



# SERVICE BULLETIN SPSB007

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DATE: September 27, 2012    SERVICE BULLETIN# SPSB007    # OF PAGES: 4

SUBJECT: PART NUMBER SPJ-001-1 SOFT RIPCORDER PAD/HANDLE

STATUS: **MANDATORY INSPECTION**

## **IDENTIFICATION:**

SUN PATH PRODUCTS, INC PART NUMBER SPJ-001-1 DELIVERED WITH SYSTEMS WITH DATE OF MANUFACTURE OR MADE PRIOR TO JANUARY 01, 2006 MADE WITH PLASTIC STIFFENER, FLAT TYPE, WITH STEEL OVAL METAL INSERT.

## **BACKGROUND:**

We have been made aware of some incidents of premature reserve activation with the use of the older style flat soft pad handles with plastic inserts. If the plastic has permanently shifted during service life or the foam degrades, it can allow for the ball/shank to become lodged/caught which can contribute towards extraction of the reserve pin prematurely if the rig is incorrectly fitted (person too large for the H/C), the incorrect reserve ripcorder yoke size is installed in the H/C (Example: B yoke ripcorder assembly installed in a C or D yoke H/C), or inadvertently while crouched tightly in an aircraft.

## **SERVICE BULLETIN:**

MANDATORY INSPECTION:

**Who can inspect:** ANY FAA CERTIFICATED SENIOR OR MASTER PARACHUTE RIGGER OR FOREIGN EQUIVALENT.

**What to inspect:** Inspect all SPJ-001-1 soft pad reserve ripcorder handles.

## **PROCEDURE (See Figure 1)**

1. Remove the soft pad handle from the pocket and allow it to bottom out so the ball/shank is in contact with the top of metal oval insert.
2. Locate the top edge of the plastic insert on opposite side of Velcro, follow top edge of plastic to center of handle with your thumb and forefinger and squeeze the center of the handle together with slight pressure.
3. While holding pressure on the top edge of the plastic insert in the center of the handle, push the ripcorder cable back down inside the handle.

## **Inspection Results:**

If the ball/shank and cable comes in contact with HARD PLASTIC it will prevent the cable from freely traveling towards the bottom of the inside of the handle during the test. You will feel the distinct feeling of metal against hard plastic and possibly hear a clicking noise as the metal makes contact. These types of handles where metal contacts hard plastic will require replacement with a new or modified ripcorder soft pad handle

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If the ball/shank and cable slides somewhat smoothly past the point where pressure is applied and if you feel the ball/shank and cable ONLY CONTACTING SOFT FOAM and sliding somewhat freely inside the foam layering, this handle is acceptable and should not have this issue.

This is the indication that your handle is serviceable in its current condition and does not require replacement with reference to this service bulletin. (Sun Path Products, Inc. recommends inspection of the complete system, to include the primary actuation device/reserve ripcord assembly, at each repack by a certificated parachute rigger or foreign equivalent.)

**Resolution:** If the handle fails the inspection above: please go to

[http://sunpath.com/old/web\\_en/support/spsb007replacement.htm](http://sunpath.com/old/web_en/support/spsb007replacement.htm) and complete/submit the web form provided. A choice of replacement handle will be offered and built to our current handle specifications. Owners may choose at no charge to have the same type of handle returned (SPJ-001-1) current Phat Daddy tube insert style handle (PN JP061-4) or D Style metal handle all built to current specifications.

A method of paid return shipping and invoice (2 copies) will be sent out with the replacement handle. The original handle must be returned to Sun Path Products, Inc. with one copy of the invoice within 30 days of receiving the new replacement handle. If the original handle is not returned after 90 days, full retail cost of the replacement handle will be applied to the owners account.

If the handle passes inspection above: The inspecting rigger shall write clearly on the label "SPSB007 XXX" and their rigger seal symbol or foreign equivalent. **(See Figure 2)** Then, please go to [http://sunpath.com/old/web\\_en/support/spsb007returntoservice.htm](http://sunpath.com/old/web_en/support/spsb007returntoservice.htm) and complete/submit the web form provided.

