



Fitting the HINE/SNOWBRIDGE Modified Yoke Suspension System

We recommend the HINE/SNOWBRIDGE Modified Yoke Suspension System be fitted with the pack full but with a load weighing less than 20 lbs. After the suspension system is properly fitted the pack can be loaded to capacity.

1. Checking the Aluminum Stays for Proper Bend

Check the aluminum stays to be sure that there is a 1½" to 2" deep "C" bend top to bottom. The stays should be bent in a smooth arch, the center of the stay being furthest from the wearer's back. If the stays need bending, carefully apply pressure to the center of the stays so that they bend in a *smooth* arch. The 1½" to 2" depth of "C" bend will give the stays the best vertical flexibility without hindering the lateral movement of the pack.

2. Adjusting the Height of the Shoulder Straps for Torso Length

The height of the shoulder straps is adjusted with buckle "A". The taller the individual, the higher buckle "A" should be on the 2" web sewn to the back of the pack. Easier access to buckle "A" can be attained by removing a stay strap (#2) from buckle "B".

3. Putting the Pack on for the First Time

Partially loosen straps #1, 2 and 3. (NOTE: Some models do not have strap #3.) Unfasten the waist belt and cross chest strap. Put the pack on (leaving straps #1, 2, and 3 partially loose) and tighten the waist belt where you find it most comfortable. In the following order:

- Tighten strap #1 so that the shoulder straps are snug but not overly tight over the shoulders.
- Tighten strap #2 pulling the pack up snug but not overly tight against your back.
- Tighten strap #3 so that the bottom corners of the pack pull in snug but not overly tight to the waist belt.

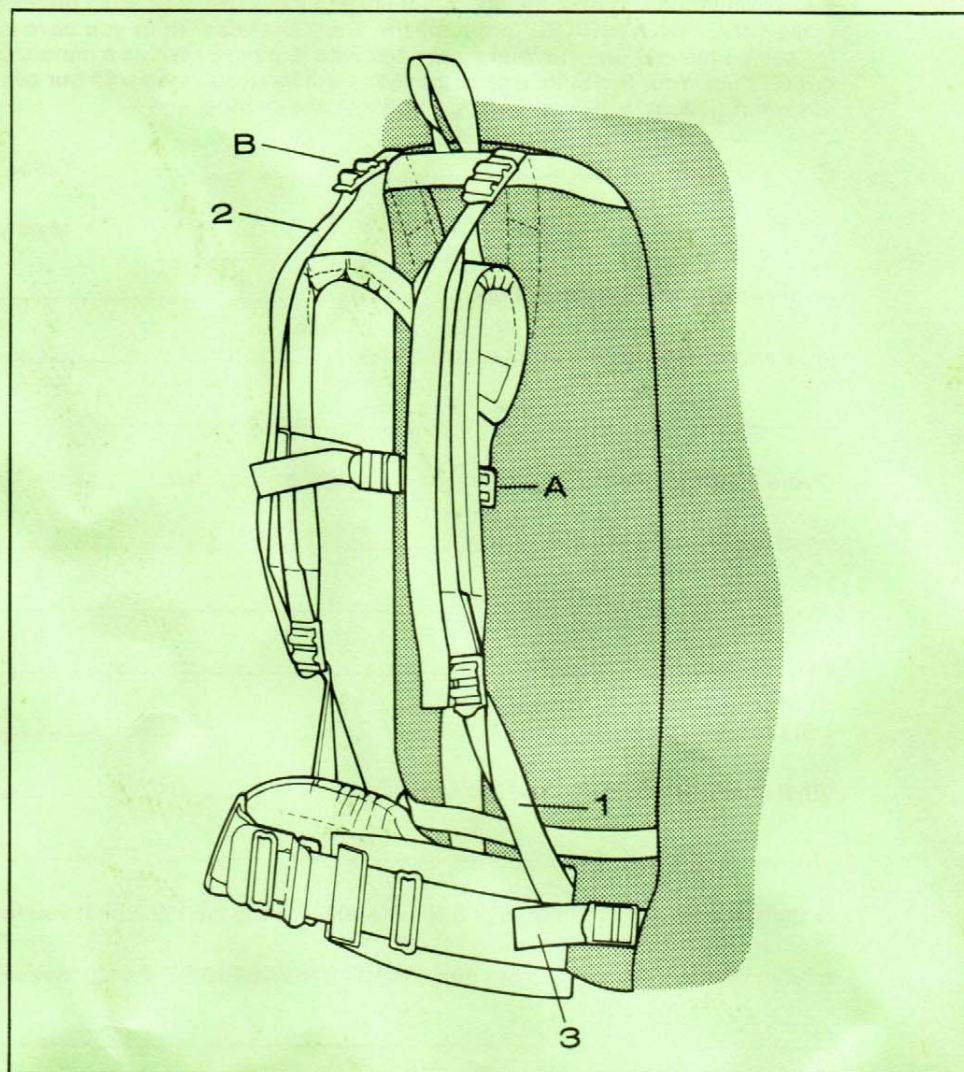
During this initial tightening phase keep in mind that a considerable amount of the pack load should continue to be carried on the waist belt.

