



Woody Valley

**GUIDE TO SECURING AND REPLACING
FINSTERWALDER FAULTY BUCKLES
ON WOODY VALLEY HARNESES
(FOLLOWING OUR SAFETY NOTE DATED JUNE 13th 2016)**

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ANNOUNCEMENT TO OUR PILOTS

Dear pilot,

we've found a good solution to the faulty Finsterwalder buckle problem (please refer to the attached Finstwerwalder safety note published on June 4th 2016 and our own safety note published on June 13th 2016) and therefore to make your Woody Valley harness safe and flyable airworthy again.

The good thing is that you won't need to ship your harness back to us, which will save you precious fly time.

Please read the attached instructions very carefully and email the "request form" to your Woody Valley dealer.

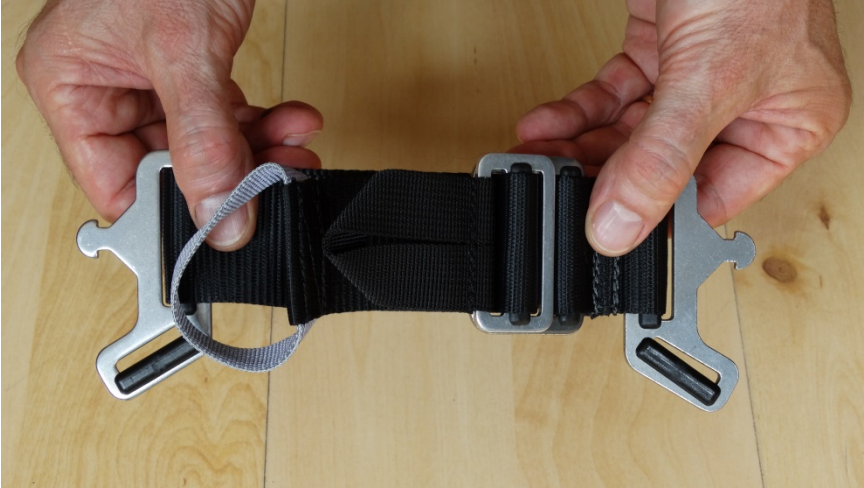
You'll be given/sent a free fix kit that will allow you to replace the potentially damaged part by yourself without your dealer's help.

This fix kit is exclusively for the Woody Valley harnesses manufactured from May 2006. All harnesses manufactured before May 2006 are not to be considered airworthy anymore.

Woody Valley staff

How to REPLACE the Finsterwalder faulty BUCKLES on your Woody Valley harness with GET-UP strap system

FRONT VIEW



You will be provided with a complete chest strap to replace your current one.

Even if the chest strap on your harness could be slightly different, the procedure to follow is still the same.

Before proceeding, make sure the buckles of the provided kit are the same as the ones on your harness.

BACK VIEW



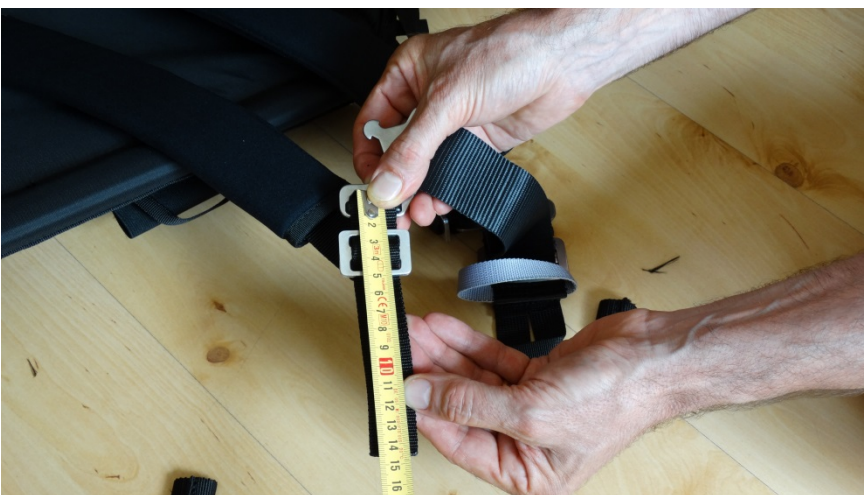
The picture shows you the part that needs to be replaced. Lay it on the ground and take a picture as you will need it later to make sure you have done everything properly. Do not take your current chest strap off your harness before having the new one with you.



