



THE GLIDING FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

CANCELLED 29 SEP 2022

BUILDING 130, WIRRAWAY ROAD, ESSENDON AIRPORT, VICTORIA 3041.
PHONE +61 (0) 3 9379 7411, FAX +61 (0) 3 9379 5519.

Refer GFA AN 158 ISSUE 4

AIRWORTHINESS ALERT A2007-2


TOW RELEASE CABLE FAILURE:- DUO DISCUS / JANUS.

07 August 2007.

An Australian Duo Discus operator has found a near total failure of the Tow release cable at its exit point from the "Tee" shaped release handle in the front cockpit. The failure was not easy to detect as the broken wires were effectively shielded from easy view by the protruding steel swage at the base of the release handle (see photos on reverse). There was no cable damage at the rear cockpit release handle. The damage appears to have been initiated by a sharp edge on the inside of the steel swage.

The design of the release cable & pulley system is such that operation of the release from the rear cockpit would not have been possible had the front cable failed completely.

BEFORE FURTHER FLIGHT:- Carefully examine the cable for broken strands at the exit of the release handles in both cockpits. If damaged strands are found repairs must be carried out before returning the aircraft to service. Note: locally available 1/8" cable may be safely used in place of the 3.2 mm cable now being used by Schempp-Hirth. Please detail your findings on the tear off strip below & return to the GFA secretariat by 28 August if possible.

John G Viney 

John G Viney,
Senior Technical Officer, Airworthiness.

email: stoa@sec.gfa.org.au

DISTRIBUTION: REGISTERED OPERATORS, CTC, CTOA, RTO, A'S, GFA WEB PAGE.

Aircraft type:.....Serial No... .. VH-... .. C of A No G-... ..

Condition of cable at FRONT release handle: SERVICEABLE / DAMAGED (cross out as required)

Condition of cable at REAR release handle: SERVICEABLE / DAMAGED (cross out as required)

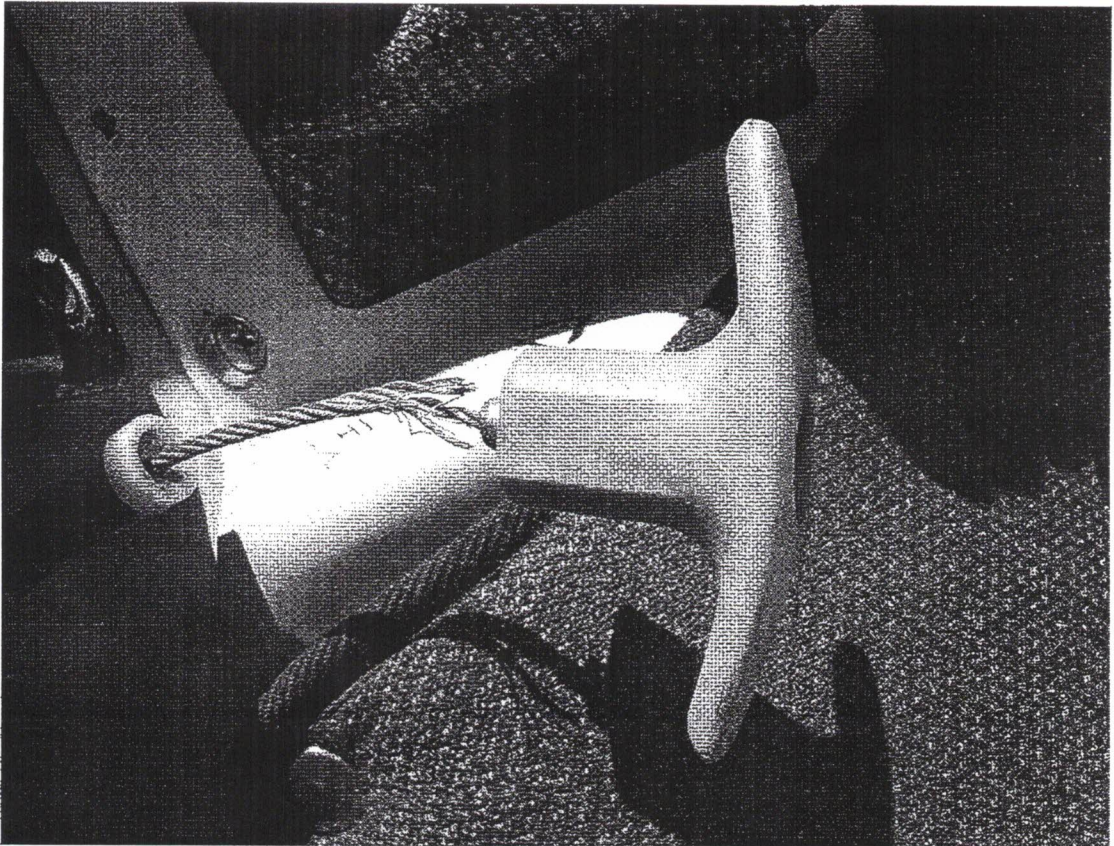
If damage was found please add your name & a contact number where I can reach you during business hours, or call me on the number below.