4. Checking for Proper Shoulder Strap Height

Now that the pack has been put on and tightened, the height of the shoulder straps can be checked. The height of the shoulder straps is correct if the cross chest strap is comfortably high on the sternum (breast bone). In most cases this is between 1" and 3" below the top of the sternum.

5. Correcting Improper Fit

If the cross chest strap is not in a comfortable position, it can be moved by



adjusting buckle "A" on the 2" web. To move the cross chest strap up, move the buckle "A" down. To move the cross chest strap down, move buckle "A" up. (Do not move buckle "A" so far down that the last point of attachment of the stay strap (#2) on the shoulder strap is behind the top of the shoulder.)

6. Adjusting the Aluminum Stays for Maximum Comfort

If there are any pressure points from the X stays, the stays can be bent to produce a more comfortable fit.

7. Fine Tuning the Pack While Being Worn

The stability and carrying configuration can be adjusted while the pack is being worn. The adjustments should be made with straps #1, 2 and 3. Because of the vast spectrum of different carrying configurations possible, each individual should experiment with different tensions on the three straps until he finds what is

comfortable for his own needs. Only after carrying the internally framed pack and becoming familiar with it will each individual be able to adjust the internal stays and suspension system to the maximum comfort arrangement.

Serex and Lite Serex Only!

The flexibility of the stays can be easily adjusted on the Serexes. The flexibility is adjusted by the rigidity of the bag on the load. For more rigid stays (and therefore better weight transfer onto the waist belt) tighten the compression straps on the load. For more flexible stays (and better pack movement with the upper body) loosen the compression straps on the load. With all the internally framed pack models, as the load gets larger the stays will naturally become more rigid thereby giving better weight transfer onto the waist belt.

HINE/SNOWBRIDGE, Inc. Field Evaluation Form

Field evaluation is one of the important links in the chain of product development and improvement that make HINE/SNOWBRIDGE products the finest available. After you have used the item you purchased for some time and feel completely familiar with it, please give us a minute of your time and evaluate our product. Your thoughts and suggestions will be used along with our own factory and field testing in our effort to constantly improve our products and product line.

Product Used: _____ Color: _____

My favorite color is: _____

Approximate hours (miles) of use: _____

How and where was the product used: _____

Overall performance: _____ excellent, _____ good, _____ fair, _____ poor.

What features did you like: _____

What features didn't you like: _____

List problems you had, if any: _____

What changes would you like (be specific): _____

Is there a comparable product at a similar price on the market which you feel is superior: _____

In your opinion, are there other items HINE/SNOWBRIDGE should investigate: _____

By submitting this form and any attached material, I understand that I release all ideas and evaluations at no cost to HINE/SNOWBRIDGE. Additionally, if at any time any of the ideas or evaluations are used, I expect no remuneration whatsoever.

Signed: _____

(Print name): _____

Address: _____

Date: _____

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