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Bay City company sells tie-down to military

By [Cheryl Wade](#)

Two local businessmen believe they have a product that works better than Bungee cords when it comes to tying down a tarpaulin, a just-killed deer or contents inside a truck or trunk.

The new Bay City-based company, ClampTech LLC, is marketing a new rope-based system called the Toughman Tie-Down. It is sold at Ace Hardware & Sports in Midland for \$13.99.

The clamp has two parts and is manufactured from high-performance engineered nylon resin. The braided rope used with the clamp lacks the stretchy elasticity of bungee cords, so tied loads don't bounce, its promoters say.

The clamp has a quick lock-and-release system, and the user can adjust the rope tension without releasing the hold. The tie doesn't loosen under vibration and does not require retightening the way some ratchets do.



Due to some fortunate circumstances, the military is using the clamp to secure guy wires on soldiers' tents in Iraq and Afghanistan, said Myron Ennest, who helped modify the clamp, which was designed and patented by two St. Charles farmers. ClampTech now owns that patent. McKinley Technology, another Bay City company that partners with inventors to form new technology companies, is helping launch the new company. Stacy Pastein of Midland, who's working with Ennest, is a principal of McKinley and ClampTech.

A company called Networks Enterprises, which manufactures tie-down nets for the military, began using the clamp to secure cinch ropes on their nets. ClampTech sells the clamp to the companies making military tents and is introducing the Toughman — which consists of the clamp, 10 feet of camouflage rope and a hook — to the consumer market.

ClampTech uses packaging that allows a prospective buyer to play with the clamp. A card explaining the Toughman wraps around the looped camouflage-colored rope. Pastein said he would like to see the Toughman in big-box hardware and home improvement stores, wherever Bungee cords and ratchet straps are used. He likes the rope because it's made of a material that doesn't scratch other surfaces. The rope makes the device ideal for, say, tying a gas can to a four-wheel-drive vehicle or securing a motorcycle to a trailer.

For more information, visit www.clamp-tech.com.