rope nightmares at hanging stances: just stack the rope in the bucket for an easy feed and organized belay. Holds two 9mm ropes or one 11mm rope comfortably. Assorted colors.

# A5 Alpine Pack



The A5 Alpine Pack is the best of its class of small and light packs which carry the maximum load possible without compromising mobility while hiking and climbing. The slim profile and teardrop shape allows for full freedom of movement of the upper body and centers the load for optimum balance, while the A5 wing system suspension cradles and equalizes the pack. The A5 Alpine Pack features anatomically curved and padded shoulder straps, full side compressibility, inside zippered pocket, tough ballistics construction, fully taped seams, ice-axe loops, and removable gear slings for racking gear. This phenomenally designed and durable pack is ideal for full day alpine climbs and summit bids. Tri-color design.

Volume: 1900 in<sup>3</sup>. Weight: 21 oz.



Trango Tower southeast and north faces. The Kurtyka-Loretan route is on the sunlit face on the left, and the North Face route goes up the center of the shaded wall on the right.



In the Great Amphitheater on the first ascent of the North Face of Trango Tower. Photos by Eric Brand.

# Gear Sling

## A5 Double



Our big-wall double gear sling is made for the “big jobs”. The full-strength chest harness stabilizes the system while the foam and pile padded, breathable mesh shoulder straps maximize comfort. Our regular model fits everyone as the entire set-up is adjustable for the perfect fit. Also available is a smaller version with fixed gear loops for folks up to 5'6". All the experts agree: this is the gear sling of choice for carrying the big racks.



Above: Charlie Fowler on the Shield headwall during the first clean ascent. Photo by Beth Wald.



# Daisy Chains



Daisy chains are the essential safety extensions for aid climbing and for use with ascenders. A5 daisy chains are made from strong 11/16" supertape webbing with triple bartacks at each pocket. All pockets run down the same side for low stretch when testing and moving onto placements. Overall strength exceeds 3800 lbs.

2 lengths:

Regular: 48", 14 pockets.

Long: 57", 18 pockets.

Photo right: Full strength grab loop and sub-top and second steps are original A5 features. ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES!

Below: "The Big Stone next to the road."

Below left: "The Smaller Stone back in the woods."

Both photos by Chris Falkenstein.

# A5 Aiders

A5 four and five step aiders are designed by experts and incorporate the best features for serious aid. Sturdy 1" web construction, alternating and reinforced main steps with sub-steps, and full-strength grab loops are definitions of the modern aider. Aider pairs are color coded.

Alpine aiders (not pictured) are 3/4" web 4-step aiders for climbs with moderate aid sections or for use as sub-aiders with a pair of our five-step aiders.



# Tee-Bone Hammock

The Tee-Bone Hammock™ is yet another innovative A5 solution to the longstanding problem of a viable lightweight hanging bivouac system. Hammocks have traditionally been torture devices because they cramp the shoulders and crush the user against the rock. Our soon to be patented upper frame design hangs from a single point and holds the hammock away from the rock, keeping it open and ensuring plenty of room for the shoulders and hips. The Tee-Bone Hammock transforms immediately into an excellent belay chair with an integrated head rest and an adjustable system which allows the user to sit up and drop the legs with a simple pull of a strap. The Tee-bone hammock is a revolutionary tool, guaranteed to make possible a new standard of overnight climbs where fast and light is the key. Weight: 3 lbs.



Bill Hatcher Photo

## A5 Traveller's Duffel

Our Traveller's Duffel is the perfect companion for extended weekend trips, and is designed to fit on airplanes as carry-on luggage. The main compartment has a large half-moon zip opening for full access and suitcase convenience. Two separate end pockets keep items organized when travelling. Tough ballistics nylon and bomber A5 construction to ensure your Traveller's Duffel will last a lifetime. Volume: 2800 in<sup>3</sup> Weight: 2 lbs.



Climbers on El Cap. Photo by Chris Falkenstein.

# Photo Gallery



## **Life on the Inside**

Above: Andre VanCampenhoud peeking out after a storm on Tangerine Trip. Cam Lawson.  
Upper Left: Kevin Gheen sitting out a storm on the East Face of Barrille. Photo by Doug Scott.  
Left: The Todd Skinner apartments at 18,000 feet during his 60 day ascent of the Kurtyka-Loretan route on Trango Tower. Photo by Bill Hatcher.  
Below: Escudo! Brad Jarret in the Diamond Ledge ("The Patagonian Palace"). Chris Breemer.





**AS Adventures, Inc.  
1109 S. Plaza Way #296  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
520-779-5084**

**To:**

