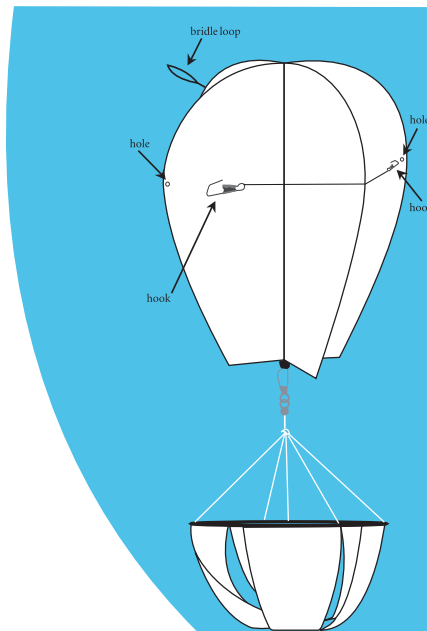


The Hot Air Balloon

Hot Air Balloons are regulated under the Federal Aviation Administration.

Balloons are aerostats, meaning static within the air. Once a balloon is afloat, it moves with the air mass in which it floats; same speed, same direction. When using an altitudinal, the pilot can steer the balloons coarse by finding an air mass going in a slightly different direction. A hot air balloon has an envelope, basket, and sometimes a burner and fuel system. The envelope is a fabric bag that holds the lifting gas. The basket, which is usually made of wicker, is the passenger compartment. Hot air balloons use natural air as the lifting gas. By heating the air inside the balloon, the pilot makes that air lighter than the outside air, and the balloon rises.

The first manned balloon flight was made in North America in 1793. Several decades later, on July 1, 1859, the first balloon airmail flight was made from St. Louis to New York. Soon after, during the Civil War, both the Confederate and Union armies made use of balloons as observation posts. In August 1960, a world record was made, and is still upheld, by a parachute jump at the highest altitude from an aircraft. More recently, on March 30, 1999, the Breitling Orbiter 3 became the first hot air balloon to circumnavigate the world.



Directions

Feed the hook through the small hole near the edge of the panels of the balloon part of the kite. Repeat this action again for the second hook. Attach your flying line to the bridle loop.

Tips & Tricks!

Standing with your back to the wind, hold your kite up high pointing the nose skyward. When you feel the pressure of the wind against the kite, let go. As the kite rises, slowly release more line. When possible, have a friend help launch the kite. Tell your friend to stand downwind as you let out 25 feet of line. As the kite is released into the wind, tug on the line. The kite will begin to rise. Slowly release more line as the kite climbs higher into the sky.

If the kite starts to fall, take several quick steps back. This will create lift and the kite will rise again. If the kite goes into a nose dive, it is probably getting too much wind. Let out additional line or step towards the kite to release the pressure. Have fun!

