



# Shovel & Probe Systems

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The Companion Probe is designed for limited and emergency use. Carefully read and follow the instructions to ensure proper performance.

## ASSEMBLY: Companion Probe

**To assemble the probe**, hold the probe cable loop in one hand and throw the probe sections outward. Hold the first section (closest to cable loop) firmly and tension the cable with one hand until all sections are connected. With the cable under tension, spin the tension nut clockwise with your thumb until it is seated against the end of the first probe section.

**To collapse the probe**, firmly tension the cable and spin the tension nut counterclockwise. For additional leverage, grip the knurled portion of the cable. Collapse the probe sections starting from the tip, removing as much slack as possible from the cable as you go.

## USE: Companion Probe

The Companion Probe penetrates the snow easily because of the small diameter sections. However, if used improperly, it can bend easily. Always cautiously FEED your probe into the snow. Your upper hand should be used as a guide and the force should come from your lower hand only (see figures 1 & 2).

## USE: with Companion & Tour Shovel

To deploy the probe from the shovel, first remove the shovel handle shaft from the blade (if using an EXT model, remove the handle shaft from extension shaft). Remove the spring clip by pulling on the spring clip webbing while depressing the buttons. Once the spring clip is detached, pull the probe cable loop. Before assembling the probe, reassemble the shovel shaft and blade.

## STORAGE: with Companion & Tour Shovel

The Companion Probe stores in the handle shaft of the Companion or Tour Shovel. If using this feature, care must be taken when installing the probe to ensure ease of deployment.

Collapse the probe sections starting from the tip, removing as much slack as possible from the cable. Always center the first section of the probe (closest to cable loop) inside the shaft (see figure 3). This helps prevent cable wear and eases probe deployment. Once collapsed, the end of the folded probe without the cable loop should enter the shovel shaft first and the cable loop should be last. Pull on the cable to ensure ease of movement of the probe within the shaft before installing the spring clip. To install the spring clip, start by slightly tensioning the probe cable so the crimp is just outside of the shaft. Then place the spring clip so the cable is centered freely between the two ends of the spring clip. Slide the spring clip and probe down the shaft into place. The stored probe should sit with the top of the tension nut below the spring clip holes and the metal crimp in the cable loop well above the holes (see figure 3). Always check that the probe deploys easily after use of shovel. Never store probe in shovel if probe is not easily deployed.

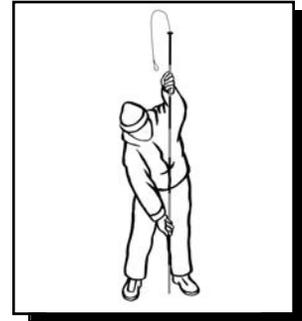


Figure 1: Correct probe technique - guide with upper hand; feed with lower hand



Figure 2: Incorrect probe technique

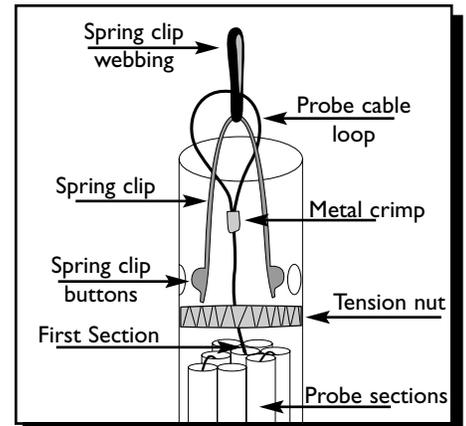


Figure 3: Probe shown inside shovel shaft

**Our products are no substitute for good judgement. Learn how to evaluate and avoid avalanche hazards. For a list of avalanche education providers, please visit our website: [www.bcaccess.com](http://www.bcaccess.com).**

LIMITED WARRANTY: Backcountry Access, Inc. (BCA) warrants all BCA shovels and probes to the original purchaser for one year after the date of purchase. BCA will repair or replace any shovel or probe, free of charge, which fails due to a defect in materials or workmanship. BCA shall not be liable for any damages which occur through failure due to accident, alteration, abuse, misuse, or improper care. BCA shall not be liable for consequential or incidental damages, or economic loss. Your legal rights vary from state to state. For warranty service, contact your dealer or call the BCA service department at (303)417-1345. All returns must be accompanied by a return authorization number.