



AirBuddy™ Pro

Quick start guide

Take flight with AirBuddy

AirBuddy is the ultimate featherweight, folding carbon fiber chase cam system for human-powered airsports. At just over 50g, AirBuddy is practically weightless in your flying kit. Optimized for hike and fly pursuits, AirBuddy is equally at home at any takeoff in the world.

With a universal mount, AirBuddy is compatible with all existing action cameras up to 160 grams (5.6 ounces), including current GoPro and Insta360 models. Unlike other chase camera systems, AirBuddy is fully adjustable in both pitch and yaw, giving you total control of your capture angle.

This guide will help you prepare AirBuddy to start capturing great footage from your flights in no time!



Preparing for flight

AirBuddy's main body is constructed from 100% carbon fiber. It's shock-corded, similar to a tent pole, making it easy to collapse and deploy quickly.

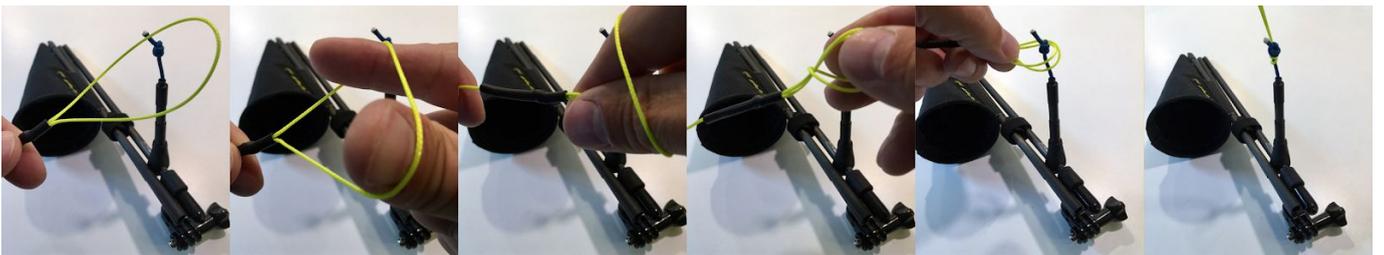
1. Begin by attaching your action camera to AirBuddy's extension arm.
2. Release the velcro keeper and give the carbon pole a gentle shake. The sections will self-assemble and lock into place.
3. Adjust the line connection point forward or back so that the carbon shaft is parallel with the ground.
4. Slide the air brake to the end, if necessary.
5. You are now ready to attach AirBuddy to your glider.



Line attachment

AirBuddy's attachment system includes several components: **1)** a quick connector, **2)** safety release mechanism, **3)** one meter elastic bridle and **4)** five meters of micro paracord rated at 80 daN.

1. Attach the quick connector to the trailing edge of your paraglider. For the first flight, we recommend placing it near the center of your wing. Thereafter, you can experiment with different positions and camera angles.
2. Lay out the micro paracord and secure it to the attachment point on AirBuddy, as illustrated below.
3. The line is attached with a simple girth hitch (also called a lark's head) to the blue corded connection point. This is a completely secure connection during flight, yet disconnects quickly and easily at the landing.



Takeoff

In ideal takeoff conditions with light wind and a suitable slope, place AirBuddy on the ground between the wing and yourself, a short distance behind your launching point. Start the camera, step forward and launch as you would normally.



AirBuddy can be used to capture your takeoff with either a forward or reverse launch in light to moderate winds. Moderately steep takeoffs work best for this technique. On very shallow takeoffs or gentle hills you may risk dragging AirBuddy and your camera on the ground. In these situations, we recommend an assisted launch or keeping AirBuddy collapsed in your harness and deploying it in the air when you are safely away from the hill.

The assisted takeoff technique is recommended on shallow, rocky or otherwise less than ideal slopes. In

this scenario, your assistant should stand a safe distance behind your prepared wing and lightly hold AirBuddy. It's important that they understand to release AirBuddy once your wing is inflated and you are moving forward to launch! This can be a great technique to capture your takeoff.

Pro tips

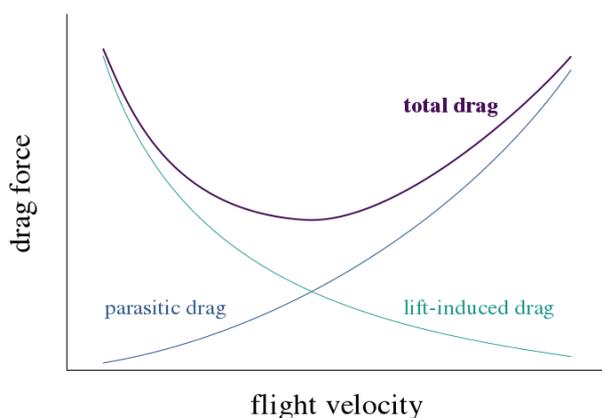
After many flights in and around the Chamonix valley, the AirBuddy test team has compiled these tips to help you capture your best footage.

1. Most new action cameras have support for stabilized video. This helps smooth out the inevitable bumps in any flight. Enable this feature and set your camera to capture at **1440p, wide angle** and **60fps**.
2. If desired, position the camera at a slightly upward angle before takeoff so that the CMOS sensor can capture both the pilot and wing.
3. To start or stop your camera on longer flights, a remote control is available with many models. Alternatively, use a pitching maneuver to allow AirBuddy to swing close to you and retrieve it in the air (recommended for advanced pilots).



Safety

AirBuddy includes an integrated safety release mechanism. Between the two 10mm titanium split rings is an 18mm “breakaway” stainless steel ring. This breakaway ring is designed to open when a force of 20-25N is applied to the elastic bridle. When this occurs, only the quick connector remains attached to the wing. As a result, the pilot is protected by preventing AirBuddy and/or the line from becoming irretrievably snagged.



In testing, the maximum force applied to AirBuddy at a nominal trim speed of 40 km/h did not exceed 2N. This is the combined “parasitic” drag of the air brake, attachment line and camera. When forces approaching 20N are applied, the pilot is protected by the breakaway mechanism. This may occur if a pilot encounters an obstacle during flight, such as trees or other pilots, either accidentally or by performing aggressive flying maneuvers.

Disclaimer

After conducting extensive bench testing under controlled conditions and countless real-world flight tests, we have yet to encounter a safety issue with AirBuddy. That said, paragliding carries inherent risk and we therefore cannot guarantee your complete safety while using AirBuddy. Any piece of equipment has the potential to be a snag hazard during flight and these risks should be evaluated by the pilot with care.

Pilots should perform a preflight check of AirBuddy, the elastic bridle, micro paracord line and all connection points, as they would with any piece of paragliding equipment. We are not responsible for improper use of AirBuddy.



"Breakaway" safety mechanism at 20N load

Delivery contents

1. AirBuddy Pro - 25 x 17cm (folded) 56 grams
2. Quick connector, safety release, 1m elastic bridle, 5m micro paracord
3. Sticker

Contact

For commonly asked questions, check out our online FAQ at <https://airbuddy.io/faq.html> or drop us an email at hello@airbuddy.io. We love seeing AirBuddy in action! Tag us or use [#flyairbuddy](#) to be featured on Instagram.



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