NAME.....CONTACT.....

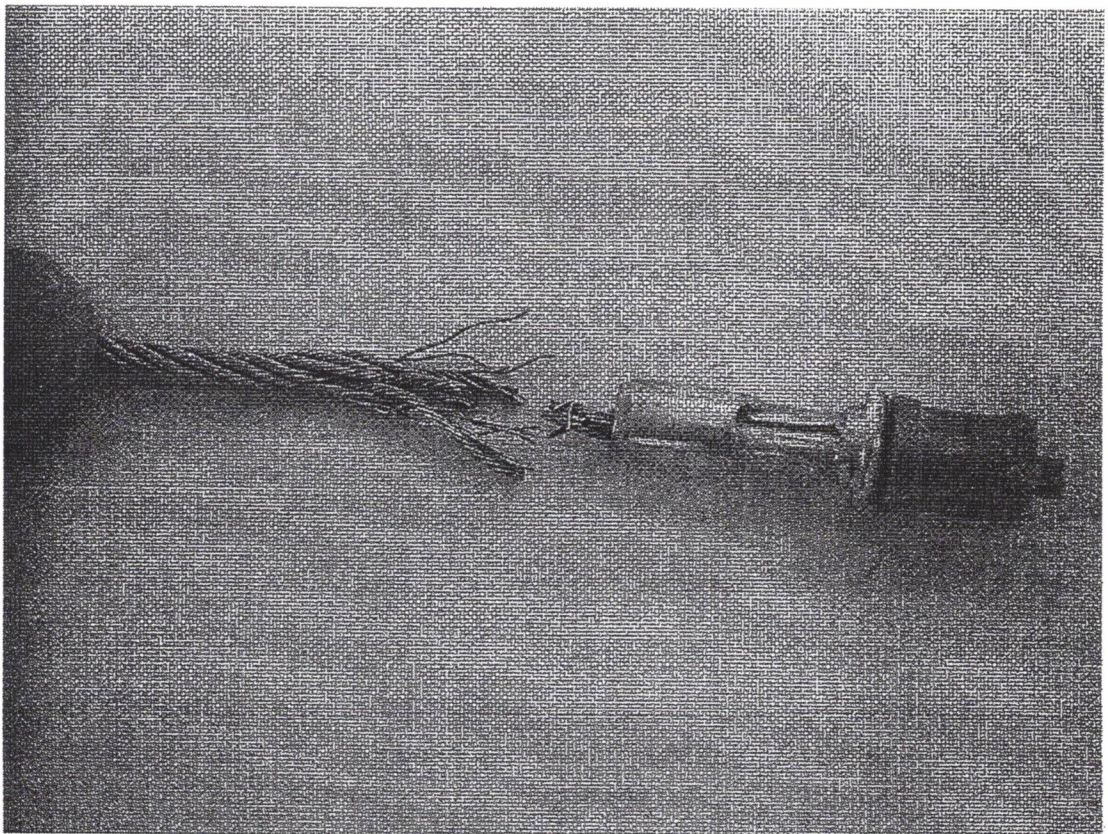
Thank you.

John G Viney,
Senior Technical Officer, Airworthiness. (03 9379-7411)

email: stoa@sec.gfa.org.au



Cable damage at exit of Tee handle (Front Cockpit)



Three remaining strands of the cable protruding from the swage were cut to remove the tee handle.
Note: all fatigued strands are broken exactly at the opening to the steel ferrule/swage.