



# RIGGING ADVISORY CIRCULAR

Issue Date: 01 May 1998

RAC No. 608 Rev. A

SUBJECT: VECTOR TANDEM DOUBLE-ENDED DROGUE RELEASE RISER CLOSING LOOP

STATUS: Original double-ended drogue release closing loop (TVDRDL) is being replaced by a new version, Part #TVDRDL-R1. Use of the "New Loop" is MANDATORY

IDENTIFICATION: All Relative Workshop Vector Tandem Systems - Worldwide - which utilises a double drogue release riser.

BACKGROUND: Recent reports concerning drogue release hesitations have prompted Relative Workshop to investigate these extremely rare occurrences. This is what was discovered:

- 1) There are several versions of the double drogue release riser in existence. The first version featured "O" Stainless Steel grommets which are set in-line. A second version was designed with the grommets staggered to help prevent cable-crossing malfunctions. A third model is now available which features staggered grommets and separate cable channels. All versions of our drogue riser work well with the new loop and remain approved for future use.
- 2) Crossing the yellow cables can cause hang-ups on both the first and second versions of our drogue release risers. NEVER cross the cables (either inside or outside the webbing channel) as this can cause the twisted cable to trap the end of the loop, thus preventing a clean release.
- 3) The primary cause of a drogue release hesitation (when correctly assembled) is the bartack on the original loop (#TVDRDL). By its very nature, a bartack will make the centre section of the loop extra stiff, which can cause a hang-up by leveraging the loop between the small ring and the riser grommet.
- 4) During our testing, we discovered the best solution was to create a loop that remained flexible over its entire length. This was accomplished by using 3 passes of single needle straight stitching rather than a bartack. Most old loops were bartacked in white E-thread, while the new loops are sewn in black E-thread. The new loop worked well with all existing drogue risers and our test evaluations indicated 100% successful releases.

Reminder: The standard emergency procedure when a tandem instructor experiences a hesitation of the drogue release is to immediately pull the other drogue release handle.



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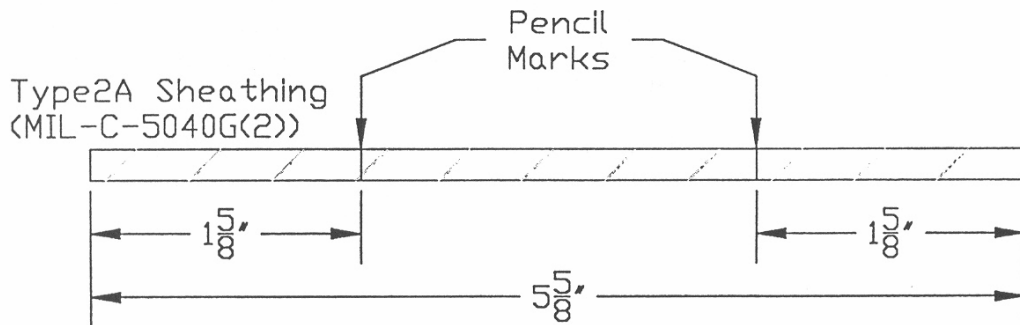
MANUFACTURER  
ADVISORY:

*Service Bulletin:* Construction procedures are outlined here, and supersede the original construction procedures shown on Page 19 of the Tandem Vector Owner's Manual, March 1993 edition.

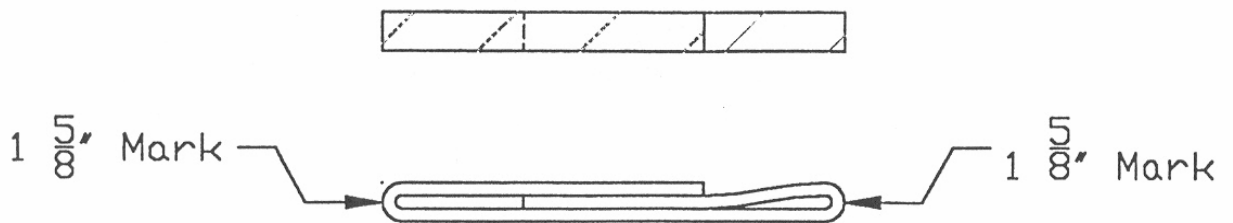
*Installation Procedure:* Installation and use of the new loop remains the same. Refer to page 38 of the Tandem Vector Owner's Manual.

*Qualified Personnel:* A certificated rigger may manufacture the new loops. Installation may be done by the tandem instructor or rigger (APF Packer B) packing the system.

Step 1: Cut a piece of non-surface treated, Type2A Sheathing [MIL-C-5040G(2)] at a length of 5-5/8" (141mm) using either a hot knife or scissors. If scissors are used, be sure to lightly heat sear the ends to keep them from fraying. Mark the Type2A Sheathing at 1-5/8" (39mm) from each end using a pencil.



Step 2: Fold the Type2A Sheathing at both 1-5/8" (39mm) marks with the marks to the outside of the fold; creating a 3-layer section of Type2A Sheathing as shown in the figure. It is critical to the finished length of the closing loop that the marks be located at the exact centre of the fold.



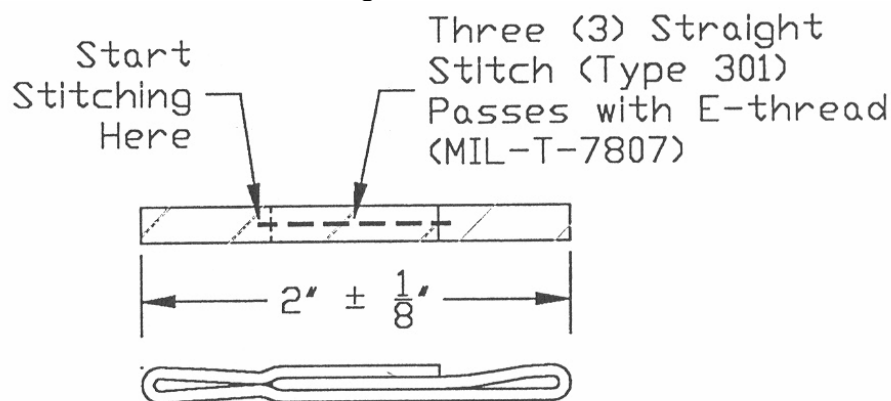


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Step 3: Using E-thread (MIL-T-7807) and a straight stitch (Type 301) sewing machine set at 7-11 stitches per inch (25mm) place three (3) stitch passes over the 3-layer section of the Type2A Sheathing to secure the folds made during Step 2. The beginning and ends of the stitch passes should step over both sear cut edges of the Type2A Sheathing.



*Trade-In Policy:* Relative Workshop will accept for trade-in, original (Part #TVDRL-factory made) RWS drogue release loops and will exchange them for the new version (Part #TVDRL-R1). The retail cost of these loops remain at US \$1.00 per loop.

APF POLICY: As Manufacturer's Advisory

COMPLIANCE DATE: Immediately

AUTHORITY: Relative Workshop, Deland, Florida, USA PSB#031798  
APF Director Rigging

DISTRUBUTION: All APF Packers and Riggers