



This instructor style belt is the one I have found most useful in the outdoor world and they are practically indestructible. (Mark Rackay/Special to the Montrose Daily Press)

Belts do more than hold up your pants

Every fall, just before my incarceration in elementary school began, my grandmother would drag me out school clothes shopping. I hated to go clothes shopping with her because I had absolutely no say in what clothes she was going to buy. She knew nothing about the fashion necessary to clothe a young boy, who already had self-esteem issues. All I wanted was her to not buy me clothes that would get me beat up at recess.

Her selection of pants were the worst. She assumed I was as tall as Michael Jordan. The pants would be a foot too long and she would just roll up the cuffs, saying, “You’ll grow into them.”

Yea, about the time I was ready for the draft I would be that tall. The waist was another story. She made sure that there was room enough, in case I went on an endless eating binge, the pants would be wide enough.

The only item she never replaced each year was the belt. My belt was one of those war surplus dress belts, that had a brass buckle, and a one size fits all adjustment. It was war surplus, probably from the war between the states. The belt lasted many years and adequately held up the way-too-large-in-the-waist pants.

The primary purpose of a belt is to hold up one’s pants. There was a time when the belt was a form of parental discipline, but that use, sadly, seems to have gone by the wayside. I only got the belt a few times as a kid, and each time, was probably justified. But belts are extremely useful in the outdoor world.

A good belt is a necessary part of your outdoor gear, be it hiking, hunting, packing or fishing, the belt must be chosen carefully. Many tools will be carried on a belt, such as a Leatherman Multi-tool, a knife, cell phone holster, or a side arm. The belt must be of proper stiffness to support the extra weight of the tools.

The buckle, or fastening system, should be given careful consideration. The big, flashy silver buckles with “Rodeo



Tips from the Posse

By Mark Rackay

Champion” on them are fine for going out to dinner but have little use in the outdoor world. They are too wide, clumsy, weak in the attaching process, and their use is limited strictly to holding the belt in position. You can do better.

Any solid belt can be used for medical emergencies, like a tourniquet or for elevation of broken bones. They can also be used for cinching up a make-shift splint in an emergency. A strong belt can be used as a whip for self-defense, or to hoist a trapped person out of a predicament. You get the idea the uses of a belt are endless.

In recent years, we have seen a wave of *Survival Belts* enter the market. While I am not a major fan of most of them, I admit they have a place in the outdoors. An interesting one is made by Valois, called the SSD-100, and it has a knife completely contained in the buckle.

This is touted as a defense tool, but I doubt you could get it drawn out in a timeframe to save your life. If you wanted it for defense of a man-eating lion for example, he would probably be standing on your chest reading the lunch menu before you ever got the knife out. I would suggest the knife would be a handy back-up for utility purposes while afield and leave it at that. Not to mention, you don’t want to wear that belt for airline travel, lest you want to see the grouchy side of TSA agents.

Another belt to consider is the Gerber Bear Grylls Survival belt which has a small compartment to carry fishhooks, line, weights. The compartment also includes a signal mirror and a screwdriver set. I’m not sure I want sharp fishhooks that close to that certain area

of my body, but you decide the need for that on your own.

My personal choice for a belt, and I wear one most days, is the Instructor style belt. The original Instructor belt was designed in 1983 and has been refined several times since. It is extremely strong and stiff, having a carbon steel v-ring buckle.

The belt was designed to clip to a secure system while instructing others in rappelling, climbing, and mountain rescues. It is not intended to absorb a fall like an actual rappelling harness would do. This belt is designed for anyone in law enforcement, fire, medical, or serious about outdoor sports. It is intended as an emergency option to clip onto whenever there is a risk of falling.

The rigidity of the belt also makes it capable of holding all the tools or accessories normally carried on a belt without discomfort to the wearer. The belt is completely adjustable with a slide system and a Velcro closure. The belts were tested to hold 5,900 pounds without failing so these are serious belts.

Several companies produce these belts including Galco and Bianchi. The original belt is still produced by the Wilderness Tactical Company and sells for around 50 bucks. They will last for many years of hard service, as I have a couple that are over a decade old.

I no longer have all the extra room in my waistline. I guess I finally grew into those pants my grandmother bought. In any event, I have a much better belt than the old war surplus belt I grew up with.

