CLAIMS

1. A descent device comprising:

a body for attachment to a load; and

a series of apertures extending through the body for passage of a line in alternate directions therethrough, from a first aperture to a final aperture, such that regions of the body delimiting and extending between the apertures provide a discontinuous contact surface for frictional engagement with the line,

wherein the series of apertures comprises a first group of apertures providing a first frictional resistance and including the first aperture, and a second group of apertures providing a second frictional resistance greater than the first frictional resistance and including the final aperture, and

wherein the first group of apertures comprises one or more apertures having a first height less than a height of one or more of the remaining apertures of the first group of apertures, the one or more apertures having the first height including the first aperture.

2. A descent device according to claim 1, wherein the second group of apertures comprises one or more apertures having a second height less than a height of one or more of the remaining apertures of the second group of apertures.

3. A descent device according to claim 2, wherein the one or more apertures having the second height includes the final aperture and one other aperture.

4. A descent device according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the first height equals the second height.

5. A descent device according to any preceding claim, wherein each aperture of the series of apertures having a height other than the first or second heights has a third height.

6. A descent device according to any preceding claim, wherein the first group of apertures are spaced from one another by a first spacing and the second group of apertures are spaced from one another by a second spacing greater than the first spacing.

7. A descent device according to claim 6, wherein the first group of apertures and the second group of apertures are spaced from one another by the first spacing.

8. A descent device according to any preceding claim, wherein the series of elongate apertures comprises five apertures, the first group of apertures comprising three apertures and the second group of apertures comprising two apertures.

9. A descent device according to any preceding claim, wherein the series of elongate apertures consists of six apertures, the first group of apertures consisting of three apertures and the second group of apertures consisting of three apertures.

10. A descent device according to any preceding claim, wherein one or more of the apertures comprises a rounded or chamfered edge extending about a periphery thereof on a first side of the body and/or on an opposing second side of the body.

11. A descent device according to any preceding claim, wherein apertures of the series of apertures are a series of parallel elongate slots.

12. A descent device according to claim 11, wherein one or more of the slots of the series of parallel elongate slots has a first width.

13. A descent device according to any preceding claim, wherein the device comprises a line passing in alternate directions through the series of apertures.

14. A descent device according to claim 13, wherein the line has a thickness that is at least 50% of the first height and/or the second height when dependent on at least claim 2.

15. A descent device according to claim 13 or 14 when dependent on at least claim 12, where the line has width approximately equal to the first width.

16. A descent device according to claim 13, 14 or 15, wherein the line comprises a length of woven flat webbing or woven tubular webbing.

17. A descent device according to any of claims 13 to 16, wherein the first height and/or the second height when dependent on at least claim 2, is approximately 4 mm and the thickness of the line is approximately 2 mm.

18. A descent device according to claim 6, or any of claims 7 to 17 when dependent on at least claim 6, wherein the first spacing is approximately 9 mm and the second spacing is approximately 11 mm.