

Midwest Skijorers Club puts this equipment to the test.

Ultra Paws Basic Skijor Package - Skijor belt ,Towline, Harness.

REVIEW

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I recently had an opportunity to try out the Ultra Paws skijor package under a variety of conditions. There are a few very unique features on the belt which is the only patented skijor belt. The belt is now available in 5 sizes: XS, S ,M, L,and XL. The belt is wider than some other belts for maximum support and the extra width provides excellent distribution of forces.

The inside of the belt is a tacky material that is designed to hold the belt in place without leg loops. IT DID AND DOES STAY PUT. It stayed in place on jeans, on lycra, on nylon wind pants and on running shorts. Note: Running shorts means I also tested it in a canicross venue.



Even while on the ground, with forward pulling forces (think after a fall) , the belt stayed in place

and did not ride up or slide down. It did not shift left or right but stayed centered when turning corners.

Note: Depending on clothing fit, the clothing can move but the belt stays put on the material.

The belt is equipped with a soft quick release which is hard to describe but is essentially a velcro "hook and loop" arrangement (in emergency "pull the red rope"). With this soft release, I never once experienced an inadvertent or accidental release (which can and does happen with panic snaps and snap shackles). Furthermore when I wanted it to release, it released and it released completely (which also does not always happen with snap shackles and panic snaps since they work much better with a ring, and can and often do get "hung-up" on the rope).

The belt has a secure 1 1/2" double slider "Fastex" buckle so that the buckle and the belt stays centered where it feels the best. The double slider is like those used on quality backpack waistbelts. (Very few, if any, other skijor belts on the market use the double slider, so most other belts only adjust uncomfortably to one side).

The belt has 2 reflective strips for night-time or low light visibility increasing safety for the wearer.

Another unique feature is the extremely handy built in control handle on the back of the belt. The handle is designed for a handler or helper to assist you when starting out or in a race chute. (And yes, you should definitely always bring at least one handler that your dog knows and likes to help you start any race). This is an awesome addition.

I also tested the 8 foot one piece 2 dog towline. The towline is made of a durable 1" tubular webbing. The towline has a high quality military grade arctic bungie is sewn into the webbing. The bungie is at the human end so you can easily reel in past the bungie for much better dog control. (with a bungie at the dog end you do not have full control until 100 % of the line is reeled in and you are holding the harness) The bungie is inside the tubular webbing and is sewn only where it needs to be, so in time if the bungie breaks or the sewing lets go, the web towline is still fully intact. This is a HUGE benefit. There is no sewn rope to break and therefore no fear of having your dog get loose and in harms' way. And with the line remaining intact you finish the race. This "line stays intact design" is definitely a WIN-WIN idea.

