

6. Pre-Flight Checklist



Before Flight

- Fully charge two battery.
- Download program onto Arduino Pro Mini board and test buoyancy engine
- Adjust “risedrivetime” in program for maximum syringe water capacity.
- Adjust the potentiometer for the depth you wish to dive: Counter-clockwise for shallower and clockwise for deeper.

Before Flight 2

- ❑ Start and center moving mass in buoyancy engine (BE), then pause it before closing bottle.
- ❑ Ensure there are no wires or other obstacles obstructing the cap closure.
- ❑ Back cap off threads $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ turn and slide over first set of threads – then tighten cap.
- ❑ Make sure the rudder is perpendicular to the wings.

Before Flight 3

- ❑ Rudder mount should have four screws: Two to secure rudder and two to adjust the rudder's position.
- ❑ Make sure the servo is centered at the bottom of the bottle.
- ❑ Remove rear plastic clip from bottle cap to allow more space for outside ballast adjustments.
- ❑ Understand how to adjust for pitch, roll, and yaw as well as how to ballast to near neutral buoyancy.

Flight

- Attach safety tether to center cable-tie loop.
- Burp your bottle: Run the BE a couple of cycles holding the glider vertically underwater.
- Check for leaks: Excess bubbles leaving cap seal or moisture/condensation inside the bottle.
- Test fly: Adjust ballast as necessary to achieve nearly equal forward progress for both the dive and rise cycles.
- Feed out tether line freely so that the glider's forward progress is not impeded.

After Flight

- Turn off master power switch.
- Check for leaks and dry as necessary.
- Leave cap open to further dry and avoid any pressure build up. Store in a cool dry place.
- Battery can be recharged in place.
- With power off, snap cap can be left on battery to cover terminals.
- Discard any damaged or soaked batteries according to manufacturers recommendations.