



SAFETY NOTICE

3/91

RAVEN RESERVES

Because of an incident reported to the STC Meeting of the 4th September 1991 where a Raven Reserve took approximately nine seconds to deploy and also noting a previous bulletin (attached) issued by Precision Aerodynamics Inc. The STC Meeting of the 23rd October 1991 has decided that:

'ALL PRE-MARCH 1988 RAVENS USED AS RESERVES ARE GROUNDED WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, UNTIL A 'BIKINI' SLIDER HAS BEEN FITTED'.

Tony Butler
National Coach & Safety Officer

24th October 1991

Distribution

All CCIs
Advanced Riggers
STC Mailing

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For Immediate Release...

Precision Aerodynamics, Inc. has completed testing on a new deployment device which the company calls the "Bikini" slider (Precision part # P-72101). The slider's unique design allows jumpers to select the type of opening they feel appropriate for the configuration in which they pack their Raven canopy.

The Raven main and reserve are identical in construction. Yet, skydivers typically differentiate between the soft, comfortable openings they want from a main and the brisk openings they expect from a reserve. The Bikini slider enables jumpers to choose the opening characteristic they prefer according to the way they use their Raven.

Precision's extensive testing of the Bikini slider under AS 8015A took place over a 14 month period, culminating with certification under FAA TSO C-23c for use with Raven reserves. It may also be used with Raven mains.

On December 1, 1987, the company began shipping all Raven canopies with Bikini sliders. The traditional slider (also certified for both main and reserve use) remains available upon request. While not required, the manufacturer encourages jumpers who own Ravens equipped with the traditional slider to update their canopies.

It is the responsibility of the rigger who installs a Bikini slider to appropriately and indelibly mark the Data Panel as follows: the Raven I becomes a Raven I[b] after the Bikini slider is installed; the Raven II becomes a Raven II[b]; etc.

Bikini sliders are available in a variety of colors at a nominal charge from Precision. For further information about this update, jumpers should contact their rigger or Bill Hazlett at Precision (615-949-4688).

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*Manufacturers of
Quality Deceleration
& Recovery Systems*

Effective March 10, 1988, Precision began shipping the Super Raven. This seven cell 2:26 aspect ratio design supersedes the original Raven series. The new Super Raven has been designed to open extremely fast, but not hard. Precision's compensatory anhedral surface-shaping technology allows the smoothest, cleanest airfoil of any canopy to date. New interlocking, diagonal reinforcing tapes have also been added to allow maximum structural integrity as well as optimum airfoil shaping.

Included among the Super Ravens' many innovative features is a high aspect ratio slider (PN 21004 for Micro Raven 150; PN 21005 for Raven 1, Raven 2, and Raven 3; PN 21006 for Raven 4). The shape of the slider is one of the key elements which produces clean, crisp, consistent openings. It allows the risers and canopy to spread during flight, providing a flatter glide and greater air-foil efficiency.

It is important to note here that the bikini slider (PN 21002) is not intended for use on the new Super Raven Series canopies. Super Ravens are easily distinguishable by their red end-cell logo panels.

We at Precision are proud to offer a Quality Control Program which is second to none in the parachute industry. Our Research and Development Division is committed to providing unsurpassed performance and quality.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Precision at: (615) 949-4688.

Best Regards,

Bill Hazlett
Research and Development

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