

## BUYING A NEW SRT KIT.

Chris Curtis.

I have recently been made aware of a ready to go SRT Kit from Aspiring in New Zealand (Figure 1).

So, in this article, I wanted to compare this kit with a custom kit like most of us would typically buy.

### Convenience

Obviously the biggest advantage of buying a ready to go kit is that you only make one purchase order and it all just turns up.

It saves you spending literally hours shopping around comparing prices, reading reviews on gear, etc.

Everything turns up together with a ready to go kit. A custom kit coming from various suppliers can take much longer and it all turns up at different times.

### Flexibility

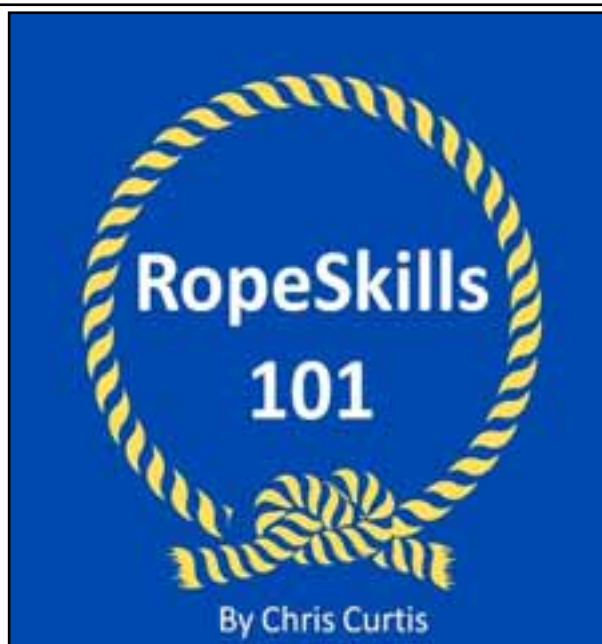
The biggest problem with a ready to go kit is that you don't have the option to change individual parts like the harness or ascenders. What you see is what you get! With a custom kit, you can literally choose every specific item from any brand from any store.

Sometimes the gear in a ready to go kit may or may not have much adjustment in it, but I will go through this in more detail below (see Table 1).

### Cost

A ready to go kit can sometimes be the cheapest option, but it depends on what custom kit you want to build up.

The table below (Table 1) is a comparison of the Aspiring Kit versus alternative options.



The ready to go kit does not include a descender.

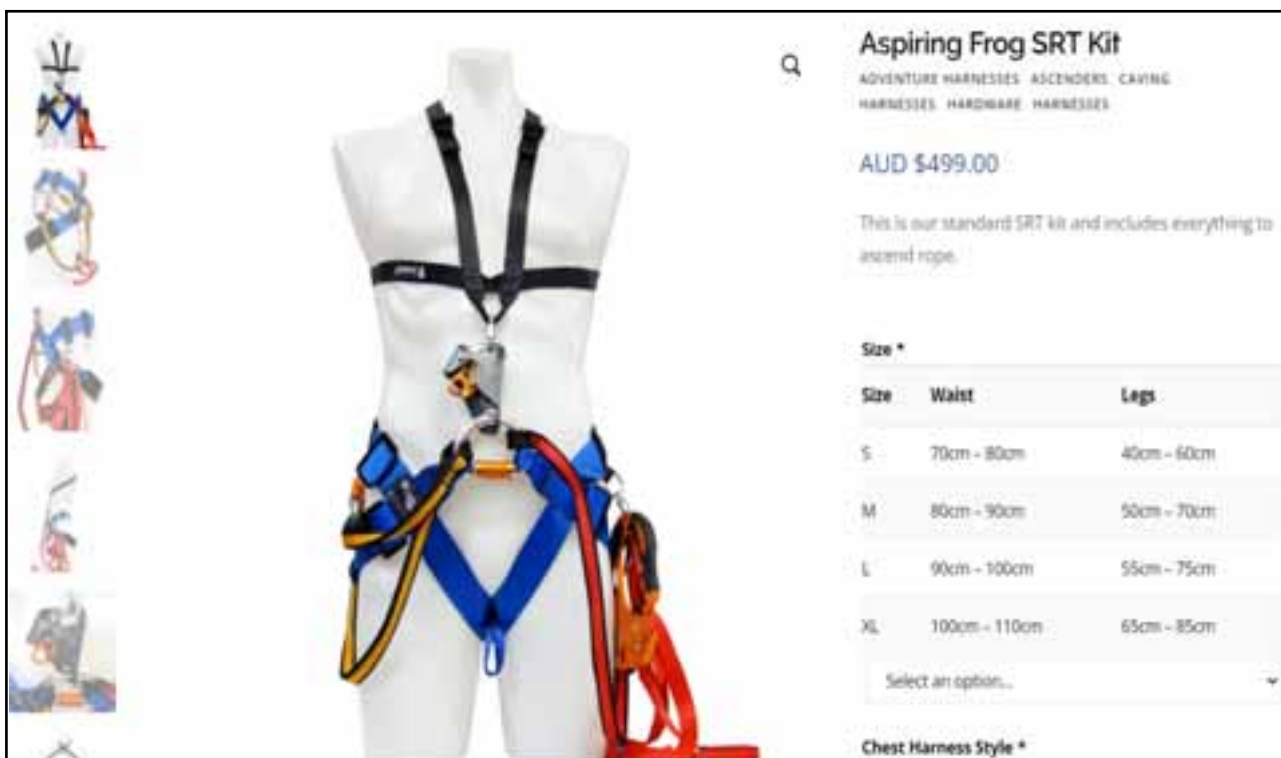
Hopefully this has provided some insight.