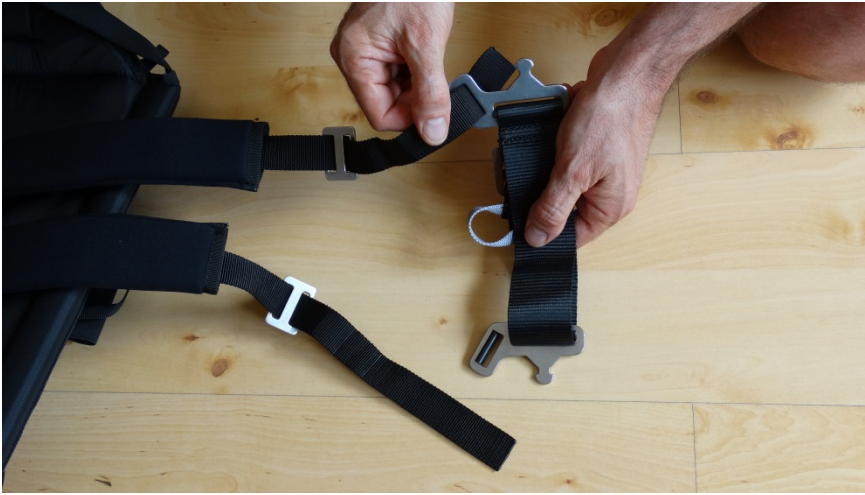
In order to take your current chest strap off your harness, you will first need to slide the leg straps out of the adjustment buckles that connect them to the chest strap. Since the blocking stitches at the end of the leg strap webbing do not allow you to do so, first you must cut the two ends as shown in the picture. Try to cut as precisely as possible because this will help you burning the cut edges properly, which is the following step.



Burning the edges is to prevent the webbing from fraying and it can be done with a lighter or any other safe flame. Once the burnt edge gets cold again, make sure it is intact and does not fray.



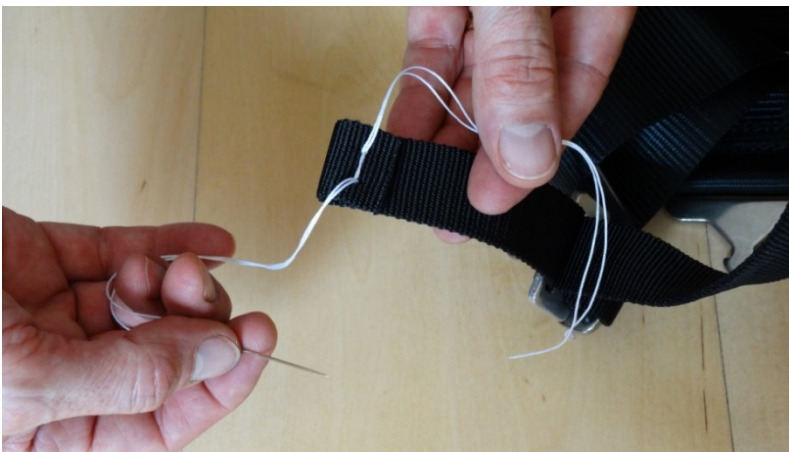
Before taking the chest strap off the leg straps, we recommend you to measure the leg strap adjustment as shown in the picture. Eventually, you will need this measurement to restore your harness setting.



Take the chest strap off by sliding the leg straps out of the adjustment buckles and chest strap buckles. Make sure the black plastic bit passing through the chest strap buckles does not fall out while you are sliding the leg straps off.



Assemble the new chest strap by sliding the leg strap webbing through the chest strap buckles (making sure the black plastic bits are in) and then through the adjustment buckles. It is important that the leg strap webbing is nicely flat and definitely not twisted around.



Make sure the chest strap is put together exactly as your old one by comparing it with the picture you took at stage #2 of the procedure. Now sew the blocking stitches on the ends of the leg straps as shown in the picture. Bend the final 1.5 centimeter end of the webbing over itself and sew it together with 5 stitched on one another using the provided thread and needle. Finally, make a knot and burn the loose ends of the thread away.

How to REPLACE the Finsterwalder faulty BUCKLES on your Woody Valley harness with T-LOCK strap system



This is how you REPLACE the SAFE-T STRAP connected to one of the leg straps.

Before proceeding, make sure the buckles of the provided kit are the same as the ones on your harness.



CUT THE LOOP of the safe-T strap without damaging the leg strap.



TAKE THE NEW SAFE-T STRAP provided by Woody Valley.



PASS THE BUCKLE of the leg strap THROUGH THE LOOP of the new safe-T strap.



POSITION the leg strap at the VERY END OF THE new safe-T strap LOOP and then BEND THE SHORT VELCRO BIT OVER the new safe-T strap.



