

Model: BDML-300

# 20' Mini Ladder

CLIMBING LADDER

MAXIMUM WEIGHT LIMIT: 300 POUNDS



## WARNING

- ALWAYS TEST/PRACTICE THIS PRODUCT AT GROUND LEVEL FIRST!
- When hunting from any treestand, falls can occur at any time which can cause serious injury or death. DO NOT use this product without a Full Body Harness (Fall Arrest System) that meets current TMA standards. NEVER be detached from the tree for any reason or at any time. Read, Understand and Follow ALL instructions and warnings prior to each use.
- Do not return this product to the retailer. Call BIG DOG TREESTANDS for replacement of any damaged or missing parts.

Inspect ALL product components for evidence of damage or wear sustained during shipping/handling/manufacturing of the product prior to assembly or use. If for any reason you are not satisfied with product or with any product component, DO NOT use until the problem has been resolved.



## PACKING LIST:

<b>A</b>	1	Mini Ladder Section	Part # MLS-300
<b>B</b>	4	Button Stabilizing Strap	Part # BSS-225
<b>C</b>	4	Tree brace	Part # TB-300
<b>D</b>	6	Quick Pins	Part # 8010
	4	8mm x 2-3/8" Bolt	Part # 1515
	4	8mm Locknut	Part # 2510



## WARNING

- Use of climbing belt of the FAS required when installing/removing climbing stick or treestand. The climbing belt is used as means of stabilization during ascent/descent/installation of climbing sticks/Treestands.

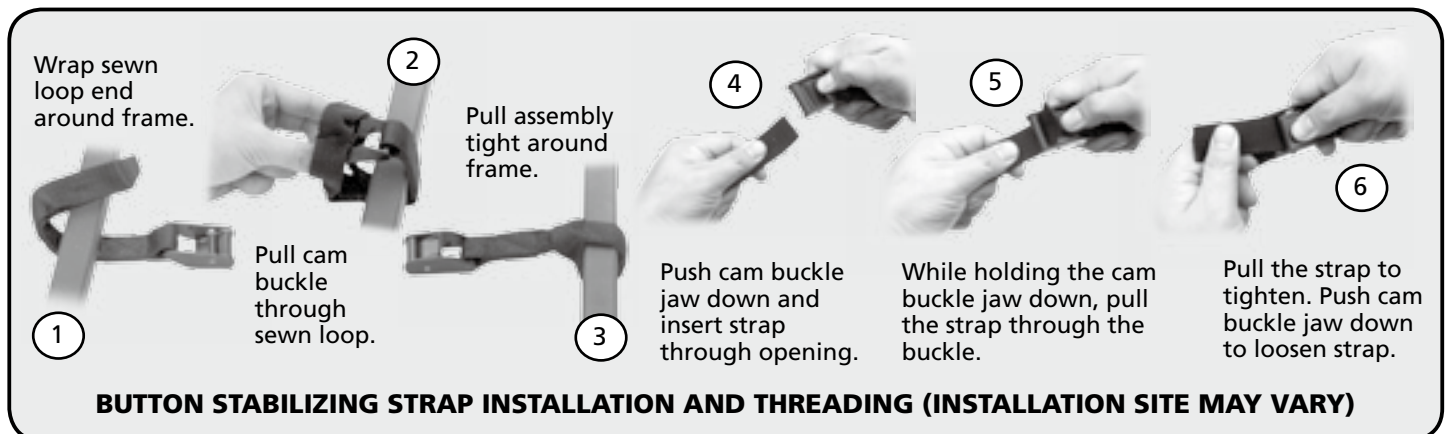
Thank you for purchasing the Mini Ladder. This instruction will tell you how to assemble and use the product. Every year hunters are seriously injured in tree stand accidents. Please carefully read and follow these instructions. For missing or damaged parts, please call customer service for fast service at 1-866-387-2002.

## ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

1. Locate the Ladder Sections (A) and Tree Braces (C). Bolt the Tree Braces (C) to the back side of the Ladder Sections (A) using (1) 8mm x 2-3/8" bolt and locknut. Repeat for the remaining (3) Tree Braces (C).
2. With the Tree Braces (C) facing the same direction. Assemble the (4) Ladder Sections (A) together by inserting the crimped end of one Ladder Section (A) into the square end of the consecutive Ladder Section (A). Secure using (2) Quick Pins (D). Repeat for the (2) remaining connections.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