Mark Rackay is a columnist for the Montrose Daily Press, Delta County Independent, and several other newspapers, as well as a feature writer for several saltwater fishing magazines. He is an avid hunter and world class saltwater angler, who travels around the world in search of adventure and serves as a director and public information officer for the Montrose County Sheriff’s Posse. For information about the posse call 970-252-4033 (leave a message) or email info@mcspi.org

Take a shot at leftover hunting licenses

SPECIAL TO THE MONTROSE DAILY PRESS

The big (game) day is almost here!

Hunters mark their calendars for the first Tuesday in August each year to take a shot at any big game hunting licenses remaining after the primary and secondary draws.

Remaining licenses for 2022 are placed on the leftover list and will become available for purchase on Aug. 2 at 9 a.m. Mountain Time. Over-the-counter licenses for elk, bear, archery pronghorn, and whitetail deer will go on sale at the same time.

Licenses go on sale online at www.cpwshop.com, over the phone at 1-800-244-5613, and in person at CPW offices and sales locations all at once. If you’re on a computer or mobile device at home, you have the same shot as someone first in line at a sales location.

Limited licenses are first-come, first-served and this is the first opportunity to get a big game hunting license outside of the draw process.

Licenses that will become available include:

- Limited licenses leftover after the primary and secondary draws for elk, deer, pronghorn and bear
- Limited elk, deer, pronghorn, and bear licenses that someone drew but did not pay for during the secondary draw and took fewer than five resident preference points
- Limited licenses that were returned for refund/preference point restoration since the opening of the secondary draw but prior to July 25 and took fewer than five resident preference points to draw
- Over-the-counter (OTC) licenses for elk, archery pronghorn, whitetail deer, and bear

Preparing for sales day

CPW locations and sales agents will be very busy that morning, so try to get prepared ahead of time.

Log into the online system a few days prior to sales day to ensure your information, such as email and mailing address, is up-to-date. If you have any problems getting into your account, contact CPW ahead of time for assistance.

Have your hunt codes and credit/debit card number ready. Check the leftover list, write down all hunt codes you are interested in, and list them with your most coveted licenses first.

If you call the CPW sales line for your purchase, be prepared for extended wait times and have all of your information — including hunt codes — ready. The sales line representatives will not be able to look up hunt codes for you.

Inventory held in shopping cart

When you enter a hunt code and confirm it, that hunt code is “held” for you in the cart for 15 minutes or until you process the transaction, whichever comes first. If the time is allowed to expire, another customer can hold/purchase that hunt code.

Keep the inventory hold system in mind when attempting to purchase licenses from multiple species. Licenses are held in your cart for 15 minutes. Be sure to pay within that timeframe or licenses become available for someone else.

Queuing system

CPW’s licensing vendor Aspira utilizes a virtual queuing program, called Queue-It, to mitigate the load on the system. While products go on sale at 9 a.m., customers who are on the site and logged in up to an hour prior will be placed in the queue. Do not go further than the residency page until 9 a.m. or you will be moved to the back of the queue.

Additional information

You can only purchase for one person at a time, so it may be necessary to work on multiple devices if you are purchasing for multiple people like your children or spouse.

For each species, hunters are limited to one list A and one list B, or two list B licenses. If you received a list A license from the primary or secondary draw, you are only eligible for a list B or list C license. If you received a list B or list C from the primary or secondary draw, you are eligible for either a list A, list B or list C license.

Because the online leftover list updates every five to 10 minutes, a hunt code may still be listed as available, even if it is sold out.

Where to purchase

CPW strongly suggests hunters purchase their licenses online at cpwshop.com. CPW offices and sales locations use the same system as you do at home so if you are second in line at an office, you are second in line to everyone at home as well.

Head to cpwshop.com and get logged in to your account up to an hour before 9 a.m. on Aug. 2 so you’re ready to purchase when the licenses go on sale. You can call in and purchase at 1-800-244-5613, but know there will be long wait times.

More information on the leftover list and over-the-counter licenses is available on the CPW website.

Additional licenses will become available as part of CPW’s reissue process later in August.



Leftover big game licenses go on sale Aug. 2. (Courtesy photo/CPW)



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