

## Zarges Skymaster ladder.

The Skymaster Ladder is a 3 section combination ladder.

It can be used in the following configurations:

A three section extension leaning ladder

A two section extension leaning ladder

A single piece leaning ladder

A standing ladder (trestle step ladder)

A two section standing ladder (free-standing extension ladder)

A stairway ladder

A work platform when used with the optional model 42300 platform and 40250 stabiliser/stand-off.

### 1) Preparing your ladder for use.

Lay the ladder flat with the base (widest) section on the ground.

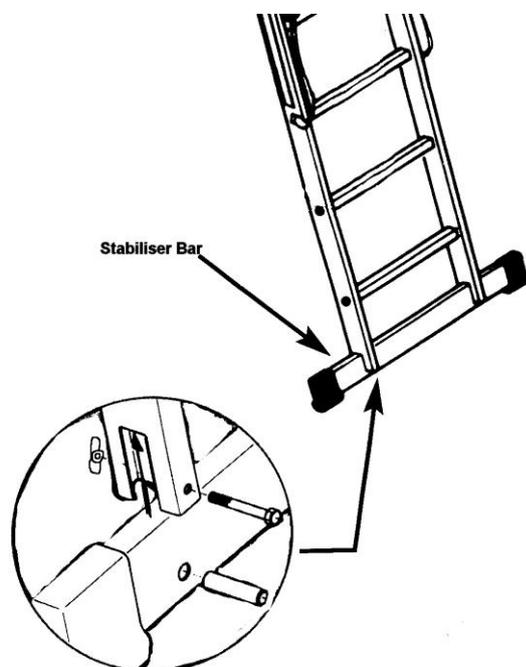
Unpack your ladder and dispose of the wrapping carefully. The wrapping is Low Density Polyethylene Film (LDPE) and is fully recyclable.

The base stabiliser bar is captured between the top and middle sections for transport.

Detach the top section of the ladder by first unlocking the rung hook safety catch. Remove the stabiliser bar.

Turn the ladder over so that the base section is uppermost.

The stabiliser bar locates into the slots, which are cut into the foot of the base section. **THE LADDER CANNOT BE USED WITHOUT THE BASE STABILISER BAR.**



- Release both rung locks.
- Extend the top and middle sections of the ladder by one rung.
- Insert the spacer tubes into the holes in the stabiliser bar.
- Fit the stabiliser bar into the slots in the stile of the base section ensuring the spacers line up with the holes. (Fig. 1)
- Insert the bolts.
- Fit and tighten the nyloc nuts.
- Tighten the nut and bolt with two 13mm spanners.

### General Safety

For advice on the safety and suitability of this equipment please contact your Local Stockist.

Always do a risk assessment.

Keep children, animals and bystanders out of the work area.

Never use the ladder if you are ill, feeling tired or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Wear sensible clothing and footwear that is comfortable and offers good grip. A hard hat is also strongly advised.

Never use the ladder if you suffer from vertigo.

Have a helper support the ladder base while you climb up and down – and to summon help if you have an accident.

Take special care when working in the vicinity of power cables, hanging lights and similar hazards – particularly when extending top section.

Never use chairs, boxes, tables and so on to gain extra height.

Never use the ladder in very windy or blustery weather conditions.

Note that the combination ladder is designed to provide access for light maintenance work. **Never use it as a work platform.**

Check the ladder's condition before use. If it shows signs of damage or excessive wear, do not use until repaired.

Never climb higher than the fifth rung from the top – particularly when the ladder is set up as a step ladder with the extension piece fitted.

Always check the condition of the ladder prior to use.

### **Angle Safety**

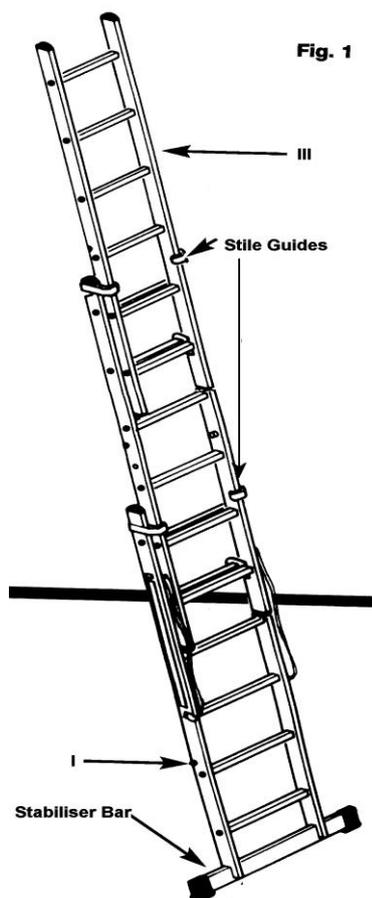
To ensure the ladder is at a safe angle, before use check that the white ball is visible in the window of the 'inclometer' on the side of the base section, 75°, one metre out for every four metres up. When configured as steps make sure, too, that the metal locking bars are engaged and horizontal.