## **COMPLIANCE DATE: BEFORE NEXT JUMP**

### **AUTHORITY:**

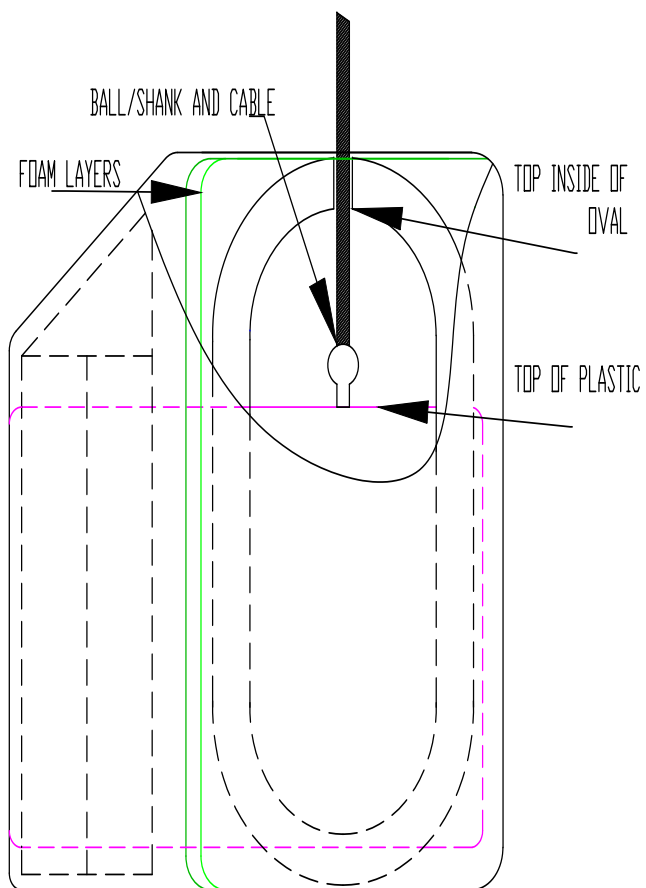
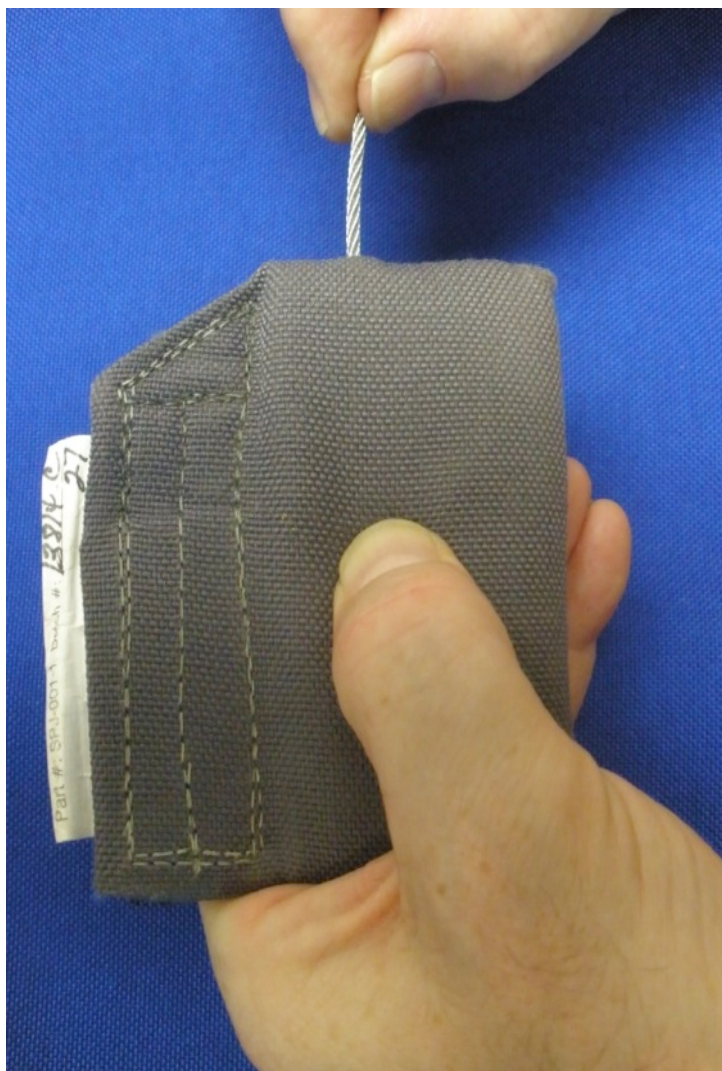
DAVID L. SINGER, DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING  
Sun Path Products, Inc.  
404 West Edinborough Ave, Raeford NC 28376 USA  
Telephone: 910-875-9002  
FAX: 910-875-9272  
Email: [dave@sunpath.com](mailto:dave@sunpath.com)

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**Figure 1**



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Figure 2

