



Cruiser's Gear Carrying System

George Jackson, Project Leader

The Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) has designed a Cruiser's Gear Carrying System. This is a vest with a detachable backpack bag specifically designed to carry equipment required by timber cruisers, and natural resource field personnel. The Cruiser's Gear Carrying System (Figure 1) was designed to be a functional garment that can carry specific instruments, provide proper weight distribution in the shoulder and neck area, provide generous air flow for hot climates, and be sized so outerwear can be worn underneath. The system was also designed to provide a long service life in the field.

Background

The Timber Technology Steering Committee asked the Center to design a load carrying system for timber cruisers. The project was initiated with a survey distributed nationally through Regional timber measurement specialists. The survey asked field personnel what their needs were and what features were important in a carrying system. The survey responses identified several design criteria.

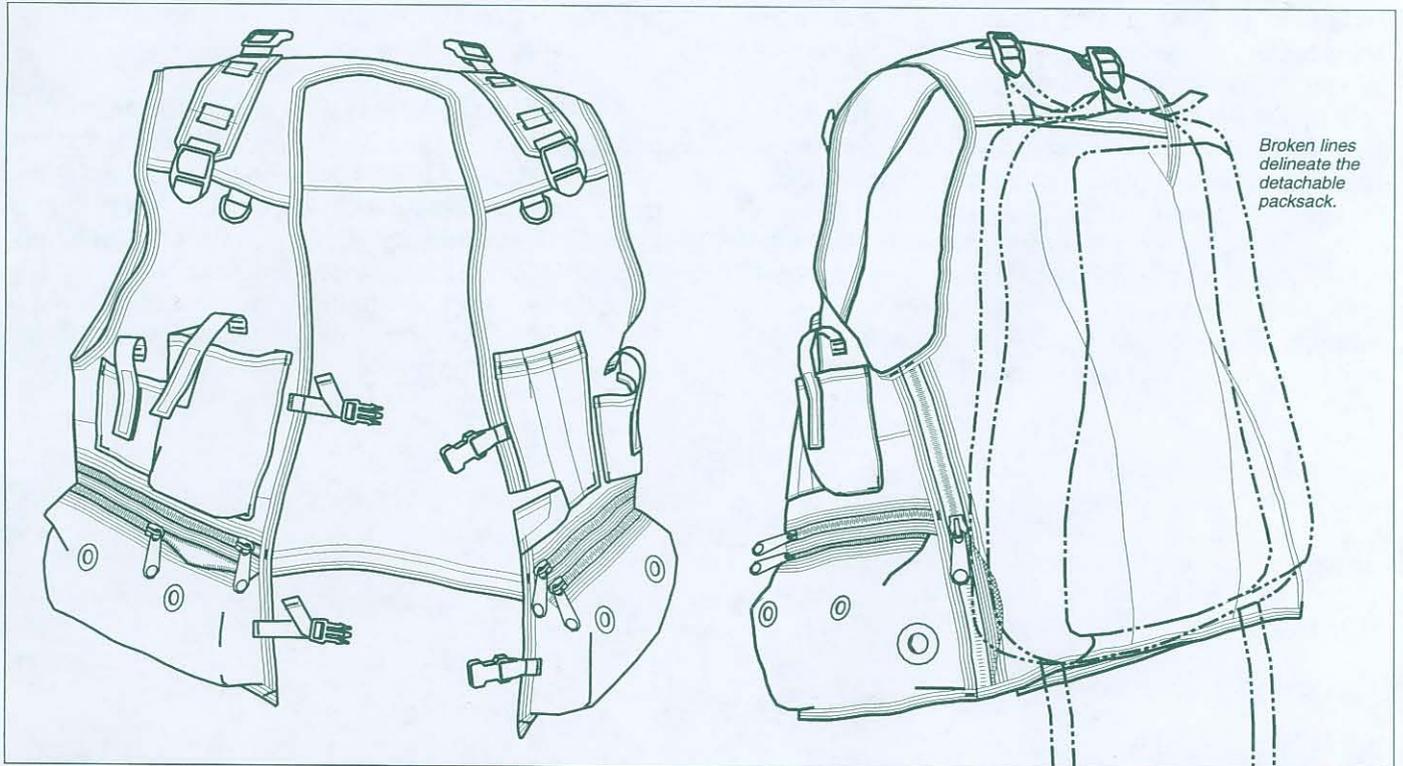


Figure 1—Drawing of the Cruiser's Gear Carrying System (MTDC 914).



