

**“GETOFF”**  
**Hang Glider Release:**

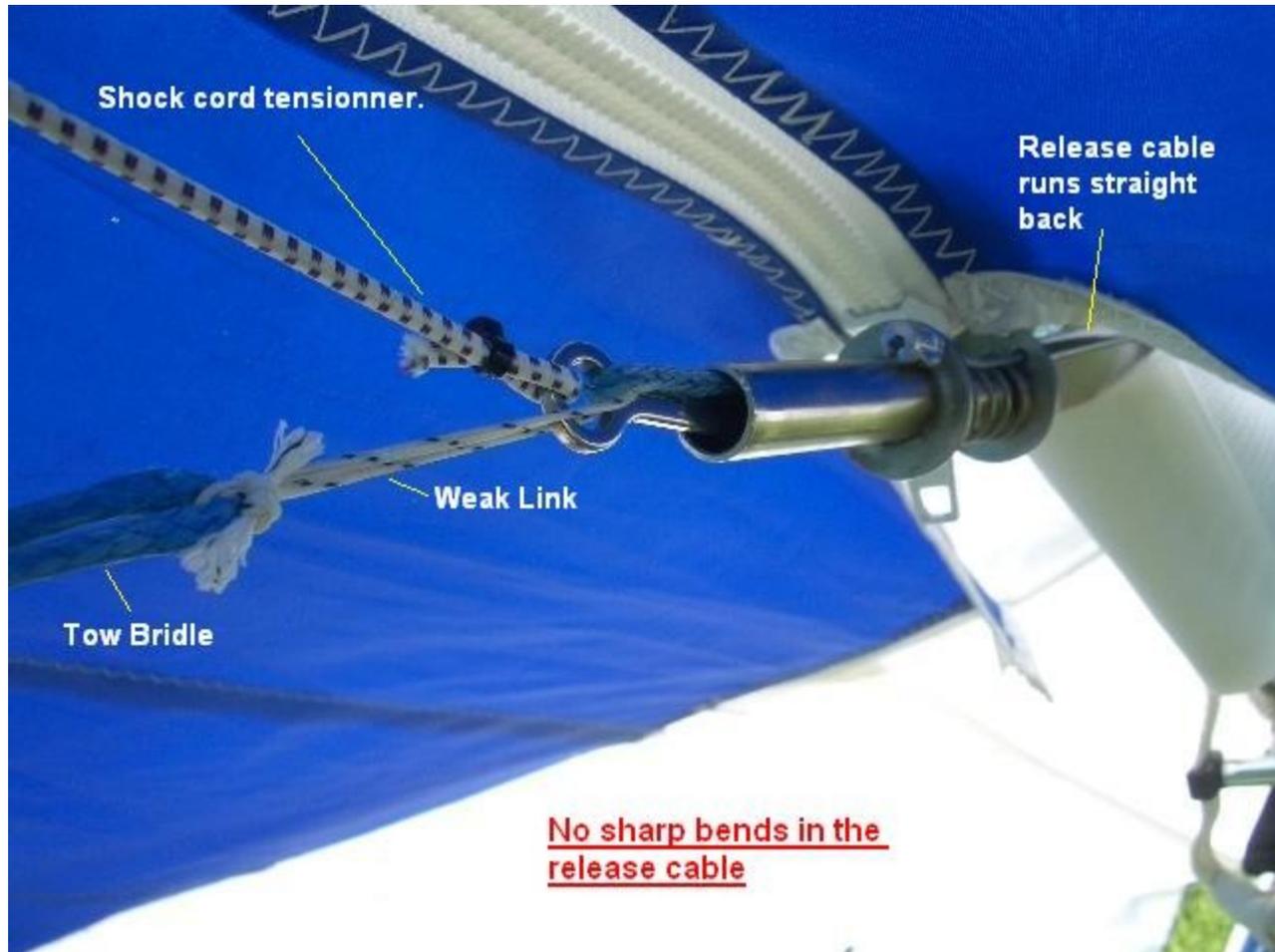
**INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS**

**THE USER MUST READ**

Thank you for purchasing the GETOFF release. The release is made of high quality materials and designed to be as good as it can be, but failure to read and adhere to these instructions can compromise the operation of this device. The manufacturer and seller do not assume any liability for its use. The responsibility for the proper use of this device and the safety of the user is assumed solely by the user.



