# How To Land Hang Glider Safely With Nice Flare

Hang gliding is an exhilarating sport that allows you to soar through the sky like a bird. The feeling of freedom and the incredible views it offers are truly unmatched. However, landing a hang glider can be a challenging task for beginners. In this article, we will guide you through the steps to safely land a hang glider with a nice flare, ensuring a smooth and controlled touchdown.

#### The Importance of a Nice Flare

A nice flare is a crucial technique in hang gliding as it allows you to control your descent rate and touch down gently. Without a proper flare, you risk a hard landing, which can lead to injuries or damage to your equipment. Mastering the art of a nice flare will enhance your hang gliding experience and make you a more proficient pilot.

#### **Preparation and Approach**

Before you begin the landing phase, it is important to ensure that you have selected a suitable landing area. Choose a location with a sufficient landing zone, free from obstacles such as trees, buildings, or power lines. Avoid areas with strong crosswinds or unpredictable wind conditions.



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**Flare** by Kevin Berry([Print Replica] Kindle Edition)

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As you approach the landing area, maintain a stable glide path and keep your speed under control. It is crucial to maintain a suitable approach speed and align yourself with the intended landing spot. Observe the wind direction and make adjustments accordingly to ensure a smooth landing.

### Setting Up for the Flare

As you get closer to the ground, it's essential to assess your glide path and make any necessary adjustments. Ensure that your landing approach is neither too high nor too low. A good rule of thumb is to aim for a height that allows you to comfortably flare before touching down.

When you are about 10-15 feet above the ground, gradually reduce your speed by applying gentle brake inputs. This will help you control your descent and maintain a steady glide path. Keep your eyes focused on your landing spot and anticipate the moment for the flare.

### The Flare Technique

The flare is a technique used to reduce your forward speed and enable a smooth touchdown. It involves pulling down on the control bar while simultaneously lifting your feet to prepare for landing. Timing is crucial for a successful flare. Too early, and you risk stalling and dropping from an excessive height; too late, and you may have a hard landing.

As you initiate the flare, apply steady pressure on the control bar, gradually pulling it towards your hips. Simultaneously, lift your feet and position them

slightly in front of you, not below your body. This combination of actions will cause your glider to slow down and pitch up, effectively reducing your forward speed.

Continue applying gentle brake inputs to maintain the flare as you approach the ground. Once your feet touch the ground, gradually release the pressure on the control bar and let your glider settle gently on the surface.

#### **Common Mistakes to Avoid**

While learning to land a hang glider with a nice flare, there are some common mistakes that beginners should be aware of:

- 1. **Flaring too early:** Pulling the control bar down too soon can result in a stall and a high drop to the ground.
- 2. Flaring too late: Waiting too long to initiate the flare can cause a hard landing or even a bounce.
- 3. **Insufficient flare:** Failing to apply enough flare can result in a faster speed at touchdown, leading to a rough landing.
- 4. **Over-flaring:** Applying too much flare can cause the glider to pitch up excessively, leading to a stall or a backwards landing.

#### **Practice Makes Perfect**

Landing a hang glider with a nice flare requires practice and precision. It's essential to gain experience and confidence in executing this technique. Start with shorter flights and gradually increase your altitude and complexity of landing scenarios.

Consider seeking guidance from experienced pilots or taking lessons from certified instructors who can provide valuable feedback and help you refine your landing skills. Record and analyze your flights to identify areas for improvement and work on them during your subsequent flights.

Landing a hang glider safely with a nice flare is a skill that every hang glider pilot should strive to master. It not only ensures a smooth and controlled touchdown but also contributes to overall safety and enjoyment of the sport. By following the steps outlined in this article, practicing diligently, and avoiding common mistakes, you will be well on your way to becoming a proficient hang glider pilot.



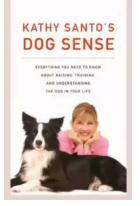
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