My personal recommendation is to not rush the purchasing process, buy the right gear for you and set it up the way you want it.

It will take longer, but I believe you will be much happier overall.

As I have mentioned before, the cost should not come into it. Look after your gear and it will last you for many years.

*JSSS*



**Figure 1:** Aspiring Frog SRT Kit.

**Information:** Aspiring Safety Ltd/6 Burdale Street, Riccarton, Christchurch, New Zealand. 8011.

<b><u>Aspiring SRT Kit</u></b>	<b><u>Custom kit</u></b>
<b>Speleo caving harness with D-shape screw-link (Maillon) or Petzl Omni</b>	<b>Amazonia caving harness with D-shape screw-link (Maillon) or Petzl Omni</b>
This harness has 4 gear loops. You need to pick the correct size harness. Definately use the Petzl Omni regardless of which harness you go for.	This harness of 4 gear loops and is a one size fits all, which is a big advantage if your weight changes, you don't have your overalls on or you want to lend your kit to someone. This harness would be more comfortable due to the extra bum strap for support.
<b>Caving chest harness</b>	<b>Amazonia chest harness</b>
2 straps for more difficult adjustment. No gear loops.	One easy to install and adjust strap. 3 gear loops.
<b>Adjustable ascender foot-loop</b>	<b>Foot loop chord</b>
3 options available: Single, Double or foot chord.	A length of 6mm chord is far cheaper and typically made for one foot only. The other foot will sometimes use a foot ascender. Purchase a carabiner to attach this to your hand ascender.
<b>CT Quick Up Hand Ascender with 80cm cowstail sewn in</b>	<b>Petzl or other brand of hand ascender</b>
80cm is very long for the hand ascender. The 3rd cowstail is not required. No length adjustment.	You may prefer to use a Peztl Basic ascender, which is smaller and lighter. Your cowstail can be adjusted to suit.
<b>CT Evo Chest Ascender with 5mm stainless Maillon Rapide</b>	<b>Petzl Croll</b>
Splitting hairs of which brand is better, but the Petzl has a small version with a stainless steel wear plate for longer life. Not a fan of needing the maillon with the CT, but this is due to the Apsiring chest harness.	
<b>Double Cowstail (30/60 cm) with two captive D-shape twist-lock carabiners</b>	<b>Custom cowstail</b>
Fixed lengths and no choice of carabiners. Lanyard is static webbing.	Typically made from 9mm dia (or thicker) dynamic rope with barrel knots attached to you own choice of carabiners. Dynamic rope can be purchased from Climbing Anchors by the meter, 3 meters required. 2 carabiners required.
CT = Climbing Technology	

**Table 1:** Comparisons between Aspiring Frog SRT Kit and a Do It Yourself Custom Kit.  
**Information:** Chris Curtis.

## SPELEO SCENE SECTION.



**Photo 1:** Single Rope Technique in use in unknown cave. **Photo:** *Unknown.*