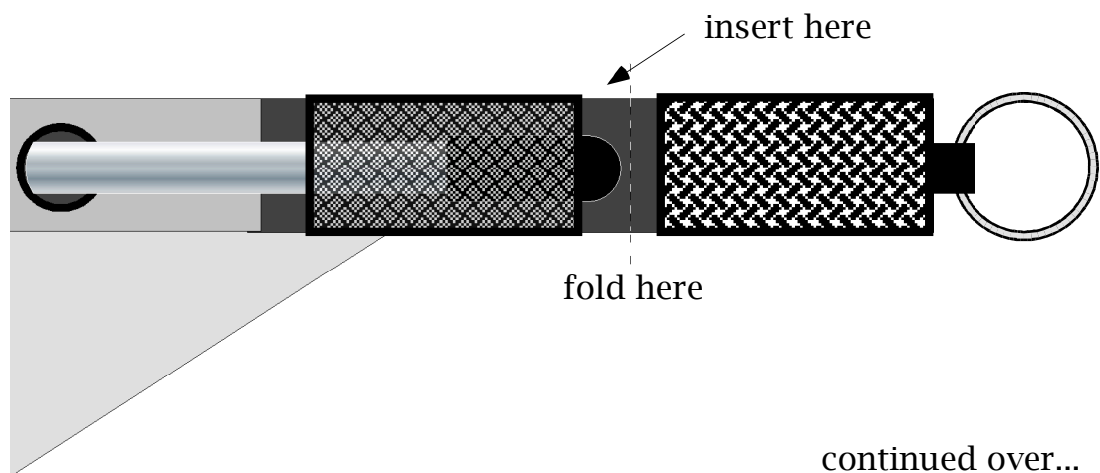


Assembling and Flying the G-Kites Dopero

a low-wind lifter based on a design by Ralf Beutnagel

The first time you set up the Dopero, do it out of the wind. Unroll the kite and check the bundled sets of carbon spars. The thickest one is the upper spreader, in three sections with large aluminum connectors. The two vertical spines are in two sections each, one section about twice as long as the other. The lower spreader is the same thickness as the vertical spines, but in three sections, two of which have connectors on one end.

1. Open up the sail and lay it out flat on the ground. Insert the connector end of the longer section of each spine from the top of the sleeve until you can fit the vinyl end cap into the spar pocket on top of the sail. Then insert the short section of each spine from the bottom of the sleeve and connect the two ends. Stretch the sail enough to slide the bottom end of each spine into the lower stick pockets.
2. Connect all three sections of the upper spreader and insert the ends into the stick pockets in the wings. It will be necessary to bow the spreader a bit to get it in. If it bows more than 4 - 6 inches, shorten both ends of the spar not more than 1/2" at each end using a fine-tooth hacksaw blade, scoring it all the way around before cutting through. Tie the spreader snugly to the sail and two spines with the ties provided. A bow knot will work fine.
3. Connect two of the three sections of the lower spreader and insert the connector end through the velcro sleeve at one end of the lower sail, then into the hole in the sail and through the sleeve until the end cap is in the position shown in the diagram. Fold over the velcro tab to form a pocket and press together securely.



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Insert the remaining section, connector first, from the opposite end of the wing in the same manner, being sure to start through the velcro sleeve. Slide the spar into the sleeve until you can connect it with the rest of the spar inside the sleeve, and fold over the velcro tab to secure the spar. It will be a snug fit, and you will need to bow the spar a bit to close the velcro tab. If it is too long to fit securely, shorten both ends slightly as described in (1) above, using a fine-tooth hacksaw blade.

4. LAUNCH. This kite will fly best in light to moderate breezes of 5 to 12 mph. The spars are too flexible for higher winds than that, and breakage could result.

On the flying field, set up the kite close to the ground and in a sheltered spot if possible, and turn it while you are working on it so the main body of it is downwind of your handhold. When it is assembled, bow each of the spreaders about ten inches by sliding the adjuster on the bow lines, then slipping the line into the center slot of the adjuster.

Untie the bridles and be sure everything is untangled, straight and true. The tow ring is placed at the factory at an estimated starting point, but it's best to hold the bridle near the tow point and swing the kite up into the breeze and test several points higher and lower than the ring. All four bridles should be pulling, but the kite should rise. If it doesn't rise, set the tow point higher, but not so high that the kite wants to weave side to side. Optimum point is just above where the kite wants to lift.

The Dopero launches easily out of the hand, but in really light air, it may be desirable to have a helper walk it out 50 - 100 feet so you can pull it up into clean air quickly.

If the kite flies to one side or the other, or tilts, make corrections by shortening or lengthening the lower bridle legs a small amount.

5. LANDING. Grasp the tow point and then with the other hand pull gently on the lower bridles, which will land the kite right on target. If you are not taking it apart right away, loosen the bow lines and place something on the sail to keep it flat on the ground.