



RIGGING ADVISORY CIRCULAR

Issue Date: 01 December 1989

RAC No. 213 Rev. A

SUBJECT: PARACHUTE CANOPY FABRIC TENSILE STRENGTH, NON-DESTRUCTIVE TEST METHOD

STATUS: ADVISORY

BACKGROUND: This test method provides a simple standardised non-destructive method of verifying the tensile strength of parachute fabric. This method is readily useable in the field and is designed to replace the old "Riggers Thumb Test".

TOOL REQUIRED: Locking fabric clamps (2), (Aerostar P/N 51406M or equivalent, described on page 3 of this RAC).
Spring scale (1), minimum capacity 22kg (50lb).

TEST PROCEDURE:

1. Each piece of fabric to be tested is to be strength tested four times; twice on the warp and twice on the fill.
2. Attach the locking fabric clamps to the fabric as shown in figure 1. The distance between the clamps should be 3 inches (7.5cm) and the clamps should be aligned so that the weave pattern is parallel to the edge of the jaw. Lock the clamps securely so as to avoid slippage.
3. Pass a short length of suspension line through the eye of one clamp and secure it to the packing table or some other object that will allow a 40lb (18kg) load for 3 seconds.
4. Record the results, including the date, canopy type and manufacturer, serial number, date of manufacture, owner's name and address, panel numbers, direction of test, and pass or fail. Any damage to the fabric constitutes a fail.



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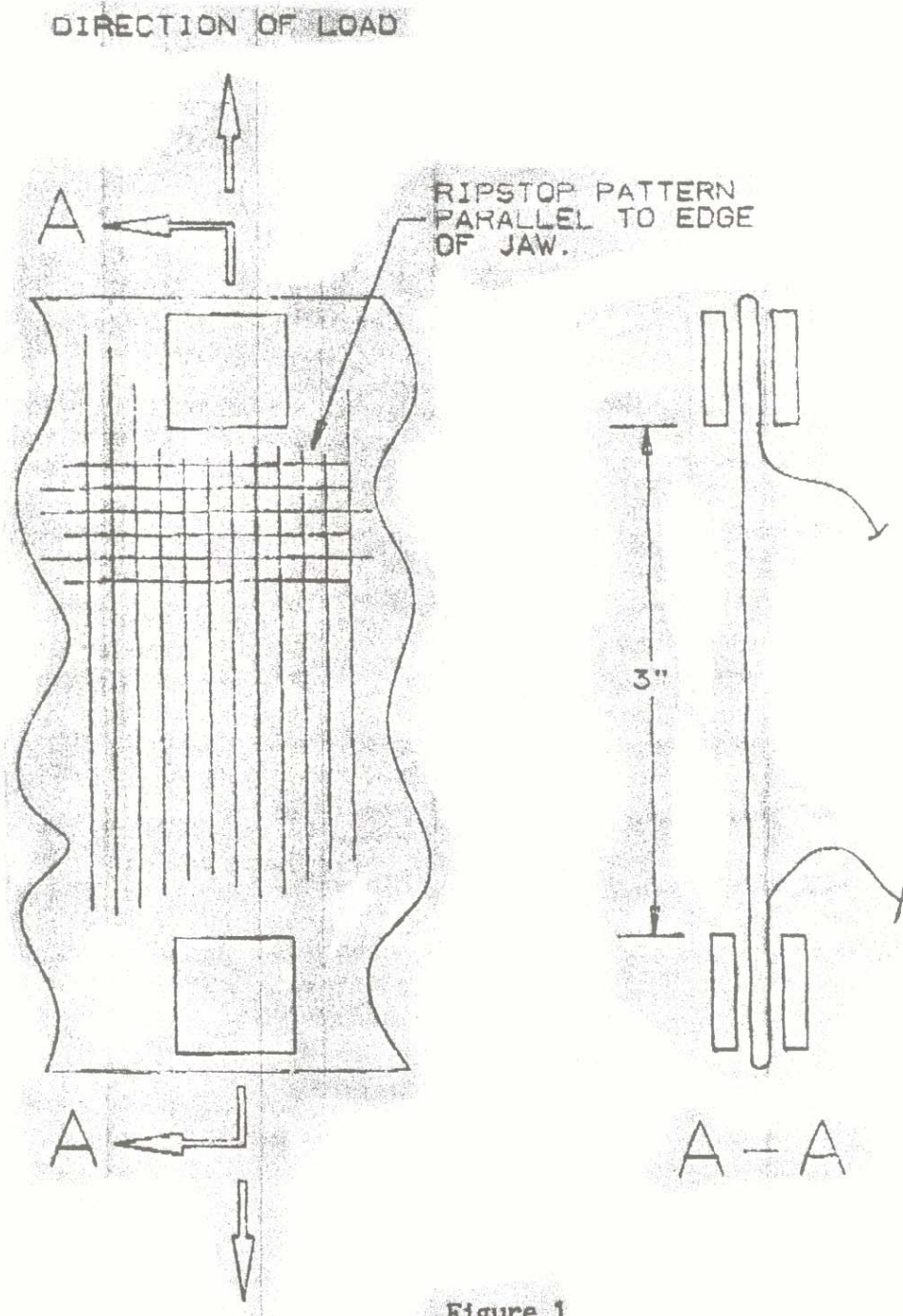


Figure 1



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CONSTRUCTION OF LOCKING FABRIC CLAMPS:

Each clamp consists of a modified pair of Vice-Grip pliers. In place of the original jaws of the Vice-Grips is welded a flat steel plate which is padded with rubber. The area of the grip imposed on the fabric is 1 inch square. To the other end of the main handle is welded a steel ring. See figure 2.

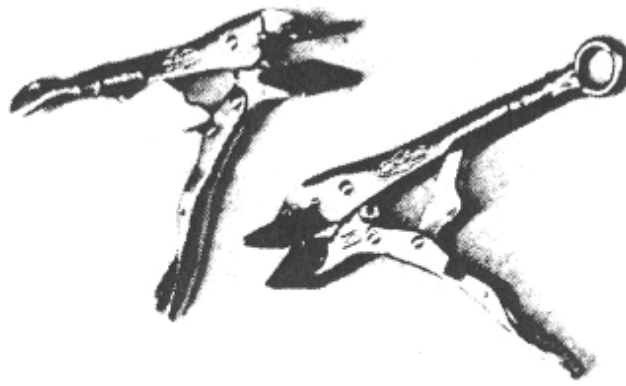


Figure 2

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

AUTHORITY: APF Director Rigging. This circular is based on Parachute Industry Association Technical Standard 108.

DISTRIBUTION: RAC Holders