

they result in greatly reduced forward speed).

To engage Big Ears, lean forward in the harness and grasp the outer A-lines, or the maillons of the 'Baby-A' risers, keeping hold of both brake handles if possible. Pull the outer A-lines or Baby-A risers out and down at least 30cm so as to collapse the tips of the glider. It is very important that the other A-lines are not affected when you do this as pulling these could cause the leading edge to collapse. Steering with Big Ears in is possible by weight-shifting. When you let go of the outer A-lines or the Baby A risers, the Big Ears will come out on their own. A pump on the brakes can speed this up if necessary.

Before using Big Ears in earnest you should practise with plenty of ground clearance in case a leading-edge collapse occurs. Always keep hold of both brakes in order to retain control. Putting your hands through the brake handles so they remain on your wrists is a good method of doing this.

B-Line Stall

This is a fast descent method and is a useful emergency procedure. With both hands through the brake handles, take hold of the top of the B-risers, one in each hand, and pull them down by around 10-15cm. This will stall the canopy and its forward speed will drop to zero. Make sure you have plenty of ground clearance because the descent rate can be over 10m/sec. To increase the descent rate pull harder on the B-risers. When you release the B-risers the canopy will automatically start flying again, normally within two seconds. Sometimes the canopy will turn gently when it exits from the B-line stall. It is normally better to release the B-risers fairly quickly rather than slowly, as the latter may result in the canopy entering deep stall. Always release the risers symmetrically, as an asymmetric release from a B-line stall may result in the glider entering a spin.

B-line stalls are useful if you need to lose a lot of height quickly, perhaps to escape from a thunderstorm. They should not be performed with less than 100m of ground clearance (see also Chapter 5).

Spiral Dive

A normal turn can be converted into a spiral dive by continuing to apply one brake. The bank angle and speed of the

turn will increase as the downward spiral is continued. Be careful to enter the spiral gradually, as too quick a brake application can cause a spin or an over-the-nose spiral.

If you increase the descent rate of the spiral to over 16m/s or initiate an over-the-nose spiral, the glider may require input to recover. In this case you should apply some outside brake and steer the glider out of the turn.

If you make a sudden brake application during the spiral entry the glider can yaw around and enter an over-the-nose spiral where the nose of the glider ends up pointing at the ground and it picks up speed very quickly. This technique is very similar to SAT entry technique, and like the SAT it is an aerobatic manoeuvre which is outside the normal safe flight envelope. Please do not practise this manoeuvre unless supervised by a qualified SIV instructor, as it can be dangerous.

Care should be taken when exiting from any spiral dive. To pull out of a steep spiral dive, release the applied brake gradually or apply opposite brake gradually. A sharp release of the brake can cause the glider to surge and dive as the wing converts speed to lift. Always be ready to damp out any dive with the brakes. Also be ready to encounter turbulence when you exit from a spiral because you may fly through your own wake, which can cause a collapse.

CAUTION: SPIRAL DIVES CAN CAUSE LOSS OF ORIENTATION (black out) AND TAKE SOME TIME TO EXIT FROM. THIS MANOEUVRE MUST BE EXITED IN TIME AND WITH SUFFICIENT HEIGHT!

Landing

Landing is very straightforward. When landing in light winds, flare in the normal way from an altitude of around 2m. It may help to take wraps on the brakes to make the flare more effective.

5. RECOVERY TECHNIQUES

Stalls

Stalls are dangerous and should not be practised in the course of normal flying. Stalls are caused by flying too slowly. Airspeed is lost as brake pressure increases and as the canopy approaches the stall point it will start to descend vertically and finally begin to collapse. Should this occur it is important that the pilot releases the brakes at the correct moment. The brakes should never be released when the wing has fallen behind the pilot; the brakes should be released fairly slowly, to prevent the forward dive of the canopy from being too strong. A pre-release of the brakes and the reconstruction of the full span is recommended to avoid the tips getting cravatted during the recovery. Pilots are advised never to attempt this manoeuvre unless under SIV instruction. This manual is not intended to give instruction in this or any other area.

