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Tuesday, December 29, 2009

## Hands-on Gear Review

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# Wild Country VC Pro II Review

## Belay Device



**Street Price:** \$13 - \$15

**Pros:** light, compact, inexpensive, smooth handling

**Cons:** none

**Best Uses:** single to multi-pitch cragging, alpine, ice

**Manufacturer:** [Wild Country](#)

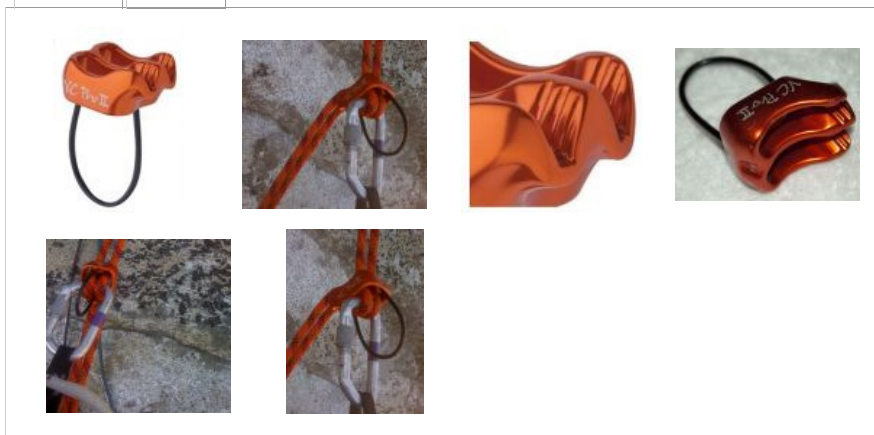
### Overview

The Wild Country VC Pro II is the most affordable manual belay device tested and it still scores highly. It is light and compact and provides excellent friction with its friction grooves. A standout feature of the VC Pro II, in addition to its slim price tag, is the generous width of the tube stock used. This means that rap after rap this device stands up to more abuse without getting sharp edges than do other devices.



Credit: Wild Country website

- Photos**
- Specs**



### The Bottom Line

Wild Country packs more features into the VC Pro II for \$15 than competitors give you in their base model manual belay device. The VC Pro II is a great, compact, belay/rappel device and earns the medal as our Best Buy. If you are looking for a device with more lowering control with thin ropes, consider the ATC XP or if you want a device with more friction when rappelling, consider the BRD. But if you are looking to get the most competitively-priced, durable/versatile manual belay device on the market, the VC Pro II is it.

### Comparative Review At-a-Glance

[View full details >](#)

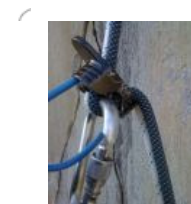
	This Product	Editors' Choice	Best Buy Award
<b>Product Name</b>	Wild Country VC Pro II	Petzl GriGri	Wild Country VC Pro II

### Stores & Prices

Resellers	Price	
MammothGear	\$12.71 - 15% off!	<b>SALE</b>
Backcountry	\$14.95	<a href="#">view &gt;</a>
US Outdoor Stores	\$14.95	<a href="#">view &gt;</a>
<a href="#">See all available reseller prices &gt;</a>		

\*If you click on any of the above links and make a purchase, a portion of sale helps support this site

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#### The Best Climbing Belay Device

We took the best belay/rappel devices to the gym, crags, multipitch climbing and up Yosemite's big walls.