1. Use of the climbing belt of the FAS is required when installing/removing/using of the Mini Ladder or treestand. The climbing belt is used as means of stabilization during ascent/descent/installation/removal of Mini Ladder/Treestands. Min. 12" diameter Tree is REQUIRED.
2. Lay the pre-assembled Mini Ladder Sections so that the Tree Braces are facing upward. Next, attach the Button Stabilizing Straps to "EACH" Tree Brace as shown in **Fig. 2**. See diagram for proper attachment and location of the Button Stabilizing Straps. Note: The Button Stabilizing Straps are fastened/secured behind the pre-welded rod on the Tree Brace. DO NOT secure to the pre-welded rod. The welded rod is to prevent the strap from sliding off the end of the brace. Next, with (3) or more people, lean Mini Ladder assembly against the tree. Step on the bottom of ladder section until firmly seated into the ground. Next, have (2) or more people hold ladder against the tree and secure Bottom Section to the tree (located near eye level) using (1) Button Stabilizing Strap at ground level. Note: Please refer to the product diagram for location and proper attaching of the Button Stabilizing Straps. Secure strap firmly against the tree. Refer to Button Stabilizing Strap Installation and threading instruction prior to leaving the ground for proper threading and attaching of the straps. ALWAYS wear/use a climbing belt of your Fall Arrest System (FAS) at all times. Tie off all loose remaining strap ends securely.
3. Attach the climbing belt of your FAS to the tree. Next, step up the Mini Ladder until you reach next Tree Brace connection at eye level and secure the next Looped Button strap firmly against the tree. Note: Secure each strap connection at "Eye Level". Note: Do not lean backwards while attaching/removing the ladder assembly. Tie off all loose strap ends around the tree.
4. Repeat Step 3 for remaining Tree Brace strap locations while wearing/using climbing belt of your Fall Arrest System (FAS). Important: Use of a Fall Arrest System (FAS) and climbing belt of the (FAS) are required the moment your foot leaves the ground until you are safely back to the ground. Never be detached from the tree at ANYTIME. Always place your fixed position stand BELOW the end of your climbing aide so you can safely step "DOWN" into platform area.



## CLIMBING STICK REMOVAL

1. While attached to the tree with your climbing belt of your Fall Arrest System (FAS) and at eye level of the upper most Tree Brace strap location, carefully un-fasten the the Looped Button strap at eye level. Note: Be careful not to lean away from the tree while standing on the climbing aide. Next, carefully and slowly step down until you reach the next Tree Brace connection strap at eye level and un-fasten the Looped Button strap. Repeat until safely back to the ground. NOTE: Have (2) or more people hold the Climbing Stick against the tree to prevent any movement in the climbing stick while trying to remove from the tree.
2. With (2) or more people, carefully lower the climbing stick slowly to the ground. Do not stand in the direct path of the climbing stick. Do not allow the climbing stick to slam against the ground.

## STORAGE AND CARE

- It is recommended that you store your treestand out of direct sunlight and out of any other harsh environmental condition(s) that may adversely affect its performance.

## SAFETY WARNINGS

Please take the time to read and understand each point stated below. The information contained can save your life!!