### **Getting Started**

Always set up the ladder on a firm, level, and non-slip surface. On soft ground, stand it on boards to stop its feet sinking in. We recommend the use of ladder stability devices.

The ladder is made up of three sections – a base section with a stabiliser bar, a hinged middle section and a top extension piece. These can be set up in any one of **three configurations**.

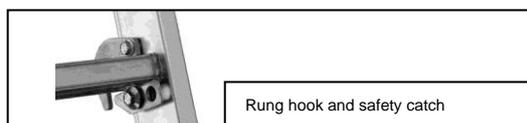
### **As an extension ladder:**



**Fig. 1**

As supplied, the ladder forms a conventional three-part extension ladder.

Lay the ladder flat on the ground and extend it to the required length, ensuring each section overlaps the one below by at least two rungs before engaging its safety catch.



If desired, the extension piece (III) can be completely removed to leave a two section extension ladder. The top extension piece may be used as a single piece ladder.

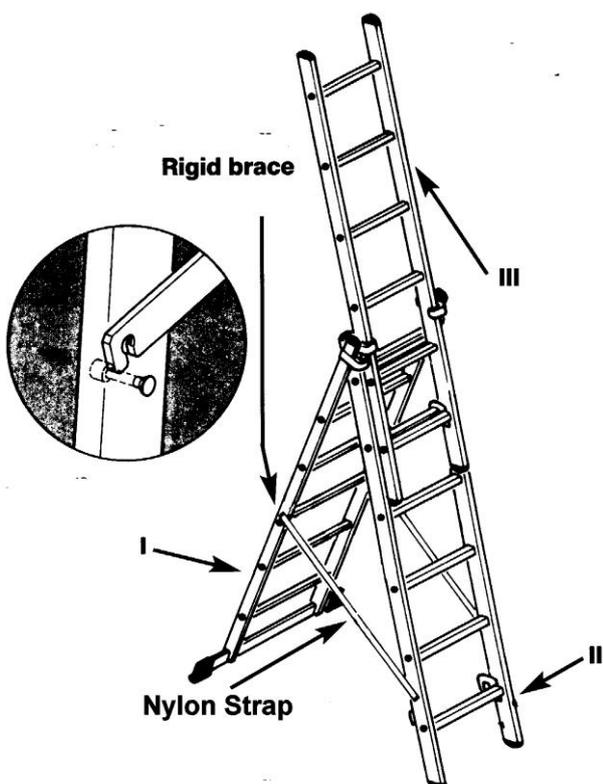
Decide where the ladder is to go, ensuring the top will rest against something solid within easy reach of the work area. Use a ladder stand-off (available from your local stockist) to clear windowsills, gutters, downpipes and other obstructions.

You can now raise the ladder into position. Turn it over, brace the stabiliser bar against the foot of the structure to be climbed, lift up the top section and walk forward until the ladder is vertical.

That done, with the top resting against the structure, pull out the base (I) to leave the ladder at the correct working angle. (75° or 1 unit out for 4 units up)

For maximum safety, rope the top of the ladder to the structure you are climbing, and tie the bottom to stakes, driven into the ground.

### As a Step Ladder



Fully close the ladder, raise it vertically and unclip all of the rung catches.

