

A Carrier Tip

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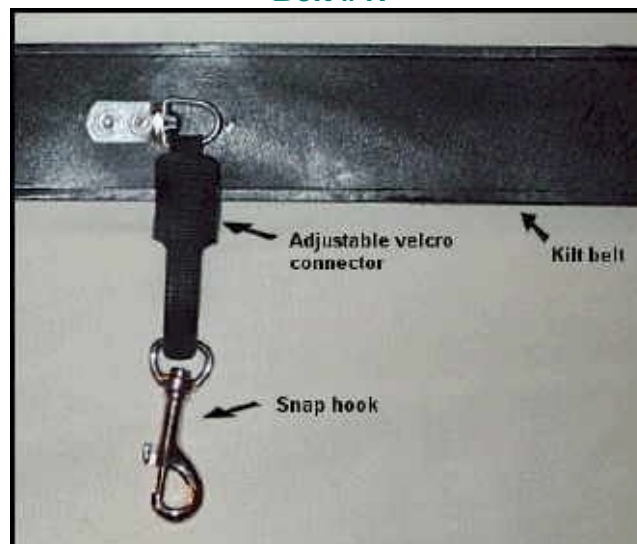
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At the World Championships this year I noticed that almost every band drum corps were using carriers as opposed to slings, and I saw quite a few people who were obviously glad to get the drum off at every opportunity. If, like me, you're not so young as you were, you may find this tip useful.

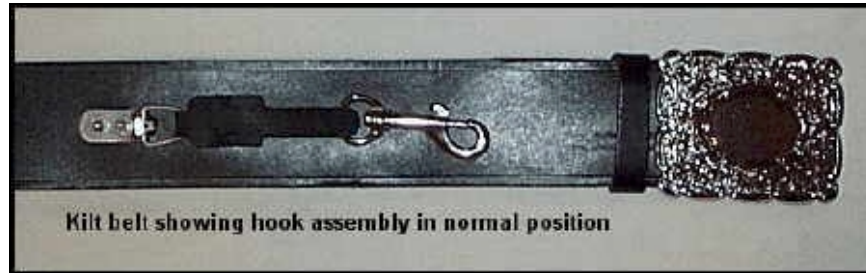
Carriers are great except for one thing - they transfer the weight of the drum to the small of your back and it **hurts!** The problem can be alleviated a little by carrying the drum high but the playing position is then unnatural. I knew that if I could get more back support the problem would be almost solved.

I'm sure most of you wear a kilt belt, right? Usually a nice broad leather one, perfect for providing back support! Here is how you can modify your belt and carrier so that "carrier strain" is greatly reduced. The text description follows but a picture is worth a thousand words so click on the thumbnails to see how the modifications to belt and carrier are made.

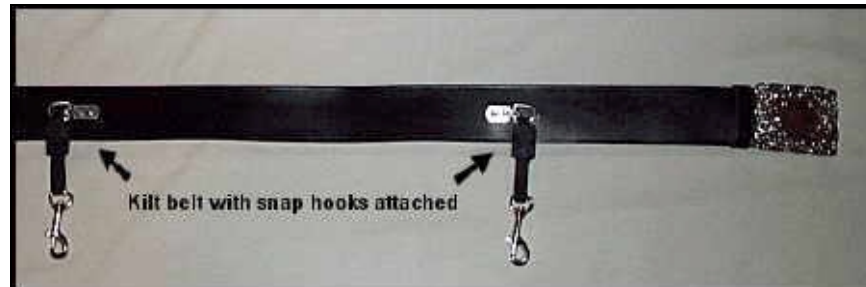
Belt #1:



Belt #2:



Belt #3:



Carrier:



Here is a list of hardware you will need.

- Swiveling mirror mounting brackets (2 off) these come with 2 holes for wall mounting and are designed for heavy loads.
- Snap hooks (metal type, 2 off) just like the ones sold for dog leashes.
- Heavy duty velcro adjustable cable ties (2 off) these are made of broad non-stretch material and are meant for bundling large quantities of wire together.
- Eye bolts and nuts (2 off) these are for the carrier, any size the snap hook will fit into.
- Other sundry tools for drilling and making holes in the belt.

The first thing is to mount the eye bolts near the edge of the carrier on a level with your belt position when worn (see the carrier modification image).

Next fix the mirror brackets to your belt, the position will depend on the length of the velcro cable ties you have, but make sure that you leave enough room for adjustment. You can bolt or rivet the brackets to holes made in the belt. Feed the the velcro ties through the mirror brackets and the "leash" end of the snap hooks and it's done! All you have to do

now is wear your belt and carrier, clip the snap hooks through the eye bolts and adjust the velcro ties for a nice tight fit.

The velcro ties are in tension and will not come apart in use, I even managed to bend the metal bracket when testing and the velcro held!

Once you have got the assembly in approximately the right place, you may find it easier to make final velcro adjustments with the belt off. You will be able to gauge the exact length at this point.

At first I thought it would be a nuisance clipping the carrier to my belt but it's not, if you mount the eye bolts correctly you can do it quickly. Finally, if you visit the beer tent too often you can simply adjust the velcro to suit your expanded belly!

Happy and painless drumming!

Source: <http://www.denyer.com>

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