- **WARNING!** Read/Understand/Follow ALL instructions and warnings thoroughly before using your Fall Arrest System (FAS) (that meets TMA standards), Tree Stand, cinch belt/ratchet/stabilizing straps or ropes, and climbing devices prior to EACH use. Replace any suspected or damaged components with only factory authorized parts/components. Discontinue use if any part of your FAS or tree stand shows any type of weathering, damage, or wear. ALWAYS inspect/check ALL expiration dates/tags on ALL straps/FAS prior to each use. Failure to follow harness instructions could result in not being able to return to the stand and being suspended in a harness after a fall.
- **WARNING!** It is IMPORTANT to practice proper and safe use of your Fall Arrest System (FAS) and Tree Stand at GROUND LEVEL prior to each use and BEFORE using in an elevated position. Note: The Fall Arrest System (FAS) is an integral part of any Tree Stand and must be worn and attached to the tree at ALL times. If the FAS is not present, hunt from the ground.
- **WARNING!** Always insure that your Fall arrest System (FAS), Tree Stand, ALL straps/ropes and climbing devices are ALL in good working order without defects, wear, broken or missing parts prior to each use. This inspection includes the following prior to each use: Re-Tightening of all hardware, inspection of ALL parts/components of the tree stand and the Fall Arrest System (FAS).
- **WARNING!** Always wear a Fall Arrest System (FAS) (that meets TMA standards) properly attached to the tree from the time you leave the ground until you return safely to the ground. Please see Fall Arrest System Instructions for proper and safe use of the Fall Arrest System (FAS).
- **WARNING!** Always practice your Recovery-Rescue-Relief (RRR) plan with your FAS at ground level prior to each use. Insure the (RRR) plan has been practiced/reviewed prior to hunting in an elevated position. If no plan is in place, hunt from the ground!
- **WARNING!** ALWAYS step down into the center of the platform on your fixed position stand from your climbing aide. Note: Your climbing aide shall be at least 24" above the foot platform of your fixed position stand so you can safely step down into the center of the platform area. Insure to be attached to tree with your tether strap of your FAS or lineman's strap. NEVER be disconnected from the tree at ANY time while in an elevated position. Practice at ground level with your tree stand and FAS getting into the tree stand and onto the climbing aide while being attached to the tree with your FAS at ALL times.
- **WARNING!** Always store your FAS, tree stand, all straps and ropes, complete set of instructions and warnings, and all climbing devices in a cool, dry location away from sun light, elements of weather, sharp objects, or any type of wildlife. Note: Wildlife can chew on the straps and seats while the stand is not in use which can cause serious damage to the tree stand. ALWAYS check all straps and seats prior to each use.
- **WARNING!** Hunt with a friend or a partner to insure someone knows your hunting location as well as the time you will return from the field. Always keep a cell phone or walkie-talkie on your person at all times.
- **WARNING!** Always use (3) or more able adults when setting up or removing any tree stand unless instructed to have more able adults available to assist. The use of a min. 12" diameter tree is required on ALL tree stands.
- **WARNING!** The use of a hoist line to pull up or down your fixed position stand to the desired height while using the lineman's strap of your FAS is required. Note: Use of a screw-in hook or some type of hanger to hold the fixed position stand so you can have your hands free to secure the tree stand straps is required.
- **WARNING!** Understand/Follow the intended use of the tree stand/FAS and adhere to ALL instructions and warnings which pertain to the safe and proper use of any Big Dog Treestands products.
- **WARNING!** Have a cell phone, walkie-talkie, two-way radio, GPS locator, or whistle on your person at all times for emergency purposes.
- **WARNING!** There is a time to make a correct decision on what action to take in the event a fall would occur while wearing a fall arrest system. It is important to remember "DO NOT PANIC". Remain calm and implement your practiced/reviewed Recovery-Rescue-Relief (RRR) plan.
- **WARNING!** It is required to use a Fall Arrest System (FAS) with a Suspension Relief Device (SRD). The (SRD) is to allow relief of a persons weight on the lower extremities if suspended in a harness, or allow the user to descend to the ground. These devices help maintain circulation in the legs and prevent suspension trauma (blood pooling).
- **WARNING!** It is REQUIRED that you oil and lubricate or apply a protective sealant to ALL hardware/components prior to each use or as needed to prevent corrosion. Keep all lubricants and sealants free and clear of all straps or ropes.
- **WARNING!** You must replace ALL straps/ropes and suspension style seats each year prior to use. Use of Big Dog Treestands replacement straps and parts is required. Any other type of straps or parts will be viewed as a modification to the product. Any modification will void the warranties and relieve Big Dog Treestands Inc. from all liabilities.
- **WARNING!** Always inspect the tree the tree stand is used in/tree stand/straps/cables/FAS/ladder sections are pinned together/ground beneath the ladder stand or tripod or quad pod is firm and level/adjustable support bar is properly attached and secured to the tree- prior to each use. Do not use if any visible or physical damage or wear is present.
- **WARNING!** It is recommended to replace all hardware, cables on your tree stand every (2) years or sooner if inspection finds it necessary. Replace all straps and ropes annually.
- **WARNING!** Failure to use a Fall Arrest System (FAS) that meets TMA standards at ALL times can result in serious injury or death.
- **WARNING!** Insure all contact points of the tree stand, climbing aide, and FAS are in contact with the tree at all times and are secured properly before leaving the ground.