### Related Gear Reviews



**Petzl GriGri**  
\$95



**Black Diamond ATC XP**  
\$24

<b>Overall Score</b>	0 <b>76</b> 100	0 <b>84</b> 100	0 <b>76</b> 100
<b>User Reviews</b>	1 review written	2 reviews written	1 review written
<b>Retail Price</b>	\$15	\$95	\$15
<b>Category Ratings</b>			
<b>Lowering</b>	0 <b>8</b> 10	0 <b>10</b> 10	0 <b>8</b> 10
<b>Sport/gym belay</b>	0 <b>9</b> 10	0 <b>10</b> 10	0 <b>9</b> 10
<b>Rappel 2 Ropes</b>	0 <b>8</b> 10	0 <b>10</b> 10	0 <b>8</b> 10
<b>Lock off</b>	0 <b>6</b> 10	0 <b>10</b> 10	0 <b>6</b> 10
<b>belaying the second</b>	0 <b>5</b> 10	0 <b>9</b> 10	0 <b>5</b> 10
<b>Product Specs</b>	Wild Country VC Pro II	Petzl GriGri	Wild Country VC Pro II
<b>Recommended Rope Diameter</b>	7.7mm -11mm	10mm - 11mm	7.7mm -11mm
<b>Weight</b>	2.9 oz	7.8 oz	2.9 oz
<b>Double Rope Rap?</b>	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Belay off anchor?</b>	No	Yes	No
<b>Warranty</b>	1 year	3 year	1 year



**Petzl Mini Traxion Pulley**  
\$85



**Petzl Reverso 3**  
\$35



**Trango Cinch**  
\$70



**Mad Rock Mad Lock**  
\$20



**Kong GiGi**  
\$14



**Metolius BRD**  
\$20



**Petzl Verso**  
\$26



**Black Diamond ATC Guide**  
\$28

## SuperTopo Editors' Hands-on Review

### Likes

The VC Pro II packs in friction groove features at a great price. Its thick tube stock enables more rappel-mileage. It handles much like the Black Diamond ATC XP but is lighter and more compact. It was in a close match with the ATC XP for being the best manual-locking device for lead belaying.

### Dislikes

There are no major gripes. Other devices might be better in particular applications. For example, the BRD was better for rappelling and lowering and the Black Diamond ATC XP was slightly preferred for lead belaying. But the differences were subtle.

Also, the VC Pro's teeth eventually wear out, not quite as fast as the Verso or Reverso III, but we noticed them wearing down after a few months. This is not a huge issue, but it means that if you rappel and lower a ton you will notice wear fairly quickly and have to decide if you are okay or want to replace it.

### Best Application

This is an all-around device that all climbers need whether they are just starting to climb or are experts. Even if you generally prefer an auto-locking device like the Cinch or GriGri, you will need a device like this for rappelling with two ropes.

## Personal Stories

Chris Van Leuven says, "I took the VC PRO II up and down multi-pitch slabs in Yosemite. Pitches were long and each rappel was made with two 60-meter ropes. The VC Pro II never hung up when I was quickly throwing rope out to the leader. And, the VC Pro II had great friction control when rapping."

## Value

At \$15 the VC Pro II is incredibly well priced. It is \$4 to \$15 less than comparative devices that we tested.

Review by: Chris Van Leuven, Chris McNamara

Last Updated: December 11, 2009

## Stores & Prices\*

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<b>Backcountry</b>	\$14.95	Available	Check Site	<a href="#">SEE IT &gt;</a>
<b>US Outdoor Stores</b>	\$14.95		Check Site	<a href="#">SEE IT &gt;</a>

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\*Most retailers free shipping offers apply only to lower 48 US states, and for ground/economy shipping. See retailer's website for details.

## Customer Reviews of Wild Country VC Pro II

Most recent review: December 22, 2009

### Summary of All Ratings

**SuperTopo Editors' Rating:** (5.0)  
**Average Customer Rating:** (3.0)  
**Your Rating:** (none)

### Rating Distribution

1 Total Ratings

5 star: (0)  
 4 star: (0)  
 3 star: (1)  
 2 star: (0)  
 1 star: (0)

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**Moof**

climber  
 A cube at my  
 soul sucking  
 job in Oregon

Dec 22, 2009 - 11:24pm

No bells and whistles, just a tube style device that works fine. Friction is similar to a Jaws, but it is a little more compact and a fair amount cheaper. I find it feeds a little more poorly than the Jaws on thicker or fuzzed up ropes, but not bad enough to be an issue (probably best for 9.6-10.2mm ropes).

**Bottom Line:** Yes, I would recommend this product to a friend.

Was this review helpful to you? [Yes](#) | [No](#)

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