Snatch Strap Information

A snatch strap is an elastic recovery device that has the ability to be stretched and then return to its original length. The combination of the inherent elasticity of the strap and the momentum of the recovery vehicle creates a snatching effect that is extremely effective when extracting vehicles that are unable to proceed due to the conditions of the terrain.

A snatch strap is designed to stretch to a significant degree (@ 6%) thus eliminating a shock load being transferred from one vehicle to the other. There are other straps that look like snatch straps but which are non-elastic and are used for winching. Never use a snatch strap when winching.

Many snatch straps have sewn on labels that identify them and give a safe working load. They are usually around 9 meters in length. If you cannot identify a strap, it should not be used as a snatch strap. Inspect the strap for damage such as cuts or frayed stitching or material. Don't use a damaged strap.

JOINING SNATCH STRAPS

The way to do this is to pass each strap through the eye of the other. If you do join two snatch straps by this method, but do nothing else, it will be almost impossible to separate them after use, as they will have tightened up and become locked together. The trick to avoiding this problem is to insert a rolled-up magazine between them before use. Note that the rolled-up magazine does not carry any load as such; so it will not break and does not matter if it does, it is easily slipped out after use thus providing just enough slack to separate the two straps easily.

BRIDAL OR EQUALISER STRAP

Most front recovery/tow points are not in the centre of the vehicle, a bridal or equaliser strap can be used to connect to either side of the front of the vehicle to spread the load.

USING A SAFETY STRAP TO STOP RECOIL OF A BROKEN STRAP OR RECOVERY POINT

Attach one end of the bridal strap to a different recovery point to the one you intend to use for attachment of the snatch strap. Feed the end of the snatch strap through the loop of the bridal strap and attaché the snatch strap to the vehicle. In event of the recovery point or shackle or loop of the strap failing the safety strap will stop or slow down the broken snatch strap from recoiling.

FORCES WHEN A SNATCH STRAP BREAKS

For a 2.5 Tonne 4WD travelling at 6km/h and the strap has 6% stretch. A shackle attached to a strap where the recovery point fails will have a speed of 364kph.