Prototypes and Field Evaluations

An initial prototype was designed based on the survey results. This prototype consisted of a classic vest design with a detachable paint bag and an equipment belt to carry quart cans of paint, drinking water, and various essential items. This prototype was manufactured in four sizes: small, medium, large, and extra large. Twenty carrying systems were manufactured and sent out to the field for evaluation. Comments were received from the field on the original prototype.

The comments suggested that the equipment belt was not desirable—the vest was too short, and the detachable bag was too small. The final prototype incorporated these comments.

The Cruiser's Gear Carrying System

The final design of the Cruiser's Gear Carrying System consists of a vest with a detachable, leak-resistant bag primarily designed to carry six to eight 1-quart, tree marking paint cans or other bulky equipment. The detachable bag is an integral part of the vest. The system that attaches it to the vest prevents the weight carried in the bag from pulling the vest down in the back and causing the vest to rise up in the front (Figure 2). The vest has many external and internal pockets sized for specific instruments and equipment. The upper right front center pocket is designed for the relaskop and its case. The pocket to the right is designed for a compass. The bottom zipper pockets on the lower left and right front are designed for miscellaneous storage and flagging tape. The smaller brass grommets allow tape to be pulled from the vest pocket. The large grommet at the back of the zipper pockets is designed for a diameter tape or a rewind tape. The upper left center pocket is a pencil and pad pocket. The pocket to the

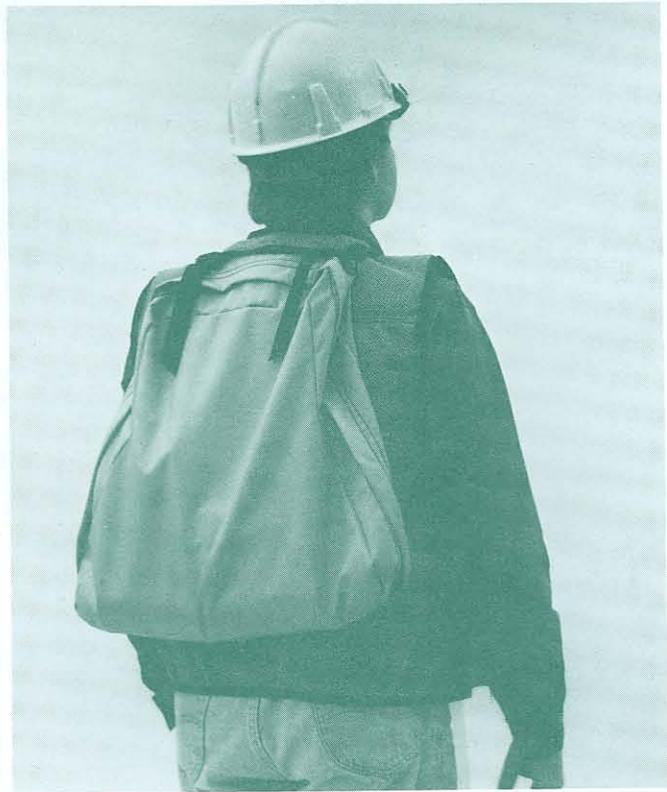


Figure 2—The detachable bag is attached to the vest using a system that prevents weight in the bag from pulling the vest up in front.

left is for a clinometer. A large back pocket is accessed through zippers on the left and right sides. Internal pockets on the left and right front were designed for aerial photos and maps.

