

Members and Customers,

Starting February 1st, Gripstone will no longer allow the use of manual braking belay devices for lead climbing in the facility. Assisted Braking Devices (ABDs) will be required in order to lead climb in the facility. Of course, we understand that this may be frustrating for some customers, so we wanted to give ample notice before the requirement comes into effect.

ABDs come in many shapes and sizes, from the Petzl Grigri to the Black Diamond ATC-Pilot (which we use for all our rental belay devices). To help you find the one you may like the best, below you'll find a non-exhaustive list of approved ABD devices. If you know of a device that is an ABD, but is not on the list, feel free to ask us about it!

- Petzl Grigri (and it's variants)
- Black Diamond ATC-Pilot
- Edelrid Jul (and it's variants)
- Mammut Smartbelay (and it's variants)
- Climbing Technology Click-up
- Wildcountry Revo
- Beal Birdie
- Madrock Lifeguard
- Camp Matik

Assisted Braking Devices are statistically safer to use in climbing than manual style braking devices, as they help remove some "human error" from use. ABDs assist belayers in catching their climbing partners, alleviating some risk of dropping the climber. This however, does not mean that they are foolproof, and should still be treated the same as a manual style braking device- after all, your climber's life is still in your hands, and that should never be taken lightly.

For all members who are unfamiliar with how to use ABDs, our staff is happy to help educate and bridge the gap in experience that you may have. Lead climbing can be hard enough as it is to belay, and the last thing we want is for an ABD to inadvertently over complicate the belaying process. Once instructed on how to use an ABD, it should come naturally- especially if you're making the switch from an ATC to an ATC-Pilot. Similarly, if you take our Lead 101 class from this point forward, you will be required to learn with an ABD- if you don't already own one, we'll teach you how to use the ATC-Pilot in regards to lead belaying.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, you're welcome to email us at info@gripstonecs.com. We'd be happy to field any and all questions you may have.

Thank you for climbing with us,

Nathan Zwerling
Operations Manager