1. The release is meant to be installed at the upper tow point at the keel of the glider. Make certain that the quick link is connected to the known good tow position for the type of glider it is being installed upon using a strong low stretch cord such as spectra or dyneema. These lines have low stretch under load resulting in a consistent setup under varying loads. This is important since extension of the release along the tow force axis results in an unpredictable setup and can result in premature release in any bowden cable controlled release type when poorly setup. When attaching the release also consider the route for the actuating cable as detailed below.



**Figure 1. Release secured to keel at tow point.**

2. If desired, although not necessary, the release pin may be tensioned towards the nose of the glider to keep it more streamlined in free flight. A piece of small elastic shock cord can be attached to the release pin loop and secured forward as shown in **Fig. 1**. The release is attached via the stainless steel quick link to a spectra line which is first tied around the keel and led back to a secure point such as the kingpost. Small diameter material for the weak link is looped directly around the stainless pin. **Large diameter ropes here are prohibited**. The outer barrel is drawn back and the pin is folded back as shown before the outer barrel is allowed to return forward holding the pin inside. Use of shock cord in the rigging as shown in **Fig. 1** helps also to ensure proper rigging of the release pin at the time of hookup to the tow line. Please refer to the rigging section to see examples of proper and improper rigging. **Note that a release rigged improperly will not function correctly.**
  
3. Proper setup requires that the release cable be free from tension regardless of the direction from which the tow force is applied. This must be tested during the setup. If the release is connected to the pilot's carabiner then the movement of the carabiner must not result in tension being placed on the release cable. There should be no observed compression of the spring in the release when the tow point is moved within the range of motion of the hang point carabiner. Nothing must interfere with the operation at any point. It is not recommended to secure the release cable to anything but the down tubes. There should be as gentle an arc as possible between the anchor point of the top of the release cable and the release itself. The cable should run back from the release without any sharp bend. See **Fig. 1**. Leave enough slack in the cable to allow a radius of 10cm at the least.



**Figure 2. Release cable tightly secured.**

4. The release cable should be secured very well to the down tube. Secure the cable with several tight wraps of self adhesive hook and loop wrap along the length of the down tube or equivalent. In any case the attachment must be able to withstand a pull on the lanyard of at least 12kg which may be required when releasing under high tension. Test this on the glider before use and ensure that the cable remains secure in position without sliding or becoming detached.



**Figure 3. Securing the lower end of the release cable.**

5. The release lanyard which is tied to the loop in the end of the cable is shipped with a stainless washer and stopper knot. This provides a sure grip on the lanyard and yet allows the release to be activated by sliding the hand along the control frame without completely letting go of the tube to get off tow. This could be important, as tow tension force and pilot arm forces quickly become very high at the onset of a lockout condition. It is at this moment when the pilot feels it is very difficult to let go of the control frame and reach for a release fixed to the corner of the A frame. The pilot's body will also twist under the towline tension unless two hands are on the control frame, possibly making it difficult to reach for a release and also be able to use it immediately. The Get Off release is always in the pilots hand and can always be pulled immediately. As an alternative to the washer, a monkey fist knot or a drilled wooden toggle may be used if one is not skilled in knot tying. A hand loop is not recommended due to some possibility that the hand can become caught in the loop interfering with a quick transition to the uprights.
6. This release is made of very strong materials. The release is designed not to fail under any expected loads in typical operations. Although the release has not been loaded to the destruction point, it has been tested with 150 kg of weight which, with a typical 60 degree V-Bridle setup would represent roughly 260kg of tow force depending on the exact geometry of

the bridle. Always use a weak link as part of the bridle setup to limit these forces. The release itself is strong enough to transmit destructive forces to the glider which must be prevented through proper weak link selection. According to USHGA guidelines permissible weak link breaking strength is for tow force 0.8 to 2.0 times the total weight of glider and pilot combination. High load testing can be dangerous when not carried out properly. The release pin moves at very high speed and no stretch must be permitted in the setup to avoid dangerous backlash. If you choose to test your release at high load then take precautions and remember that you assume all responsibility for the safety of the testing and the result of the testing. The release is made from high quality stainless steel materials and is expected to last a long time.

## **7. Preflight inspection.**

Prior to any use the entire release system should be inspected for any sign of wear. Visually check the operation and ensure that it is smooth and with low force required on the lanyard. Typical force with a good setup is 10kg for the standard spring and 6kg for the light action spring on the lanyard to release 150kg of load applied at the release pin. Frayed cable must be replaced using standard techniques and proper swaging tool. If the spectra link ever needs to be replaced the new one must be the same length (within +/- 1mm) for safety reasons.

