



So you want your reserve to really rescue you...

Many pilots don't take the time to really get to know their reserve release system. They prefer to assume that a perfect throwing is guaranteed every time. It's not necessarily so...

Every reserve/harness combination has its own peculiarities. It is essential that pilot and parachute packer take the time to become thoroughly familiar with the system and its workings - especially with new combinations (new reserves in existing harness or conversely).

Comparatively bulky old-style reserves are basically more difficult to release from compact, modern harnesses, especially under high G loading. In addition it should be noted that the volume calculation (weight of the reserve x 2.7 = volume in litres) used by the test centres, and quoted by ourselves, is simply a broad-brush rule-of-thumb. Depending on reserve packing technique and style it can be that a reserve/harness combination, which conforms to the permissible maximum volume given by this formula, may still not release perfectly.

In any case a successful compatibility check (test release) will decide whether a particular reserve/ harness combination works properly. We recommend that every pilot carries out such a test release himself in his suspended harness, in the presence of the reserve packer.

What can make a reserve difficult to throw?

The following factors can hinder or actually prevent a reserve from working, especially if they are combined:

- Reserve is too big, i.e. is too bulky for the reserve compartment and/or the inner container
- Reserve has not been packed to the shape of the inner container and/or the reserve compartment
- Reserve is not thrown using the correct technique
- Release attempted under high G-loading (>3G, e.g. in a spiral)

Other essentials points:

- According to the latest certification standards the reserve inner container forms an integral part of the harness, so the reserve must unquestionably be packed in the original inner container of the harness.
- The larger the harness (of the same model) the larger the reserve compartment.

Fundamentally, we strongly recommend that a reserve should only be packed and installed by a trained and qualified person.