- **WARNING!** Proper threading, tightening, fastening, and location of all straps and cables is **CRITICAL**. Insure all straps and cables are properly attached and secured on the tree stand and to the tree and are free of any damage or wear prior to each use.
- **WARNING!** Insure all tripods and quad pods are properly staked into the ground to prevent movement in the unit during high winds, Always leave all windows open when not in use. Note: It is advisable to have a certified electrician ground these units to the ground in the event of begin struck by lightning.
- **WARNING!** When using any ladder stand, attach your FAS to the tree upon arrival to the foot platform area. Never stand, lean, or kneel on the seat platform while securing the ladder stand to or from the tree. The seat platform is for sitting only!
- **WARNING!** Remove the Fall Arrest System from service after (2) years from the date on the tag if a fall has occurred, FAS has subtenancy a load, or if daily inspection finds it necessary to replace. ALL cinch belts, ratchet straps and button stabilizing straps must be replaced every year.
- **NEVER** leave the ground without being properly attached to the tree with your FAS at all times until safely back to the ground. Failure to wear your FAS or if the FAS is not properly attached at all times can result in serious injury or death. Single safety belts or chest harness **ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED AND SHALL NEVER BE USED**.
- **NEVER** climb with your weapon. Insure that the firearm or bow is unloaded with the barrel pointed to the ground when raising or lowering to the ground with a haul line. A haul line is required to raise or lower any weapon to or from the tree stand.
- **NEVER** climb with anything on your back or waist. Always use a haul line to raise or lower your gear.
- **NEVER** exceed the manufacturer's total weight limit for the product which includes your body weight and all your gear.
- **NEVER** adjust any cables, straps, pins, ropes while standing on any treestand. ALL adjustments must be made at **GROUND LEVEL**.
- **NEVER (FOR ANY REASON)** climb ANY tree stand without the criss-cross straps/ropes and adjustable support bar properly attached and secured to the tree!!! Failure to have these attached can result in serious injury or death.
- **NEVER** use this product if under the influence of alcohol, mind alternating drugs, cold medicine, prescription medicine, flu medicine, have any type of heart condition, dizzy or feeling ill, have any dizzy spells, feel nauseous, no FAS present, or have had prior surgery or medical condition that could cause i.e, heart condition, joints that lock-up, spinal fusions, or if not well rested. **DO NOT** use ANY tree stand without consent from your medical doctor for safe and proper use of the tree stand or FAS if any of the above conditions exist.
- **NEVER** modify your tree stand in any way by repairs, replacing parts, or alternating or adding attachments to without explicit authorization in writing by the manufacturer.
- **NEVER** replace any parts, add attachments, make adjustments, make repairs unless the product is at **GROUND LEVEL** only.
- **NEVER** exceed the manufacturers suggested height limit. **NEVER** jump, bounce, lean out from, lean against the shooting rails or arm rests, or sleep in any tree stand for any reason or at any time.
- **NEVER** leave any tree stand attached to a tree for more than (2) weeks. Tree growth will stress the straps to the point of possible failure that can result in serious injury or death.
- **NEVER** use any tree stand during a thunderstorm, raining, sleet, snowing, or if any other adverse weather conditions exist that have the potential of producing high winds or lightning. Never use any tree stand if snow, ice, or water is present on the tree stand, ladder sections, climbing aide, or platform area. If any of these conditions exist or arise, end your hunt and hunt from the ground.
- **NEVER** use a tree stand for any purpose other than hunting. Do not use on utility poles or any other type of man made structure. Never use any type of tree stand near or by any type of power generating stations.
- **NEVER** use any tree branch for means of support or as a step. **NEVER** select a tree (to place a tree stand) that has visible signs of loose/smooth bark or in a tree that is diseased or dead. Select only straight/healthy trees to place any tree stand.
- **NEVER** loan or allow anyone to use your tree stand or FAS without reading the entire set instructions an warning of the product for safe use. If the tree stand/FAS is sold/loaned/or given away, it is the responsibility of the tree stand/FAS owner to give a **COMPLETE** set of instructions/warnings and safety DVD to the recipient of the unit.
- **NEVER** use any tree stand or FAS without fully understanding the safe use of the product. If you have any questions for safe and proper use of the unit or have a question about assembly, please call Big Dog Treestands for assistance 1-866-387-2002.
- **NEVER** leave seat cushions, blinds/skirts, enclosure fabrics exposed to the weather and direct sunlight. UV light will fade the fabric. Seat cushions, skirts, and enclosure fabrics are not warranted.
- **NEVER** use ANY tree stand without prior inspection of the entire unit at ground level or before stepping onto the foot platform. Inspection would include to check the following for damage/wear/weathering/or expired dates: straps, cables, ropes, FAS, pinned ladder sections, criss-cross straps are in place, adjustable support bar is securely fastened to the tree, ground beneath the ladder stand or tri/quad pod is firm and level, all hardware (nuts and bolts), inspection of the tree to insure it is healthy, and if any other part or components is showing any sign of damage or wear. If inspection finds any parts showing any sign of damage or wear, do not use and hunt from the ground. Please call Big Dog Treestands Inc. for replacement parts. Failure to replace components showing any sign of damage or wear can result in serious injury or death.