



# Step Outdoors

- The ability to shoot over limbs and brush
- Suited to unfit hunters or disabled hunters
- Popular for bow hunters who need to be closer to their target

## Creation of the Elevated Stand

With all those benefits, its no surprise tree stands are so popular.

Tree stand hunting before the 70's involved simply climbing and sitting in a tree! In the 1970's the Baker Company from Valdosta created the climbing stand and revolutionized deer hunting. As with a lot of new developments however, there were problems with the design that resulted in falls and lawsuits, and then the resulting closing of the company.

However hunters had been introduced to a better way to hunt, and so innovators stepped in and produced better designs. The early stands were very different from today and were very basic and had either a strap as a footrest, or your feet just dangled over the side.

The early designs were constructed out of wood or steel. Most modern stands are made from aluminium (lighter than steel) and most models come with thick padding, spacious designs, ease of use, and are made of low maintenance materials.

## There are 4 main types of Elevated Stands

1. Ladder stand
3. Climbing stand
4. Hang-on or lock-on
5. Tripod stand

### 1. The Ladder Stand

These stands comprise a ladder with a stand at the top of that ladder. The stand at the top is built into the ladder so that the ladder is always attached to the stand once it is assembled. The ladder usually comes in several 1 meter sections and the stand height is usually about 6 meters high. It is essentially a small platform at the top of some steps.

It is great for people who don't want to climb up trees, avoiding limbs on the way, or feel insecure at height. The ladder stand can also incorporate a large seat or platform which can be padded for additional comfort. Some stands also accommodate a skirt or blind to help make you more inconspicuous.



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## 2. The Climbing Stand

Today's stands attach to the tree with plastic or rubber covered aircraft cables or strong chains, with locking pins to hold everything in place. Often, ratchet-tightening straps are added to further increase the grip and prevent slipping once the stand is in position.

These tree stands comprise of two pieces - a chair and below it, a platform. They are designed to allow you to 'climb' the tree while you are standing on the tree stand. To use them you secure both the chair and the platform around the tree first. Then you raise the upper chair and put your weight on it, then raise your legs and then lock the lower platform against the tree with your weight, then repeat the process as you edge your way up the tree.

## 3. Hang-on or Lock-on Stands

This type of tree stand is one of the most popular because of its versatility. It



comprises a seat and a footrest that are attached to the tree; however, they also require a method to climb the tree such as climbing steps or a climbing stick.

The steps can be screw in types or strap types. This type of stand is versatile because it is relatively light and can be used in most trees. The weight variation is due to the size of the seat and footrests.

The cheaper lighter models have a small unpadded seat and footrests, which can be very uncomfortable if you are spending many hours sitting in your stand. The larger padded seat models are much more comfortable for the extra weight that is added.

## 4. Tripod Stands

Tripod stands can also be known as revolving stands, rotating stands or tower stands. If they have a skirt they can also be called a blind. In parts of the country where trees are sparse or non-existent, a tripod stand is required.

It is not strictly a tree stand as it is not placed in trees - it is a platform with either three legs (tripod) or four legs. The platform may or may not have some sort of enclosure to protect the hunter from the weather and give some camouflage. Due to their large size, they are not portable and are usually left in one spot for some time. This also lets the animals get used to them.



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## ACTIVITY

Allow the participants to analyze the construction of each type of stand and walk through the process of how each is installed. In the field, have the students try their hand in setting up the various stands using a hydro pole or a suitable tree. First practice setting the stands up at ground level (1 meter high) then move up to required heights once the basics of set-up are mastered.



Review the *Three Contact Rule* with the participants; that is at least three parts of your body should be in contact with the tree at all times. That is both feet and one hand or both hands and one foot. Review the proper use of safety harnesses and the limitations of safety belts.

Discuss the proper height of tree stands and which trees are suitable. Comment on the dangers of using old trees that are not sound.

## REFERENCES

[http://www.treestandinfo.com/tree\\_stand\\_safety.htm](http://www.treestandinfo.com/tree_stand_safety.htm)