Making A Towline

Here is how we made a simple and inexpensive towline for our Multiplex Easy Glider Pro and Hobby Lobby Telemaster 40 tow plane. The following items are readily available at your local hardware and sporting goods stores.   The first item is twisted nylon mason line available in white or several bright colors. We found this spool of "Mason Line" complete with a winder for storage of the completed towline.

The second item is an appropriate size of monofilament fishing line. We have tried various sizes and like the 60lb. test size the best. Multiplex recommends 0.5 - 1.0mm diameter. The 60lb. test is 0.7mm.

The third item is a roll of surveyor flagging tape in a bright dark color works well. We like this orange glow color.

Cut a 60' length of mason line and tie a knot on each end to make a 1" loop.
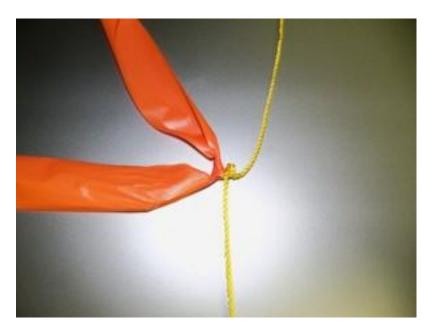

Put a drop of thin CA glue on each knot so it will not unravel and cut off the excess line.

Cut a piece of monofilament line about 12" long and tie a knot to make a loop.

Loop this monofilament loop through one of the towline loops so that the knot end is located as pictured. This end will attach to the sailplane release.

Cut a 6' length of surveyor flagging tape and mark the middle. On the sailplane end of the towline, mark a point a little over 3' from the knot in the mason line. Tie the flag and mason line together at the marks so the flagging tape becomes two streamers.

Here is our towline in action. The flagging tape streamers can be seen in front of the nose of the sailplane.

At release altitude, the flagging tape streamers help to visually confirm the separation of the Easy Glider Pro from the end of the towline.

The flagging tape streamers also help the tow pilot see the end of the towline on landing.

When you start towing, you will find that it is a good idea to have more than one towline. Why, you ask? Well, sometimes the tow pilot gets an itchy trigger finger and clicks the towline release switch at altitude and drops the line never to be found again! Not that we have ever done that!