



ALAMO and ALTO Floats Quick Start Guide

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Floats are shipped in a low-power state and MUST BE ACTIVATED PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT. Failure to perform a BIT will result in LOSS OF FLOAT.

Introduction

The purpose of this Quick Start Guide is to provide explicit steps given and described in more detail in the Deployment Manual to the field technician. The field technician's functions are to 1) stage the float for deployment, 2) initiate a BIT if not already performed (see Deployment Manual), 3) confirm the float's proper operation by talking to the pilot following a BIT or by observing the illumination of the BIT light (certain models), unless a BIT is confirmed to have been conducted already, and 4) deploy the float.

The Deployment Manual provides background and more detail for the field technician, and an accompanying Piloting Manual exists to serve the pilot. Both are consistent with this Quick Start Guide.

Deployment Readiness

1. Pilot communication connection established - or assumed to be in place.
2. Float, removed from its shipping container, its deployment container, and parachute (if equipped) bear no evidence of physical damage externally, and there is no known history of damage.
3. Float has undergone a BIT recently enough that supports the launching date/time and is NOT in low-power sleep mode. (If a BIT has not been performed, or the performance date is unknown, consult the Deployment Manual for steps to execute a BIT, either Air- or Sea Launch Operations sections).

Air Launch Operations

Tube-launched ALAMO

Figures 1a and 1b show an ALAMO configured for aircraft tube launching.

1. Load the float on the aircraft and store it for takeoff.
2. When ready to launch the float, remove the float from its beige plastic protective shell (if equipped).
3. Load float in launch tube with "Launch" end (with long cardboard protective sleeve containing parachute) first. (Figure 1b)
 - a) Hold onto the base of the float and do not allow suction to pull the float fully into the launch tube **until the next step is completed.**
 - b) Disconnect the Velcro strip to release the obstructive device (Figure 2b). Cut the ribbon to remove the Velcro strip and discard.
 - c) Lower the float fully into the launch tube.
4. Launch the float from its tube to deploy it.

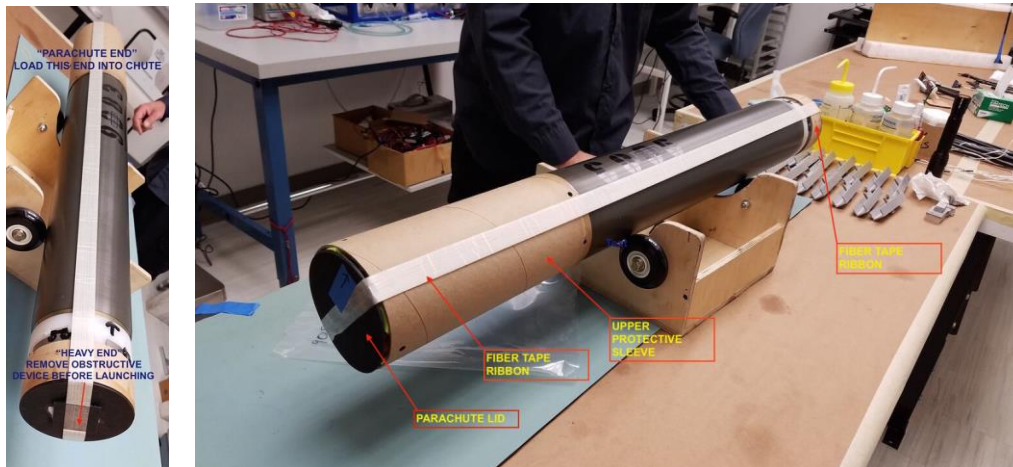


Figure 1a (left) and 1b (right). ALAMO with parachute ready for aircraft tube-launch.

Aft- and side-door-launched ALAMO

1. Perform steps 1-2 above for a Tube-launched ALAMO.
2. When ready to launch, carefully disconnect the Velcro strip to release the obstructive device (Figure 2b) **while holding the fiber tape ribbon snugly to the base of the float** to retain the pilot chute within the cardboard protective sleeve.
3. Toss the float from the aircraft aft- or side-door (Figure 2a) to deploy.



Figure 2a (left) and 2b (right)

Note that the "Obstructive device" in Figure 2a used to retain the parachute protective lid capping the cardboard protective sleeve at the top of the float, is a patch of Velcro. Figure 2b (right) ALAMO, in the process of being aft-door launched from an aircraft. This configuration works the same way for a side-door launch. In Figure 2b, the Velcro has been detached and the fiber tape ribbon is flying free of the float's base to allow the pilot chute to spring free of the protective cardboard protective sleeve.

Aft-door-launched ALTO

1. Load the float in its shipping/deployment box on the aircraft and store it for takeoff.
2. When ready to launch the float, connect float's parachute "D" ring to the static line in the aircraft near the aircraft aft door.
3. Standing clear of the static line, (aft door) roll the float down the aft ramp, parachute-end first, and out of the aircraft (Figure 3)
4. Retrieve the static line and pilot chute cap.



Figure 3. ALTO in protective bag with harness in shipping crate showing parachute end.

Sea Launch Operations

Sea-launched ALAMO

1. When ready to launch the float, remove the float from its protective container exposing the launch box with soluble strap link at base (Figure 10).
2. Drop it over the side, base first, to deploy it.



Figure 4. ALAMO ready for sea launch showing soluble strap link at base.

Sea-launched ALTO

1. Lower the float within its box by its harness over the side and into the water (Figure 5).
2. Release the harness.
3. Within a few minutes after having been lowered into the water in its box, the float will sink from the cardboard box and begin a diagnostic profile.



Figure 5. ALTO float with over-the-side launch harness in hand.