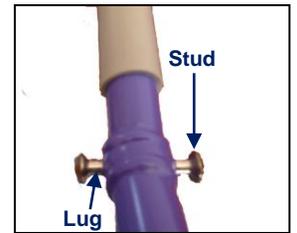


Our Experience – Tilt Frame Keyhole Plate Slings

Sling Life Expectancy

Different Manufacturers of Tilt Frame Hoists give different life spans for their Slings. In 2006 we researched different Manufacturers and found one firm stated two years from date of manufacture. Another stated their Slings had a life expectancy of between 5 and 8 years. And a third firm stated 'Even if no wear or tear is noticed we recommend that the Sling is replaced at least every twelve months'. In 2013 another firm stated a 5 year warranty on their Slings. Since then we have found other Manufacturers are stating a limited life expectancy for their Slings.

Pelican Manufacturing Pty Ltd makes Slings to the Australian and International Standards and understand that a new Sling may only be used for a few months until the patient dies. The Sling may then be kept in storage for many years until a similar sized patient needs the same size Sling. Therefore we do not state a lifespan for Pelican Slings. Any Manufacturer's plastic Keyhole Plates may wear down and become a loose fit, but as Pelican include Safety Straps with their Slings, if a Keyhole Plate fails, the Safety Straps may prevent a dangerous accident. The number of times the Sling is used and washed can affect the life expectancy, but even a new Sling can be damaged the first time it is washed.

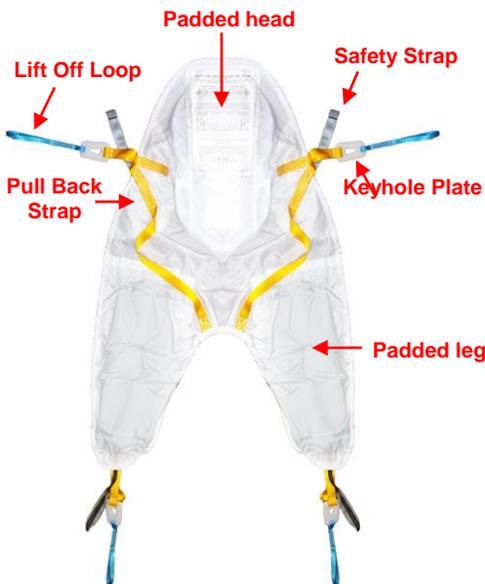


Sling leg attachment points



Sling shoulder attachment points

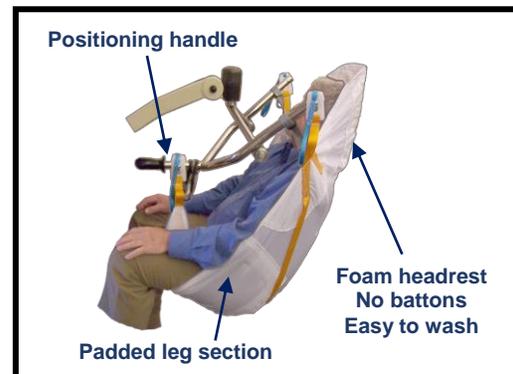
Why are all Keyhole Plates made from a plastic material and not metal?



The plastic used in the Keyhole Plates, sometimes referred to as 'Clips', is extremely strong and they will not cause damage when in a washing machine. If an aluminium or other metal Keyhole Plate was used, then it would not 'click' over the metal lug, as one of the two materials has to have some 'give' in it. Also, metal Keyhole Plates would damage the inside of a washing machine.

After some time in normal use, all Manufacturer's plastic Keyhole Plate material will wear down and the 'click' will disappear. If the plastic Keyhole Plate did not wear down, then the metal of the stud lug would wear down and the Hoist would then need replacing.

An important thing with Slings and Hoists is that there is a good 'click' sound when attaching the Keyhole Plates. There have been many accidents with different Manufacturers around the world with these types of Slings where the Keyhole Plate becomes so worn, that they lose their 'click' and become a loose fit. The Pelican Safety Straps provide a 'second chance' if a Keyhole Plate comes off the Stud or breaks, as the Straps can prevent a serious accident. Sometimes if one Keyhole Plate breaks, this can put extra weight on the other three Keyhole Plates.