BEND THE LONG VELCRO BIT OVER the short one so that the leg strap is HELD FIRMLY at the very END OF THE new safe-T strap LOOP.



TURN THE ELASTIC SHEATH INSIDE OUT and PLACE IT OVER THE VELCRO to secure the new safe-T strap.

Finsterwalder safety note

Date 04.06.2016
Subject Safety notice for paraglider harnesses equipped with Finsterwalder CLICK-LOCK and T-LOCK buckles in the chest strap



In the past three months, there have been two incidents involving older paraglider harnesses equipped with CLICK-LOCK buckles (HSi10) in the chest strap. The buckles had opened unintentionally during flight while they were under load. In one of the cases this happened during a SAT maneuver (spreading of the chest strap due to the pilot resting on the riser), in the other case the reason was presumably the load applied by the body weight of the pilot who was hanging only in the leg straps.

Finsterwalder has conducted a technical investigation and found the following: The hooks of the metal tongue can wear out through the frequent diagonal load changes the chest strap is subject to. This might lead to decreased load capacity and – in the case of sufficiently high diagonal load transmission – the buckle might open unintentionally.

As a consequence of this finding, Finsterwalder has limited the respective buckles' service time to 4 years if they are used in paraglider chest straps. The harness manufacturers have already been informed accordingly.

To date, there have been no unintentional openings of T-LOCK buckles. However, since their mechanism resembles that of CLICK-LOCK buckles, the problem is likely to be the same.

Finsterwalder calls on all owners of harnesses equipped with CLICK-LOCKS (HSi10) or T-LOCKS in the chest strap to determine their buckles' previous usage time by checking the routine test date on the sample inspection label. If this date indicates a usage time of more than 4 years, the harness is not airworthy for now and may not be used for flying anymore. Affected owners should contact their harness manufacturer.

The service time limitation applies only to CLICK-LOCK and T-LOCK buckles that are used in paraglider chest straps. When used for applications where only static loads are involved, the CLICK-LOCK and T-LOCK buckles' service life is 10 years.

The following harness manufacturers have used the mentioned buckles in one or more of their models: Advance, AVA Sport, APCO, Finsterwalder & Charly, KARPO FLY, SKY Paragliders, SkyTrekking, SOL, Woody Valley. Besides the buckles are used in paramotor harnesses of several manufacturers.

Finsterwalder GmbH
Pagodenburgstr.8,
81247 München

Woody Valley safety note

Safety Note: Woody Valley harnesses equipped with Finsterwalder CLICK-LOCK and T-LOCK buckles

The DHV (Deutscher Hängegleiterverband) published a safety note regarding the Charly Finsterwalder CLICK-LOCK and T-LOCK buckles used on the paragliding harness chest strap:

<http://www.dhv.de/web/newsdetails/article/unbedingt-sofort-checken-sicherheitsmitteilungfinsterwalder-gurtzeug-schliessen-click-lock-und-t-lock/>

Here is a list of the Woody Valley harness models that could be equipped with such buckles:

X-RATED 3	without LTF
X-PRESSION ACRO	without LTF
MIX	DHV GS-03-0228-00
BIX	DHV GS-03-0246-01
X-OVER 2	DHV GS-03-0247-01
X-OVER 3	DHV GS-03-0247-01
MIX-AIRBAG	DHV GS-03-0302-04
PEAK	DHV GS-03-0310-04
VELVET2 T-LOCK	DHV GS-03-0335-06
VELVET2	DHV GS-03-0336-06
VELVET AIRBAG 2	DHV GS-03-0337-06
VELVET AIRBAG 2 T-LOCK	DHV GS-03-0338-06
PASSENGER	DHV GS-03-0340-06
PEAK2 T-LOCK	DHV GS-03-0348-07
PEAK2	DHV GS-03-0349-07
X-RATED 4	DHV GS-03-0366-07
X-RATED 5	EAPR GZ-7235/10

Exceptionally also other models could be equipped with such buckles.

Some of these harnesses are equipped with the buckles mentioned in the safety note by Charly Finsterwalder GmbH (04.06.2016), Some others are equipped with different buckles and therefore can be used without problems.

Here is a list of the Charly Finsterwalder buckles included in the



Charly Finsterwalder limits the lifetime of these buckles to 4 years when they are used on the paragliding harness chest strap. This means that all the harnesses with Charly Finsterwalder buckles on the chest strap that are older than 4 years can not be used any more. On the contrary, these CLICK-LOCK and T-LOCK buckles maintain a lifetime of 10 years when they are used on the paragliding harness leg strap. Woody Valley will publish any further info Charly Finsterwalder communicate us.