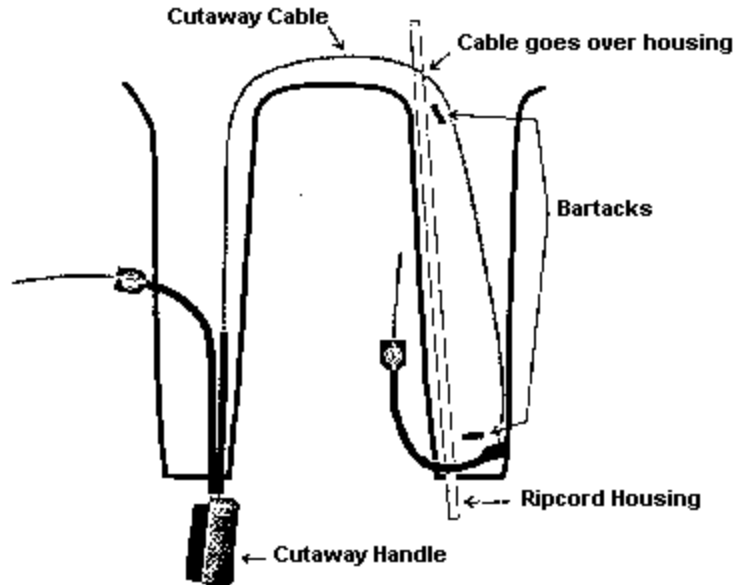


Item #1 Soft Housings There have been a number of reported incidents of unusually high pull forces needed to release the main canopy in a malfunction situation. The situation has been encountered on systems using soft housings and mini risers. It reportedly has only happened with malfunctioning small high performance canopies which have twisted the risers tightly before release action could be initiated.

Sun Path, makers of the Javelin, have used soft housings for a number of years and continue to do so. They tend to think some of the hard pull situations could have been averted if the longer release cable had been correctly routed. A diagram follows which shows correct routing.



Soft housings can be replaced with metal housings by a qualified Rigger "A" as long as they only require hand tacking. Any required machine sewing would need to be performed by a Rigger "B". Details of housing change-over can be obtained from Sun Path Products Inc., 5037 Gall Blvd., Zephyrhills, Florida 33541 Phone: (813) 782-9242 Fax: (813) 788-3057

Item #2 Soft Riser Rings A number of rings on 3-ring riser releases have turned up with severe damage after unusually hard openings. The rings in question suffered enough distortion to require additional manual manipulation in order to release the risers in a malfunction situation.

Rings which have shown damage are not harness rings but the larger ring on the riser in all cases mini risers. These rings were not only distorted but had also suffered severe "pitting", likely from previous openings. These indentations are quite evident and should have been noticed during preflight inspections long before the situation developed in which a malfunction occurred, bringing the problem of soft rings to light.

Riggers, and for that matter all parachutists, should be inspecting riser rings they come in contact with during repack cycles and normal pre-flight gear checks. If any "pitting" is noted, usually several noticeable indentations~ the risers should be returned to the riser manufacturer.

Item #3 EOS Reserve Pilot Chute Upgrade Para-Flite has upgraded their EOS reserve pilot chute to incorporate the following improvements:

- replacing the plastic cap with a stainless steel cap to prevent cracking
- shortening the spring to make compression easier
- using a thicker wire making the spring less prone to bending and easier to handle

This item is in stock for immediate shipment. Upon receipt of EOS serial number they will send this replacement pilot chute at no charge to owner. Call Para-Flite at (609) 663-1275

Item #4 Strong Enterprises Bulletin Strong Enterprises issued Product Service Bulletin #22 on 20 February, 1997 which affects their Dual Hawk Tandem. This two part bulletin requires mandatory compliance prior to 20 May, 1997.

Affected units: Dual Hawk Tandem Systems; PN 103000 through 103005 (Dwg No. 1151 & 68E10001).

Background: A) Strong Enterprises has determined that Dual Hawk Tandems Systems with components not approved by Strong Enterprises present a hazard that is not acceptable for tandem jumping.

B) The rapid improvements of the Dual Hawk Tandem system have shown considerable safety enhancements. It is also evident that most systems older than eight years have considerable wear and deterioration with loss of performance and could pose a threat to the users.

Service Bulletin: A) Only components approved by Strong Enterprises may be used on the Dual Hawk Tandem System for tandem jumping.

B) All Dual Hawk Tandem Systems shall have a service life of eight years from date of manufacture or be returned to Strong Enterprises for reinspection and recertification. It may then be placed back in service for five years.

This service bulletin does not change the requirements for periodic inspections and maintenance as outlined in the FAA Exemption or manufacturers instructions.

Strong Enterprises, 11236 Satellite Blvd., Orlando, FL 32837 phone: (407) 859-9317 fax: (407) 850-6978