## **8. Preflight test.**

Glider pilots are always taught that as a part of hooking up to the tow line the launch assistant applies some load through the tow line simulating tow force and the glider pilot tests the release function prior to final hookup and actual launch. This is done without exception as a part of every launch sequence and only takes a few seconds. It is recommended that hang glider pilots adopt this procedure as well, as an extra precaution to ensure that all is well with the release system before every flight.

Please study carefully the following figures detailing differences between proper and improper release pin rigging. **Fig 4(a) Proper rigging top view** , and **4(b) Proper rigging side view**, which show the proper rigging of the release pin. Improper rigging of the pin as shown in the following photos will result in the weak link hanging up on the pin and preventing proper operation. **FIG. 4(c) Improper rigging top view**, **4(d) Improper rigging side view**, **4(e) Forcing the pin sideways into the barrel**.

## **9. Rigging the release pin.**



**Figure 4(a) Proper rigging top view**

Weak link straddles loop in release pin. This is how the pin and weak link orientation should look from the top when rigging the release for use.



**Figure 4(b) Proper rigging side view**

Weak link touches base of pin. This is how the pin and weak link orientation should look from the side when rigging the release for use.

**IMPROPER RIGGING SHOWN BELOW.**



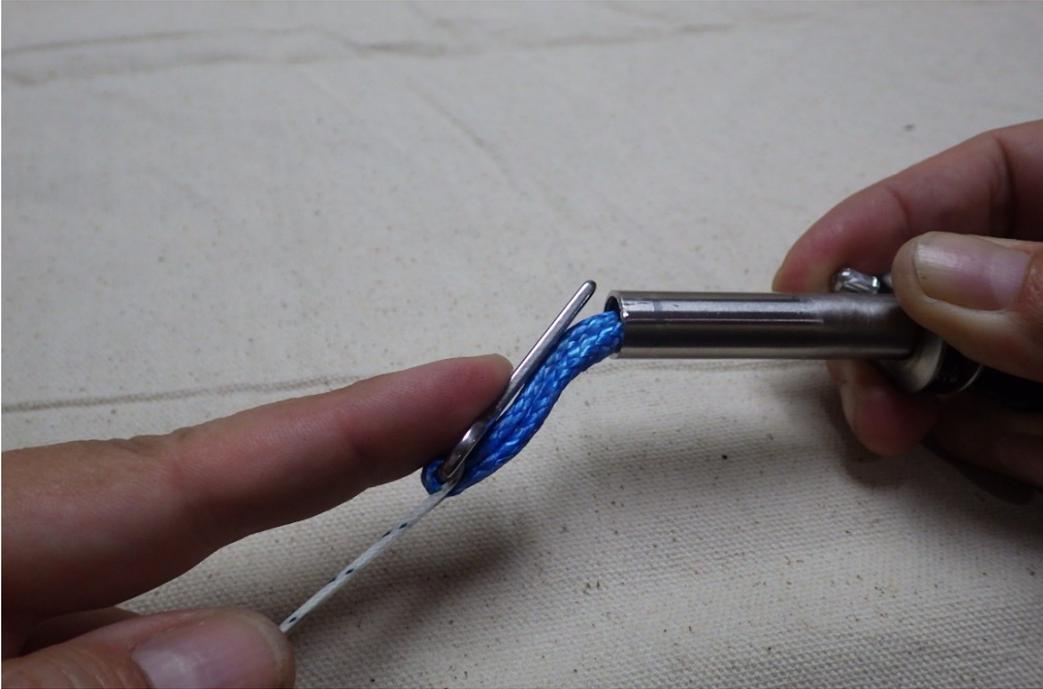
**Figure 4(c). Improper rigging of the release pin top view.**

Weak link does not straddle loop in release pin. **This is wrong.**



**Figure 4(d). Improper rigging of the release pin side view.**

Weak link does not contact base of release pin. **This is wrong.**



**Figure 4(e) Improper rigging; forcing the pin sideways into the barrel.**

Although the mechanical design of the release is chosen to make it extremely difficult to rig the release pin improperly, it may be possible to force the release to close in some circumstances as shown in Fig. 4(e). **This is wrong.**

#### **10. Notice:**

**This hang gliding release is sold without any warranty or liability expressed or implied on the part of the seller. Hang gliding is a dangerous activity and the user assumes all risk for his/her activity and is responsible for verifying the safety of all equipment before every use.**

**The user covenants and agrees to save the seller harmless from all liability and damage claims how so ever arising. Use of the release constitutes acceptance of these terms.**