

TYING DOWN GLIDERS

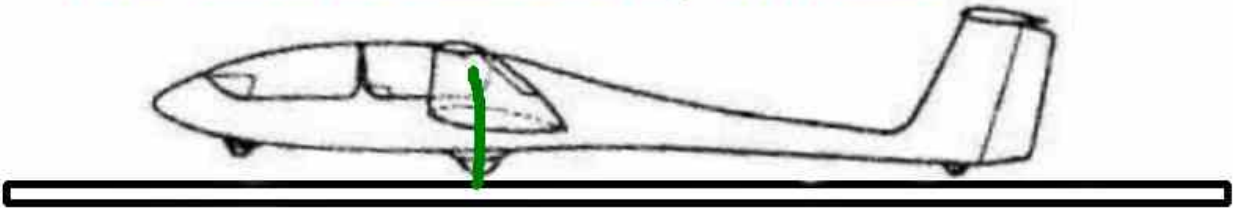
Many glider wrecks have nothing to do with flight: they happen because the glider is not tied down correctly. Please follow these instructions so you don't end up being "that guy".

If you feel an uncontrollable need to use other knots, take the time to return to the airport during the week to check the security of your knots. Repeat this for a few weeks in different weather and wind conditions. You will probably be surprised at what came undone.

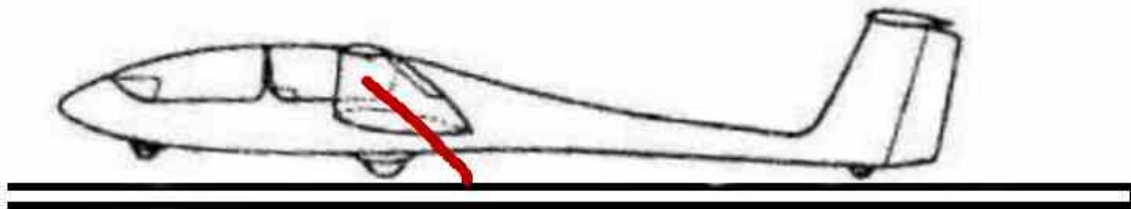
1 General rules:

- All gliders require two separate ropes on each wing or a rope and chain at wing tips. Mid span tie down and tail tie down require a single rope. Never use a chain on the tail. In addition the main landing wheel must be chocked.
- Position the glider so that the wing and tie down attachments are located over the tie down cable. Depending on the glider, the main wheel might be in front of the cable or behind the cable.

Yes! Glider tie downs directly over cable



No! Glider tie downs not over cable. No!



No! Glider tie downs not over cable. No!



2: Attach additional tie down ropes if necessary. The absence of a rope at a parking spot is never an excuse for using less than the required number of tie downs.

A, To make a tie down rope from old tow rope, cut a length of rope about four times the distance from the wing tip to the cable when the glider is secured.

B. A tie down rope is attached to the airport supplied cable by tying a bowline in the rope with a loop 8" – 10" long away from the cable.





Slip about half the loop under the cable and pass the knot itself along with the rest of the rope through the portion of loop protruding past the cable. Pull it tight to remove slack.





3. Run the free end of the rope through the wing tip or mid-span attachment points or around the fuselage tail and back to the cable (or opposite side of the vertical stabilizer).

4. Tie the free end of the rope to the cable using the knot describes as a “taught line hitch.”

A. DO NOT USE THE KNOT AS DESCRIBED IN BOOKS AND VIDEOS TO CREATE AN ADJUSTIBLE LOOP TO SECURE A TENT.

B. Instead tie it onto the cable using the knot shown to tie the rope onto itself. Pass the rope under the cable. Pass it under the cable a second time but leave a 3" to 4" inch loop above the cable. Pass the rope behind the rope leading to the glider attachment point, then under the cable, and then through the loop you've made, and pull tight.

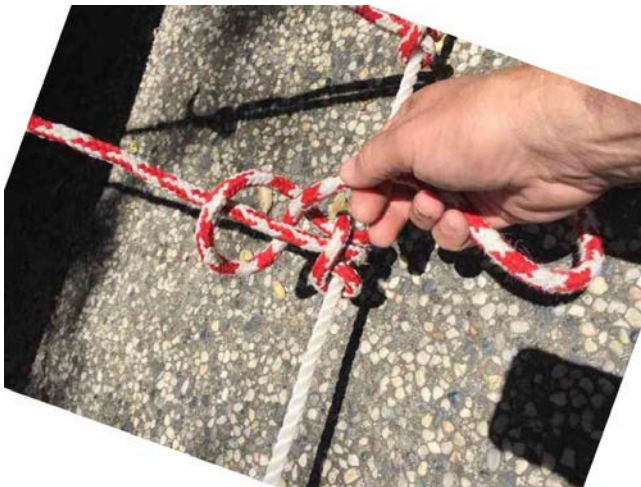






Then tie (two) half-hitch “keeper” knots against the existing knot. If you don’t do this, the knot will come untied.

The first half hitch:



The second half-hitch:



The completed knot:

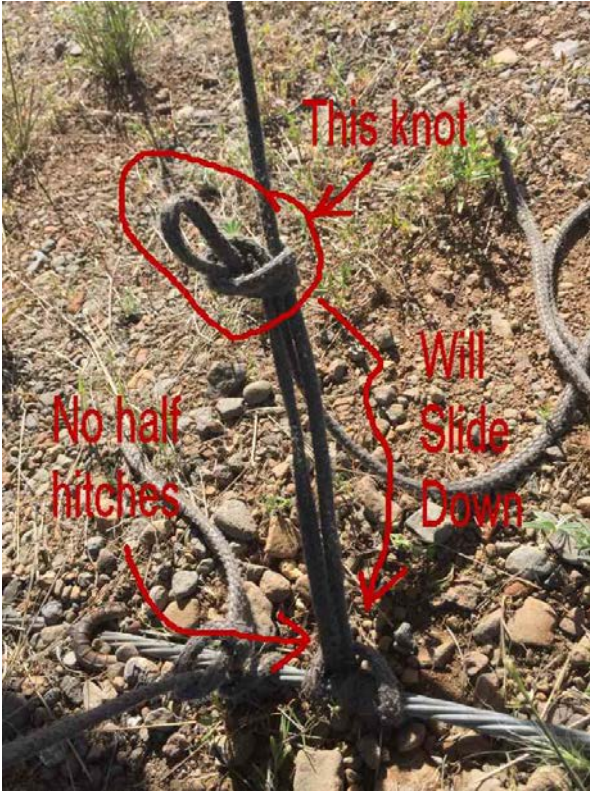


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