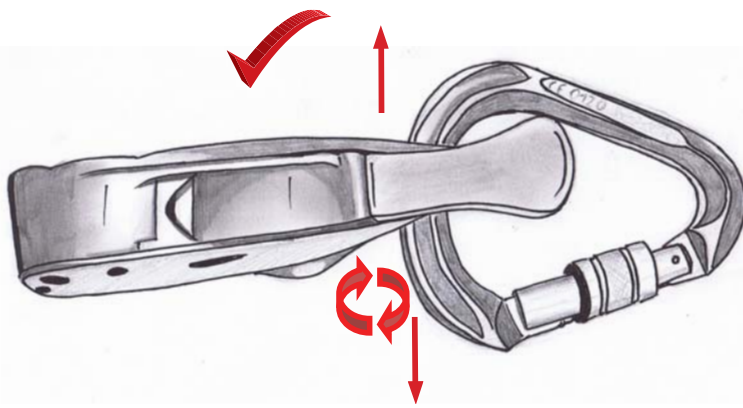


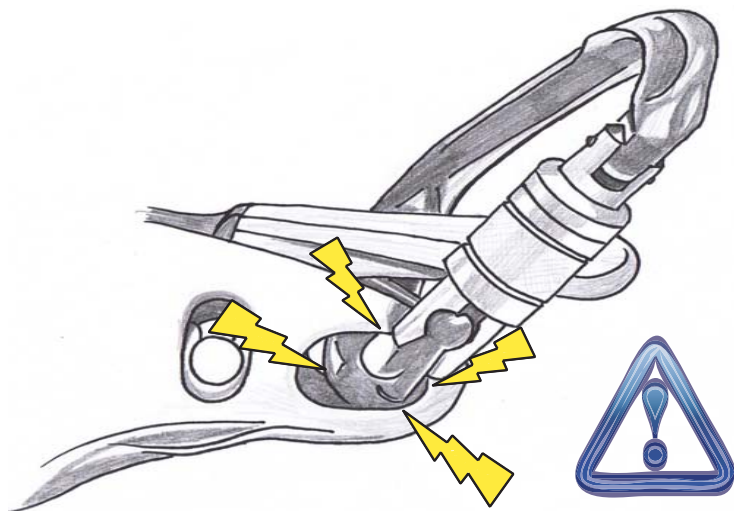
CAUTION FOR OWNERS OF FADERS SUM

Proper use of the Faders SUM belay device requires that the SUM must be able to move freely with respect to its attachment karabiner. This fact is made clear in the instructions that are provided with the SUM - "To function properly the device must be able to rotate with respect to its attachment point to the karabiner..." It has come to Fixe's attention that some users, with certain karabiners, have performed only a quick check which has not been sufficient to verify free movement of the device under all circumstances, and has left these users with a false impression about safe use of the SUM with that karabiner. The purpose of this communication is to inform SUM users about a process to thoroughly check for freedom of movement between the SUM and the karabiner, and to further inform users regarding the features of a karabiner which allow free movement of the SUM.

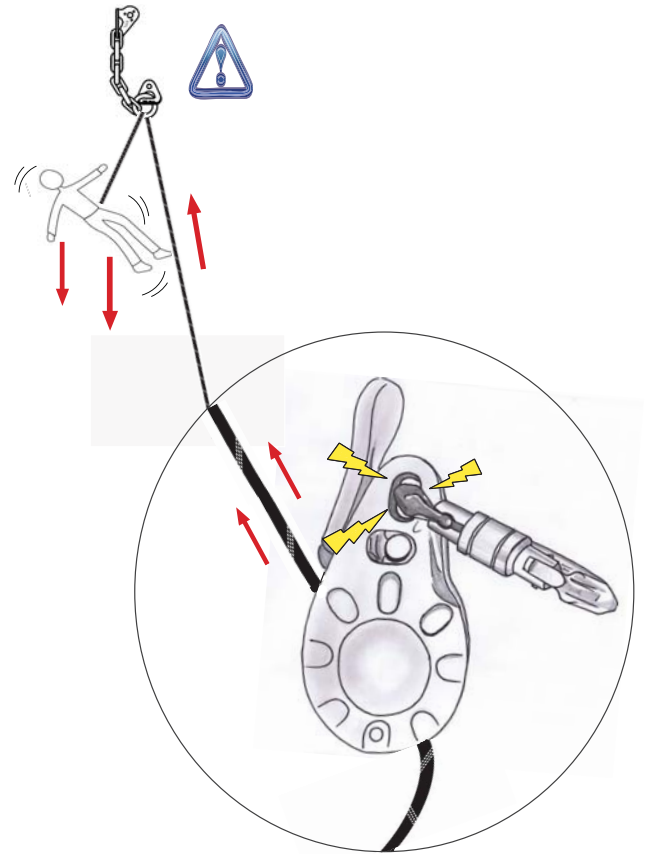
Because of the oval shape of the hole into which the karabiner is clipped to attach the SUM to the belayer's harness, it is possible that certain karabiners will allow free movement of the SUM at most points along the karabiner, but will inhibit free movement at the "corners" of the karabiner. It is also possible that a portion of the karabiner gate can jam in the hole, thus preventing free movement. The attached pictures illustrate a karabiner which allows free movement of the SUM along the top portion of the karabiner,



but binds the SUM against movement at the corner.



With such a karabiner, if the SUM happens to rotate downward while positioned along the top of the karabiner, then moves laterally such that the hole is positioned over the corner, it is possible that an upward pull on the rope, such as would be experienced in a climber's fall, will cause the SUM to jam against the karabiner thus preventing the SUM from assisting with the arrest of the fall.



Having learned that the SUM is sometimes being used with karabiners that could jam the SUM against movement, Fixe is making a slight modification to the design of the SUM to eliminate this interaction with future SUM production. Although existing owners of the SUM might choose to actively manage the position of the SUM along the karabiner, Fixe strongly encourages such owners to choose a karabiner with which no such interaction is possible.

The "belay positioner", which comes with the SUM and is explained and illustrated in the SUM instructions, will prevent the SUM attachment hole from reaching the corner of the karabiner that is above, and opposite from, the gate of the karabiner. The karabiner gate itself should prevent the SUM hole from reaching the lower corners of the karabiner.

Therefore, the user should ensure that the SUM can rotate freely at all points between the gate (including the gate) and



the belay positioner, paying special attention to the corner of the karabiner that is directly above the gate. Features of a karabiner that are advantageous include a) a thin cross section of the karabiner tubing, b) a rounded cross section of the karabiner tubing, and c) a gradual rounded corners of the karabiner as opposed to sharp corners. Although by no means an exhaustive list, examples of karabiners which Fixe has found to work well with the SUM, when used with the **belay positioner properly placed and the gate fully closed**, include (gate type is important!):

- 1) Rocklock Screwgate by Black Diamond
- 2) William Tri-Act by Petzl
- 3) William Ball Lock by Petzl

Please, for further information visit www.fixeclimbing.com or write an email to info@fixeclimbing.com