Deep Stall (or Parachutal Stall)

Your paraglider has been designed so that it will not easily remain in a deep stall. However, if it is incorrectly rigged or its flying characteristics have been adversely affected by some other cause, it is possible that it could enter this situation. In the interests of safety all pilots should be aware of this problem, and know how to recover from it. The most common way to enter deep stall is from a flying too slowly, from a B-line stall or even from big ears.

When in deep stall the pilot will notice the following:

1. Very low airspeed.
2. Almost-vertical descent (like a round canopy), typically around 5m/s.
3. The paraglider appears quite well inflated but does not have full internal pressure. It looks and feels a bit limp.

Recovery from deep stall is quite simple: The normal method is to simply initiate a mild turn. As the canopy starts to turn it will automatically revert to normal flight, but it is very important not to turn too fast as this could induce a spin.

The second method is to pull gently on the A-risers. This helps the airflow to re-attach to the leading edge, but be careful not to pull down too hard as this will induce a front collapse.

If the deep stall is particularly stubborn and the previous methods do not work then a full stall will solve the problem. To do this apply both brakes fairly quickly, as if to do a strong stall, then immediately release both brakes and damp out the forward surge in the normal way. The canopy will swing behind you then automatically reinflate and surge forward in front of you before returning to normal flight. It is the surge forward that exits the canopy from deep stall.

Spins

Spins are dangerous and should not be practised in the course of normal flying. Spins occur when the pilot tries to turn too fast. In a spin the pilot, lines and canopy basically stay vertical and rotate around a vertical axis. Your glider will resist spinning, but if a spin is inadvertently induced you should release the brake pressure but always be ready to damp out any dive as the glider exits the spin. Failure to damp the dive on exiting the spin may result in an asymmetric deflation.

Symmetric Front Collapse

It is possible that turbulence can cause the front of the wing to symmetrically collapse, though active piloting can largely prevent this from occurring accidentally. A pilot can reproduce the effect by taking hold of both the A-risers and pulling down sharply on them. The glider will automatically recover on its own from this situation in around three seconds. During this recovery period it is advisable not to apply the brakes as this could stall the wing.

Asymmetric Front Collapse

Your paraglider is very resistant to deflations; however if the canopy collapses on one side due to turbulence, you should first of all control the direction of flight by countering on the opposite brake. Most normal collapses will immediately reinflate on their own and you will hardly have time to react before the wing reinflates automatically. The act of controlling the direction will

tend to reinflate the wing. However, with more persistent collapses it may be necessary to pump the brake on the collapsed side using a long, strong, smooth and firm action. Normally one or two pumps of around 80cm will be sufficient. Each pump should be applied in about one second and smoothly released. In severe cases it can be more effective to pump both brakes together to get the canopy to reinflate. Be careful not to stall the wing completely if this technique is used.

Releasing a trapped tip (cravat)

Following a severe deflation it is possible for a wingtip to become trapped in the glider's lines (cravat). If this occurs then first of all use the standard method of recovery from a tip deflation as described in Asymmetric Front Collapse above. If the canopy still does not recover then pull the rear risers to help the canopy to reinflate. Pulling the stabilo line is also a good way to remove cravats, but remember to control your flight direction as your number-one priority. If you are very low then it is much more important to steer the canopy into a safe landing place or even throw your reserve.

NOTE: Test pilots have tested the model well beyond the normal flight envelope, but such tests are carried out in a very precise manner by trained test pilots with a back-up parachute, and over water. Stalls and spins on any paragliders are dangerous manoeuvres and are not recommended.

Loss of brakes

In the unlikely event of a brake line snapping in flight, or a handle becoming detached, the glider can be flown by gently pulling the rear risers for directional control.