

Midland Gliding club – Strops and traces

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This is guidance for preparing strops and traces.

It is based on the guidance published by Skylaunch, but that is for systems without a retrieve winch. It has been adapted for use at Long Mynd and reviewed by the BGA winching adviser, Andy Holmes.

The principal differences are:

1. The use of a longer trace, to keep the retrieve cable away from the glider during the ground run
2. The use of a smaller parachute to survive high-speed dragging through heather and to get the parachute clear of the glider quickly when launching directly on to the ridge at low level in strong winds.

A copy of pages 2 and 3 is to be displayed in the ropework preparation area.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Geoff

Strop and trace repair/construction is only to be undertaken after training.



We use the SkyLaunch layout but the lengths we use are not standard because of the retrieve winch. Strops are 3m +/- 0.5m as standard, but traces are much longer at 27m and we use a smaller parachute.

Trace:

This has a plain loop at one end and a hook with a captive ring at the other. No colour coding so no need for heat shrink, but ends of splice need to be well spread with a hot knife to prevent them coming undone.

We have a few hooks with captive rings in stock, but they should not get lost so it should be possible to re-use the old one.

The splice length in our 16mm synthetic rope should be 5 tucks. If you unlay 1 large fid length of the bitter end, that should be right. Hot knife and/or tape the strands.

Size of the loop is not critical, but overall length is important. 27m is from the bench to the main doors AND BACK.

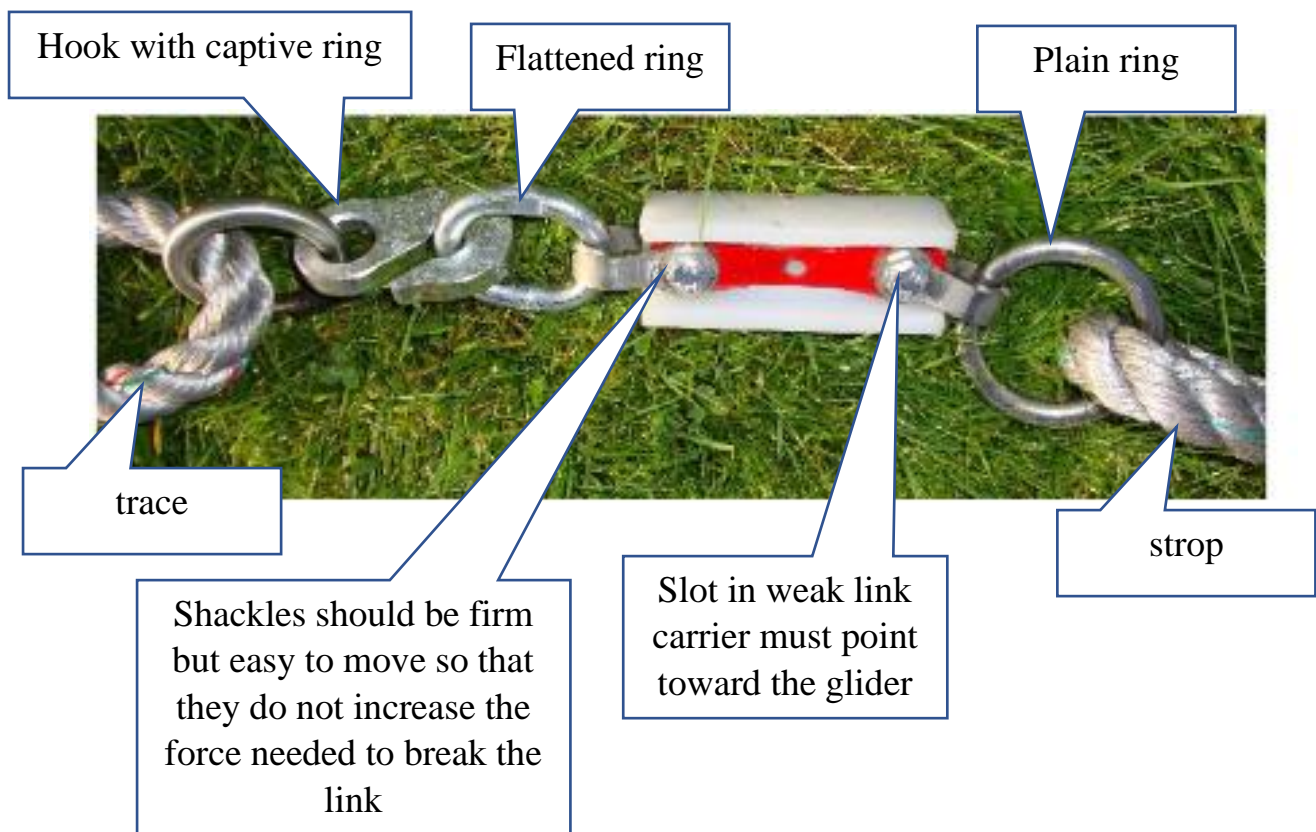
Strop:

This has a Tost double ring at the glider end, with colour-coded heat shrink at that end.

The other end should have a **plain** ring in the splice, to which we shackle the weak link. It may also have colour-coded heat-shrink (optional).

It should also have an orange flag captive in the splice to help us find it in the heather. **IMPORTANT this must be at the weak link end, not at the glider end in case it gets trapped.**

Please do not use the rings with a flattened section in the splice, as has been done in the past, as this allows a strop to be hooked to the trace without a weak link, as happened recently. Our old strops were made this way, so we should get lots of flattened rings as we replace them.



Markings on the front face of the bench show the length at which to cut to achieve a finished length of 3m, and also a check for 3m +/- 0.5m. Measurements are from the wall.

Strops should be kept reasonably short. 3m gives enough margin for one repair, so aim for 3m. The 3.5m upper limit should just be used to allow for errors.