



# Fixed Point Belay



What? Why? How?

# What is a Fixed Point Belay?

Method for belaying the leader directly off the anchor, rather than from the belayer's harness.

Common in Eastern Europe for decades. Why not elsewhere? I don't know! Maybe gear limitations? Lack of comfortable harnesses?

Increasing use in Western Europe and North America, primarily with guides.

Also referred to as: Direct Anchor Belay. We'll use Fixed Point Belay or FPB.

# Why use a Fixed Point Belay?

High fall factor possibility, such as hard climbing immediately off the belay

Other options? Climb past belay through crux and lower beack down

Aid off anchor to place a high first piece

Why not clip a piece of the anchor?

Overhead hazard for belayer (cave, etc)

Down anchoring?

# Why use a Fixed Point Belay?

Not slamming the belayer into the wall! When the belayer is not on the ground or large ledge, there is a high likelihood of being pulled up and into the wall. Also consider weight differential

Ease of use (with proper training) and comfort

Ease of catching a fall.

All these attributes can help our clients (and partners) better equipped to catch a fall!

# When to not use a Fixed Point Belay?

Single pitch climbing with belayer on the ground, especially if the belayer uses an “active” belay

When belayer must be positioned away from anchor.

When anchor is positioned such that a direct belay is awkward

When fall forces are low (think low angle terrain)

When a client will not be able to keep up with the speed of the

When there is no option for creating an anchor resistant to an upward pull.

# How? Considerations and Configurations

Anchor component integrity: unquestionably strong (should be a given!!!) and ideally multidirectional

Gloves: Rope slippage is a part of the system

Munter or plate device to belay with. NO ABD's (increased force on leader)

Redirect brake strand when using belay plate until solid gear is clipped

Configurations: ACMG, ENSA, Quad

Hybrid system?

# Resources

Alpine Savvy:

<https://www.alpinesavvy.com/blog/belaying-the-leader-with-a-fixed-point-belay>

ACMG Fixed Point Belay: <https://vimeo.com/44869774>

ENSA Should You Change The Way You Belay?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqZQnCGl24A>