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**Parachute Industries  
of Southern Africa**

## PACKING INSTRUCTIONS

370 AND 420 RESERVE PARACHUTES

## P A C K I N G

### 1. PREPARATION

- 1.1 Stretch the parachute out on the packing table so that the steering modifications are facing upwards.
- 1.2 Attach the apex of the canopy to a point at the end of the table and apply light tension.
- 1.3 Hand tack the steering toggles to the rear risers using one turn of red seal thread.
- 1.4 Inspect the canopy gore by gore, panel by panel, for any damage, inversions, twists and tangles.
- 1.5 Check connector link screws for tightness.

### 2. FOLDING THE CANOPY

- 2.1 With the parachute on the packing table in the proper configuration, straighten the apex and firmly apply tension to the assembly.
- 2.2 Flake the canopy gore by gore ensuring that there is no canopy fabric between the individual vertical main seams.
- 2.3 Dress each gore, separating the canopy with an equal number of gores on each side.
- 2.4 Once dressed, all gores should be parallel and a clear wind channel between the left and right groups of gores should be visible from the skirt to the apex of the canopy.
- 2.5 The full diaper should be against the packing table centered between the left and right gores.
- 2.6 Fold the skirt of the canopy through 90° so that the skirt is parallel with the vertical main seams.
- 2.7 Long fold the left side of the canopy so that the gore edges are parallel to the main seams. Long fold the right side.

- 2.8 Repeat again the long folding, placing packing weights along the length of the canopy to keep all folds in place.

### 3. LINE STOWAGE

- 3.1 Release tension on the entire assembly.
- 3.2 Grasp the complete set of lines and fold the skirt of the canopy to the top of the deployment diaper.
- 3.3 Secure the deployment diaper with left and right stows of suspension lines into elastic bands through the grommets on the diaper.
- 3.4 Ensure that the line stows extend through the elastic bands approximately 2.5cms.
- 3.5 Complete stowing the suspension lines into the elastics by alternating to the left and right, inserting into the elastic bands to within approximately 10 cms of lines remaining to the connector links.

### 4. CLOSING THE CONTAINER

- 4.1 Follow the procedures set forth by the manufacturer of the harness and container system. For the INVADER harness container system, this procedure is to be followed:-
- 4.2 Place the canopy skirt at the bottom (left or right) of the container into the corner, with the full diaper being laid flat, ie. lines up.
- 4.3 A short fold or two must now be made in the opposite corner from the skirt to even out the bulk. The next fold can be spread out on top of the diaper to give the container its proper thickness. From there, the rest of the canopy is "S" folded side by side to the top of the container.
- 4.4 Next the closing loop (with a pull-up cord) must be routed up through the folds in the canopy. For the best appearance, it is best not to have more than two folds above the loop.



- 4.5 The closing loop length should be approximately 4.5 cms but may require length adjustment.
- 4.6 Close flap No. 1 first and lock with a temporary pin. Make sure the canopy folds above the loop are 2.5cms wider than the container. This is to make sure that the side flaps are not loose when packed.
- 4.7 Next route the reserve bridle towards the bottom of the container and close flap No. 2, locking it with a temporary pin.
- 4.8 Route the pull-up cord through the bottom of the pilot chute and out the top. "S" fold the bridle side-to-side on top of the No. 2 flap just below the loop so that it will be under the base of the pilot chute but will not interfere with the loop.
- 4.9 Make sure the base of the pilot chute is centered over the loop and then compress the pilot chute and lock it with your temporary pin.
- 4.10 Pull all of the canopy fabric out from between the spring. At this time fully compress the spring to see how much excess loop you can pull through the top of the pilot chute. If you can pull more than 12mm - 18mm through, your loop is already too long. With the fabric pulled clear, you can see clearly inside the pilot chute to see if
  - the base is still centered.
- 4.11 Next, lay the fabric flat all around the pilot chute and fold the side under in wide folds to the centre.
- 4.12 Fold the top and bottom under to the centre the same as the sides.
- 4.13 Thread the pull-up cord through the flaps No. 3 and No. 4 and close and lock.
- 4.14 Thread the pull-up cord through flap No. 5 and close and lock.
- 4.15 Thread the pull-up cord through flap No. 6 and close and lock. If the force necessary to close the last flap seems excessive, your loop may be too short. Check the pull with a Fish scale. With a proper canopy, pack job and loop length, we obtained a consistent 3.5kg - 5.5kg pull force.

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- 4.16 Thread the ripcord through the housing and replace the temporary pin with the ripcord pin.
- 4.17 Dress the container and seal and log the reserve. Count your tools.

NOTE

At this point, we placed the Invader reserve on the floor on it's back with the backpad facing up and walked on it with our bare feet, "knocading" the reserve, so to speak. This will work any excess air out of the container and it is easy to "feel" the distribution of canopy within the container and determine if it is a "good" pack job.