Snap Hooks in Your Cargo Carriage by John Watson

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Snap hooks are defined as any hook that contains a snap fastening. The snap fastening is the spring loaded arm that is moved aside by the weight of the load, snapping back into place to form a complete ring around the load collar once the load has been snapped into place.

Snap hooks are greatly useful in a number of cargo loading activities: any requirement where a single hand is used to secure a load, for example. Because the weight of the load, or the force of the weight of the person applying the hook to the load or strap, opens and shuts the snap fastening, you donâ€™t need both hands to set the hook in place.

Snap hooks are often used for attaching chains to other chains, or for hanging loads â€“ in the latter case it is the weight of the load that opens and closes the snap, while in the former the force with which the snap hook is brought into contact with the chain operates the snapping mechanism.

The anatomy of the snap hooks you use in your cargo loading depends entirely on the weight, nature and transport of the cargo in question. Snap hooks are manufactured from alloys and drop forged steel in a variety of shapes and sizes â€“ flat, rounded, square ended. The fastenings that tie the snap hooks into the webbing, straps or chains you are using also differ significantly from hook to hook. A twisted snap hook, for example, features a forward facing hook (â€œtwistedâ€•) and a flat metal fixing â€“ so when the hook is in place it faces directly out from the flat-laid webbing strap.

Non twisted snap hooks face in a flat direction â€“ so from left to right, or right to left, as you lay them on the webbing.

A swivel snap hook swings either front to back or in a 360 degree rotation underneath a rotating fixing.

The mechanics of snap hooks are exactly the same as those used in carabineers, which are essential oval snap hooks designed to affix (generally)lightweight loads to. The load bearing qualities of larger snap hooks are, as with all load fixing ends, dictated by the materials of which they are made and the size of the hookâ€™s trunk (the metal that has been folded or moulded to make the hook shape). The style and heavy-duty nature of the fixing is also a factor â€“ swivel snap hooks, for instance, may have more load bearing capabilities than solid snap hooks, because they can absorb more shearing forces.

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GTF holds a massive stock of fixings, webbing and load bearing equipment, 99% of which can be delivered within 24 hours. The company has invested heavily in the industry and has achieved ISO 9000 certification for its processes.
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