Using Non-Hoist Manufacturer's Slings

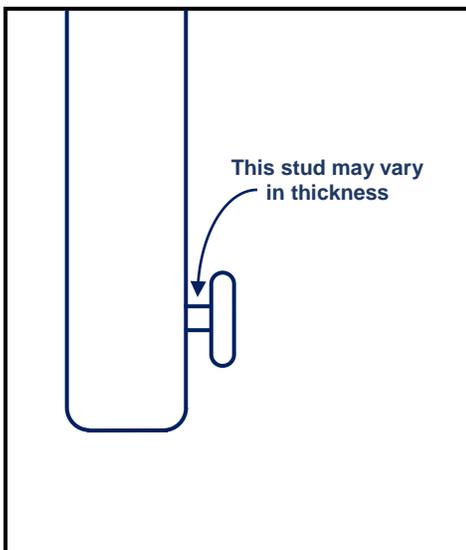
All Slings made or sold in Australia should be made to the Australian Standard AS ISO 10535. Pelican also do N.A.T.A. (National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia) weight testing to exceed the Australian Standard. All products made by Pelican Manufacturing are covered by our Product Liability Insurance Policy. Claims by any Hoist Manufacturer's representative, stating they would not be responsible if the Hoists Manufacturer's Sling is not used on their hoist, may be very misleading, or possibly unlawful, implying a restrictive practice. Ask for written confirmation and if this is provided, contact Pelican. Also ask if their Slings can be used on other Manufacturer's Hoists.

The Hoist Manufacturer could be responsible if there is a fault with their hoist and likewise Pelican Manufacturing could be responsible if there is a Manufacturing fault with the Sling. There is no Australian Government or T.G.A. ruling stating that only the Hoist Manufacturer's Slings must be used on their hoist. Similarly, in the UK there is no Medical and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) UK regulations stating this. Pelican Manufacturing has been making and supplying Slings throughout Australia to government and private hospitals, nursing homes and special care organisations since around 1989.

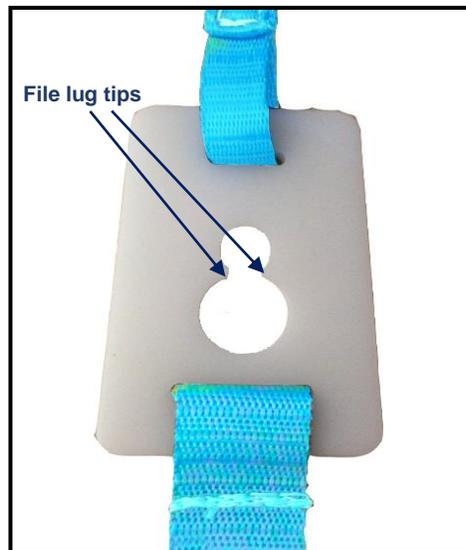
Sometimes the Keyhole Plates are a tight fit or do not fit

The problem of the Keyhole Plates being too tight comes up occasionally. Over the last five to ten years, the metal lugs may be thicker on some Hoists compared to others. Sometimes the first 'click' can be a struggle to get on. You can get more force by pulling down on the strap connected to the plastic Keyhole Plate, rather than trying to push the Keyhole Plate on to the lug by hand. Normally once this is done the first time, it will be a good fit afterwards and you will hear a nice 'click'.

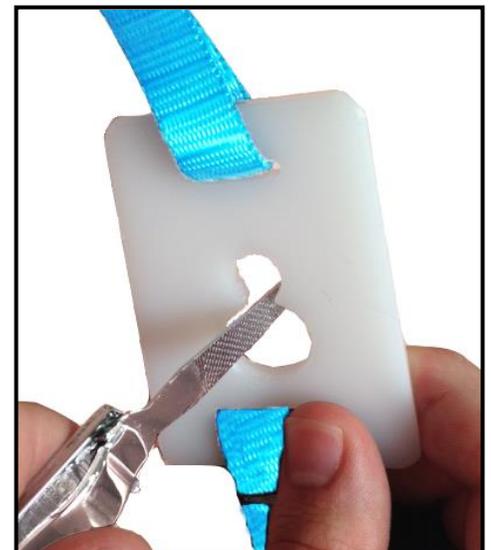
If the Keyhole Plate is still too tight, use a small nail file on the inside plastic lug to make a bigger gap. Count the number of strokes with the file on both sides and try it out again. The thickness of the metal lugs on the Tilt Frame may vary from one Manufacturer to another. There can also be a variance between the Shoulder Studs and the Leg Studs, so test the Shoulder Keyhole Plates on the Shoulder Lugs and the Leg Keyhole plates on the Leg Lugs. We have even found differences on the same Manufacturers' Hoists.



Keyhole Plate stud thickness



Pointing to the inside Keyhole Plate lug tips



Filing the inside lug tip with a nail file

Key points:

- Always ensure there is a good 'clicking' sound every time a Keyhole Plate is fitted
- Always use the Safety Straps which are built in to all Pelican Keyhole Plate Slings
- Different Manufacturers may have different width Metal Lugs
- File down the plastic Keyhole Plates if required