The vest is made from a high-strength, abrasion-resistant nylon mesh (Figure 3). The pocket material and the detachable bag are made from a urethane-coated nylon duck. The vest and detachable bag are international orange for high visibility. Padding in the shoulders and yoke distributes weight evenly. Padding in the back protects the user from sharp and bulky objects in the back zipper pocket and detachable bag. The padding is spacer cloth that promotes air circulation.

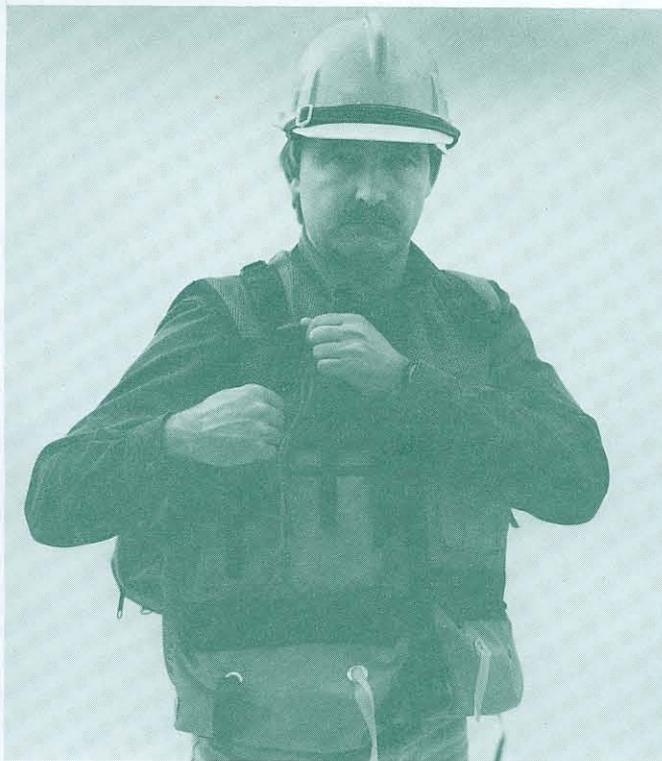


Figure 3—The vest is made from a high-strength, abrasion-resistant nylon mesh. The pockets and detachable bag are made from a urethane-coated nylon duck.

Procurement and Sizing Information

The Cruiser's Gear Carrying System is available in four sizes: small, medium, large and extra large. There are two sizes of detachable bags—one for the small and medium vests, and one for the large and extra large vests. To order a complete Cruiser's Gear Carrying System you will need two separate National Stock Numbers (NSN), one for the appropriate vest size and one for the appropriate detachable bag.

The Cruiser's Gear Carrying System will be available in February 1997 through the General Services Administration (GSA) Supply Catalog, in *The Great Outdoors* section under *Wildland Gear*.

Cruiser's Gear Carrier, Size Small—

(chest size up to 38 inches)

NSN No. 8465-01-396-9894

Cost \$43.71

Detachable bag for this carrier:

NSN No. 8465-01-396-9898

Cost \$32.23

Cruiser's Gear Carrier, Size Medium—

(chest size up to 42 inches)

NSN No. 8465-01-396-9895

Cost \$43.71

Detachable bag for this carrier:

NSN No. 8465-01-396-9898

Cost \$32.23

Cruiser's Gear Carrier, Size Large—

(chest size up to 46 inches)

NSN No. 8465-01-396-9896

Cost \$43.71

Detachable bag for this carrier:

NSN No. 8465-01-396-9899

Cost \$ 32.23

Cruiser's Gear Carrier, Size X-Large—

(chest size up to 50 inches)

NSN No. 8465-01-396-9897

Cost \$43.71

Detachable bag for this carrier:

NSN No. 8465-01-396-9899

Cost \$ 32.23

If you have a 38-inch, 42-inch, or 46-inch chest size and plan to wear outerwear underneath the vest, buy the next larger size.

Additional single copies of this document may be ordered from:

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