Avalanche Probes
owner's manual

Assembly of Quickie probes

To assemble the probe, hold the probe cable loop in one hand and the first section (closest to cable loop) firmly with the other hand. Throw the probe sections outward and tension cable until all tapered sections are connected. The hardware is now locked and the probe is ready for use (see Quickie hardware in figure 1).

To collapse the probe, firmly squeeze the Quickie Lock wings and pull to dismantle the probe. Collapse the probe sections starting from the tip, removing as much slack as possible from the cable as you go. If the Quickie mechanism doesn't unlock, add more tension to the cable while squeezing wings.

Deploying the Tour Probe with the shovel systems

The Tour Probe is designed for limited and emergency use. Carefully read and follow the instructions to ensure proper performance.

To retrieve the Tour Probe from the shovel, first remove the shovel handle shaft from the blade (if using an EXT model, remove the handle shaft from extension shaft). Remove the spring clip by pulling on the spring clip webbing while depressing the buttons. Once the spring clip is detached, pull the probe cable loop. Before assembling the probe, reassemble the shovel shaft and blade. Please note that only the Tour Probe will fit inside the shovel systems.

To deploy the Tour twist-lock probe, hold the probe cable loop in one hand and the first section (closest to cable loop) firmly with the other hand. Throw the probe sections outward and tension cable until all tapered sections are connected. Next, spin the tension nut clockwise with your thumb until it is seated against the end of the first probe section. For additional leverage, grip the knurled portion of the cable.

Using the Tour Probe

The Tour probe easily penetrates the snow because of the small diameter sections. However, if used improperly, it can bend. Always cautiously FEED your probe into the snow. Your upper hand should be used as a guide and the force should come from your lower hand only (see figures 2 & 3 for proper technique).

The Tour Probe stores in the handle shaft of the Tour Shovel. If using this feature, care must be taken when installing the probe to ensure ease of deployment. After loosening tension nut, collapse the probe sections starting from the tip, removing as much slack as possible from the cable. Always center the first section of the probe (closest to cable loop) inside the shaft (see figure 4). This helps prevent cable wear and eases probe deployment. Once collapsed, the end of the folded probe without the cable loop should enter the shovel shaft first and the cable loop should be last. Pull on the cable to ensure ease of movement of the probe within the shaft before installing the spring clip. To install the spring clip, start by slightly tensioning the probe cable so the crimp is just outside of the shaft. Then place the spring clip so the cable is centered freely between the two ends of the spring clip. Slide the spring clip and probe down the shaft into place. The stored probe should sit with the top of the tension nut below the spring clip holes and the metal crimp in the cable loop well above the holes (see figure 4). Always check that the probe deploys easily after use of shovel. Never store probe in shovel if probe is not easily deployed.

Limited Warranty

Backcountry Access, Inc. (BCA) warranties its probes to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for one year from the date of purchase. This warranty is limited to the original purchaser. Returns must be accompanied by a return authorization number, which can be obtained by calling 303.417.1345 ext. 123 or contacting by email at warranty@backcountryaccess.com.

Warranty Registration

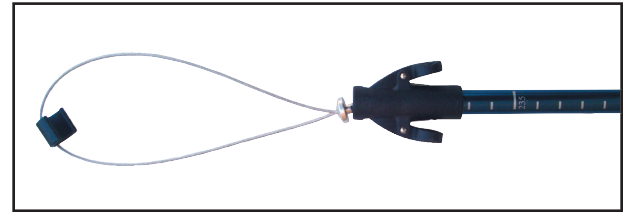To ensure warranty protection, complete the BCA Online Warranty Registration at http://www.backcountryaccess.com/warranty.

Figure 1: Quickie hardware

Figure 2: Correct probe technique
guide with upper hand; feed with lower hand
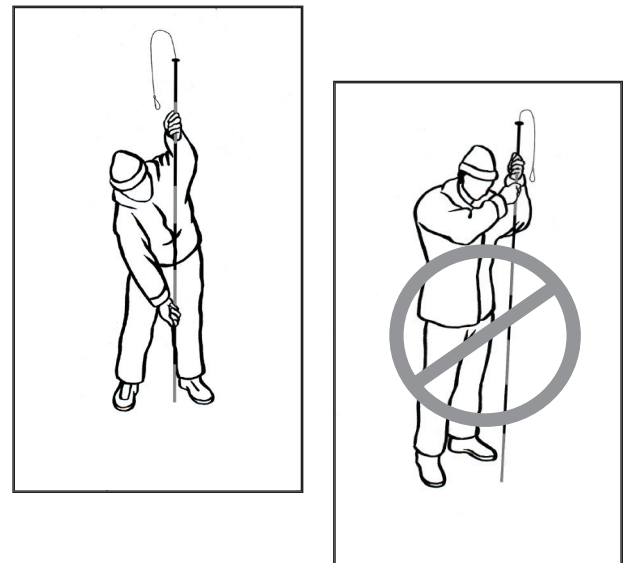
Figure 3: Incorrect probe technique

Spring clip webbing

Probe cable loop

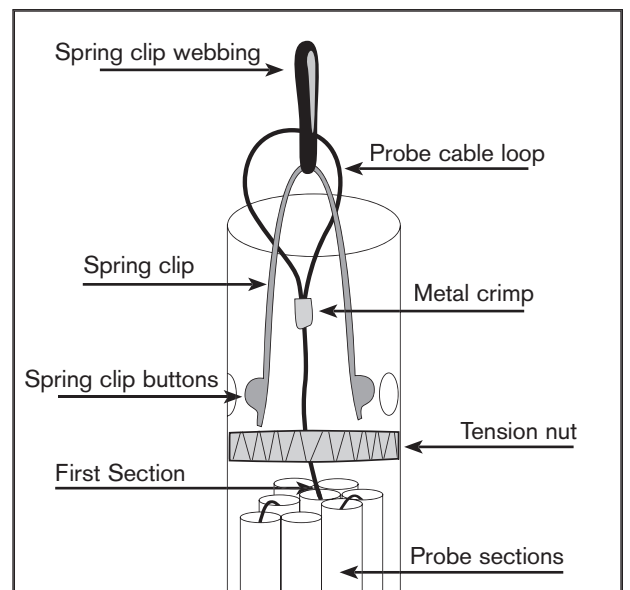Spring clip

Metal crimp

Spring clip buttons

Tension nut

First Section

Probe sections

Figure 4: Tour probe
shown inside shovel shaft

To learn more about probing effectively, please visit our website: www.backcountryaccess.com/education