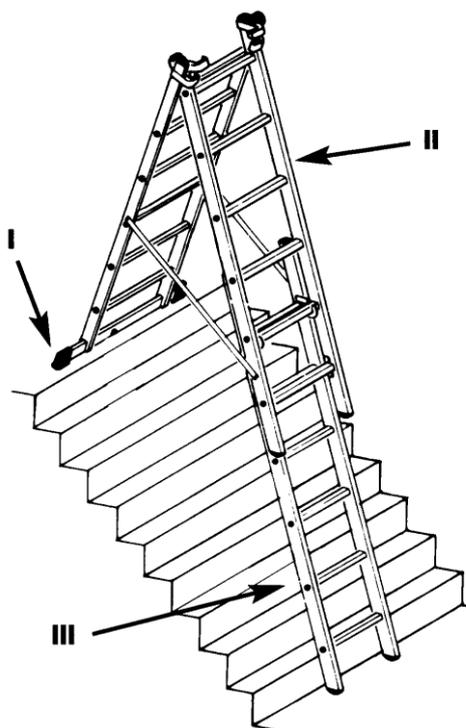
Now hinge out the middle and top sections as a single unit, as far as the retaining straps will allow, before clipping the metal locking bars securely into place.

Finally, extend the top extension piece as high as required; making sure it overlaps the second section by at least two rungs before engaging the rung catches to lock it into place.

- Remove the top section (III) and put it safely to one side.
- Stand the ladder vertically.
- Release the rung locking tab.
- Lift middle section slightly and swing outwards until the nylon straps are taut. Ensure that the pin engages in the slot at the top of the ladders.
- Release the rigid brace from the base section (I) by pushing the sprung locking bolts.
- Swing the rigid brace down and secure it to the sprung bolt on the middle section (II)
- Fasten the second brace (if fitted) in the same way.

- Refit the top section (III) and adjust to the required height, lock the section in place with the rung locking tab.
- Close the ladder by reversing this operation.

### As a Stair Ladder



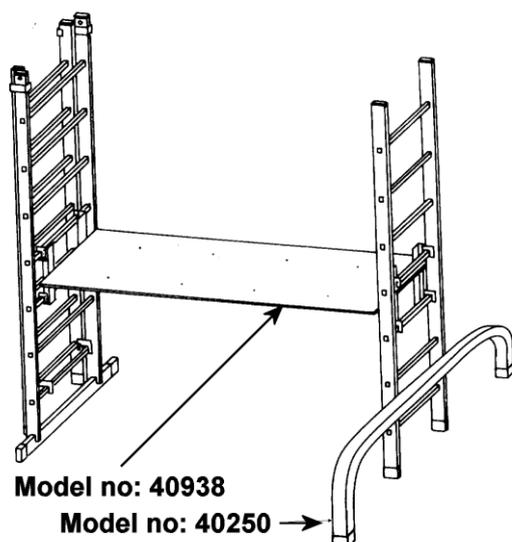
Ideally, get an able bodied assistant to help you. Remove the extension piece and stand the ladder with its stabiliser bar at the top of the stairway.

Now hinge the base and mid sections into the step ladder format and refit the extension piece upside down on the back of the middle section – with its rung hooks facing upwards and outwards.

That done, engage the metal locking bars to brace the ladder, stand the extension piece on a lower step and adjust until the bars are horizontal.

Finally, adjust the ladders position so its feet are as far from the step's edges as possible and either rope it to a banister or have a helper steady it while in use.

## Accessories



Please see diagram showing accessories to be used with the Zarges 3-Part Skymaster.

(NB The platform model no: 40938 has been modified and is now model no: **42300**)

## Basic Techniques

Always climb a ladder's outer face – never the underside.

While climbing, keep your feet in the middle of the rungs and grip the rungs firmly with both hands.

Never carry anything while climbing unless you can do so by leaving your hands free – say, by using a shoulder bag or tool belt. If necessary, climb first then haul up whatever you need after you on a rope.

When working, never outstretch or lean too far to one side. **If you cannot reach, move the ladder.**

Never use the ladder as a work platform for jobs requiring a lot of force – it could topple over.

## Equipment Care

Never use the ladder for anything other than its intended purpose. If it will not do what you want it to with reasonable ease, assume you have the wrong piece of equipment for the job. Contact your local stockist for advice.

Keep the ladder clean. You will find this less of a chore if you clean it regularly.

When not in use, store the ladder somewhere clean, dry and safe from thieves. Prop it against a wall or it flat on the ground. Never hang it up by its rungs or stiles.

## Finishing Off

Return the ladder to its original extension ladder format, clipping the metal bracing struts along the base section for transit.

Now simply collapse the extension ladder as far as it will go.

Finally, lock the sections together by engaging both rung hooks and safety catches in the normal way.