

Changing lines on paraglider wings

A recent incident report highlighted a mistake that can be made when replacing a worn or broken paraglider line. Using the correct line attachment method is important on all paraglider line sets (often referred to as 'galleries'), but especially important with unsheathed small diameter 'micro' lines fitted in the upper galleries of many paragliders, where they join the canopy.

When using a 'lark's foot' loop to the line attachment tab on the canopy, the line must pass through the loop created in the line attachment tab webbing material. The line's lark's foot must be arranged so that it is looped around the line attachment tab material (Fig. 1). After passing through the small webbing tab, it must not be arranged so that the line material bears on itself. Fig. 2 shows a lark's foot wrongly positioned on the attachment tab loop. Although the line passes through the tab loop correctly, the position of the lark's foot creates a potential wear point because it is wrapped around itself.

Constant loading and unloading in normal flight, or the shock loading of a rapid canopy reopening, may exert significant stress on the line at this wear point. In an Ozone report into a US fatality in November 2020, lines fitted incorrectly to the tabs were identified as one of three significant factors in the incident.

Replacing a worn or broken top gallery line will inevitably involve disconnecting and re-connecting lower gallery lines at several junctions and to the riser. This must be done with care and attention, ideally somewhere where the wing can be fully laid out. If in any doubt, consult the wing manufacturer, your dealer or a service centre.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2