



Skylaunch Limited

(Glider Winches & Special Projects)
E11 – E14 Wem Industrial Estate,
Wem, Shropshire. SY4 5SD ENGLAND
Sales/Technical: +44(0) 1939 235845
Accounts: +44(0) 1939 233023
Fax: +44(0) 1939 234059
Email: mike.groves@skylaunch.com
www.skylaunch.com



SAFETY BULLETIN – Cable End Equipment – 25/09/18

Skylaunch advises that for safety a minimum distance of 20 metres between the Glider and parachute for winch launching, with any make of glider winches including club built machines.

(In the Netherlands this rule is 30 metres)

This normally is made up of the following:

1. A 17 metre long “Trace” of rope or steel cable in a protective pipe / hose sheath - This should be a large diameter and with some rigidity to increase safety in case it ever could come into contact with the Glider or control surfaces
2. After the weak link connection, a 2.5 metre to 3 metre (maximum) “Strop”, a length of rope or steel cable in a large diameter protective pipe / hose.

This pipe or hose is important to prevent damage to the Glider and risk of a hang-up in the glider undercarriage.

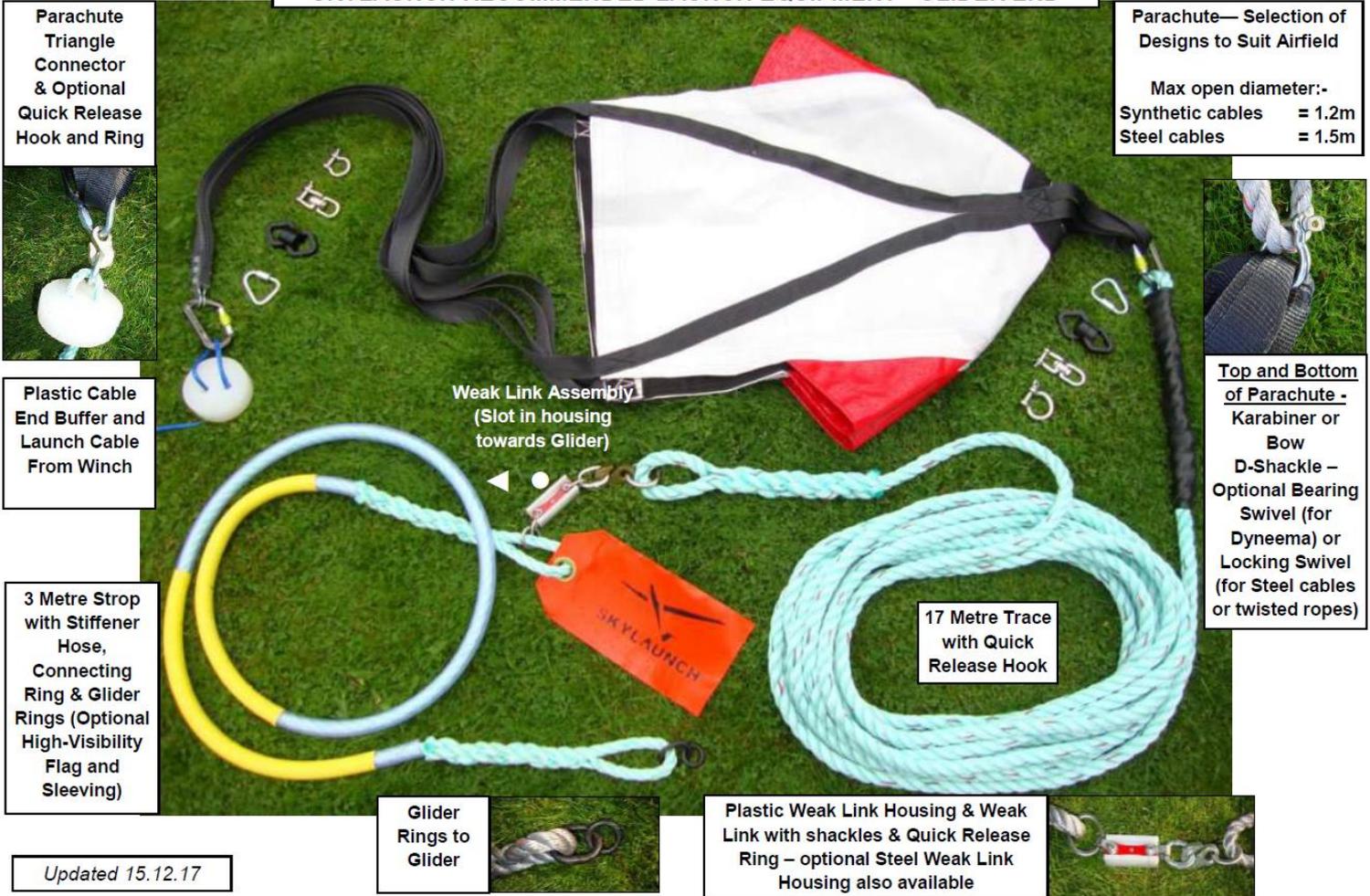
The length is important, as it needs to be just enough for the weak link to clear the nose of the largest glider, but short enough so it cannot reach a control surface in case of a weak link break.

Also less length means less energy to spring back toward the glider.

Using a heavier rope or cable Strop and Trace assembly is also important to help it fall away quickly and separate from the Glider

Incidents have occurred where the parachute has been too close to the glider.

SKYLAUNCH RECOMMENDED LAUNCH EQUIPMENT - GLIDER END



Note: The 20metre length is based on a maximum parachute diameter of 1.4 metres (Open) – for safety reasons Skylaunch will not supply larger sizes than this for glider launching.

If your club is using parachutes larger than 1.4 metres (open) then the distance from parachute to glider should be increased accordingly by lengthening the Trace from 17 metres.

Some clubs use rope which has some stretch as they use this as a shock rope but others would prefer a material with minimal stretch in case of a break in the launch cable close to the glider, or the trace itself.

Skylaunch are currently developing braided rope Traces, Strops and Aerotow lines to offer both options.

For any further advice please contact Skylaunch.



Director: A. Greaves Manager: M. Groves Company Secretary: T.Greaves
 Registered Office: c/o ARCA, First Floor Offices, Allied House, Bryn Lane,
 Wrexham LL13 9UT
 Co. Reg No. 3598701 England VAT Reg No. 141 8937 95

