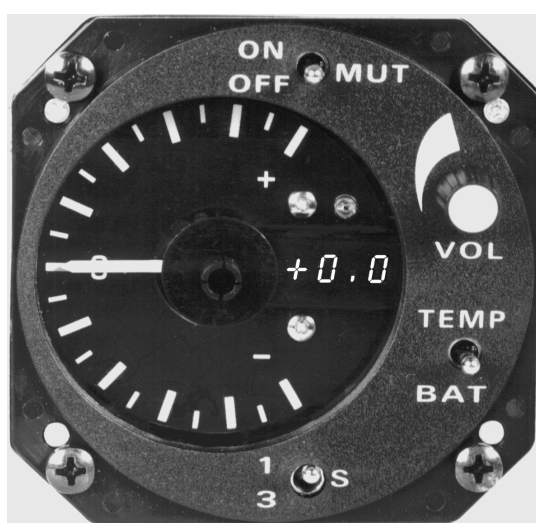




CLUBVARIOMETER

SC-7



**HANDBUCH
EINBAU UND BEDIENUNG**

NOTICE D'UTILISATION

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

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This manual is valid for all appliances of type SC-7 starting from serial number 951260.
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1. DESCRIPTION OF THE SYSTEM

1.1. Principle of measurement

The transducer is a thermal flow measurement device using thermistors at constant temperature, developed by ILEC. It excels by a very good stability of zero output, by a very short response time of 5 milliseconds, and strong independence of calibration of changes in temperature of the instrument. They ensure the instrument's high precision.

1.2. Signal conditioning

The raw variometer signal coming from the transducer is fed to three different electronic filters in parallel. With the help of the 1-sec- / 3-sec-filter switch, the display (visual and acoustic) can alternatively be switched on one of the following filters:

1-sec-filter: active second order filter with a fast, however strongly damped response.

3-sec-filter: active first order filter with a response equivalent to the one of a good moving vane type variometer.

The third filter has a response similar to the 1-sec-filter, however with a much larger time constant. It serves to determine the average vertical speed of which the value can be read on the solid state display. The conduct of the three filters is described in detail in the appendix.

1.3. Audio generator

The full scale range of the audio generator is +/- 15 m/s (or +/- 30 knots). In this way vertical speed far outside the range of the visual display can still be perceived. The audio generator produces a sound with rising frequency during climbing, which is additionally interrupted in the climbing range. In the sink range a constant sound with decreasing frequency is produced, which can be muted by using the MUTING-switch. This function provides silence when cruising.

1.4. Battery and temperature display

With the help of the TEMP-BAT-switch, the solid state display can be switched from displaying the averaged value to displaying the temperature or the remaining battery capacity. The correct value of the battery display follows from a power consumption corresponding to 1/10 of the battery capacity of a lead-gel-accumulator customary in trade. For the customary 6,5Ah accumulator this is a charging of 650 mA. This way all consumers can be switched on during the inquiry of the remaining battery capacity. The battery is practically empty if the tension voltage has fallen to 11V (display 0%), however the appliance can still work for hours if all other loads to the battery are switched off, because the SC-7 consumes very little power, and still works at 9V.

1.5. The McCready-disk

The transparent McCready-disk is put on the pin in the middle of the indicator window. Various versions for the different glider types are available, optionally also unmarked disks.

1.6. Additional displays

At the installation of the SC-7 in the two seater, the additional indicator for the seat in the back can be connected at the rear connector of the SC-7.

1.7. Remote speaker

A second speaker can be installed in a good spot in the cockpit, if the already installed speaker should not be loud enough. The additional speaker should have at least 8 Ohms and is to be installed at the rear connector of the SC-7. To save current, the built-in speaker can be disconnected.

1.8. Altitude error

The calibration factor (not the zero point) of the variometer depends on air density and therefore on altitude. When measuring the actual vertical speed, the indicated value decreases at 5% per 1000 meters increase in altitude. In the altitude from 200 to 2200 m NN the altitude error remains within +/- 5%, at 1220 m NN, the calibration altitude, the error is zero.

2. INSTALLATION

2.1. Unpacking

Unpack the instrument carefully and make a visual inspection of the unit for evidence of damage incurred during shipment. If a claim for damage is to be made, save the shipping container to substantiate the claim. Leave protective caps on hose connectors until installing the instrument.

2.2. Warranty

Warranty of the manufacturer covers failures in material and manufacturing of the product for a period of 2 years after delivery. ILEC will replace or repair parts of the instrument, which have failed in the warranty period, provided the instrument has been returned free of charge to the manufacturer or his authorized representative, and provided it had been operated within the limits specified in this manual and in the SC-7 brochure. ILEC cannot be held responsible for consequential damages caused by the failure of an instrument or its improper use.

In particular, no warranty can be claimed in cases where any liquid or foreign particles have been allowed to penetrate into the pneumatic system.

In case of trouble, describe the malfunction as exactly as possible, to avoid unnecessary enquiries. Statements such as "vario out of order" e.g. will not be sufficient. Please state a telephone number where a person competent can be reached and do not forget to name the sender. When packing the instrument, take care to close the rear pneumatic connector to prevent contamination of the measuring system. Use large case and fill void with styrofoam chips for shock absorption during shipment.

2.3. Mechanical installation.

When choosing the place where the instrument is to be installed the following point should be taken into account:

- Since the variometer is read rather frequently, the instrument should be placed at the upper rim of the instrument panel.
- If a compass is installed in the panel, all other non magnetic instruments should be grouped around it (altimeter, air speed indicator, moving vane variometer), all electrical instruments at a distance of at least 10 to 15 cm. The same applies to a compass mounted on the cover over the panel: the speaker at the rear end of the instrument may disturb in this case. Remedy: mount the SC-7 further down, or have loudspeaker taken out by the manufacturer and use a remote speaker.
- During transport, take off and landing, the glider will be submitted to rather severe shocks which should be kept off all instruments. Contrary to a widespread opinion, the best suspension is the one that will link all instruments to the primary structure of the fuselage in the most r i g i d way. For this reason instrument panels should be designed for maximum rigidity and linked to the fuselage in the most rigid way.
- Installation of temperature sensor:

The best spot for the temperature sensor is in the ventilation canal, because there it is well provided with air from the outside, it is secluded from insolation and additionally is protected against damage. To install just drill a hole of 5,5 mm into the ventilation canal, put the sensor into it and fix it with adhesive tape.

- Cut out in the panel, fixing bolts

Figure 1 shows the dimension of the 80-mm- and 57-mm-openings to be machined in the panel. If they are not yet there, work with precision. It must be possible to insert the instrument and in particular the bolts freely without any jamming, otherwise the nut inserts may be damaged. Fixing bolts delivered are M4x10, non magnetic, black, Phillips-head 3. Never use longer bolts.

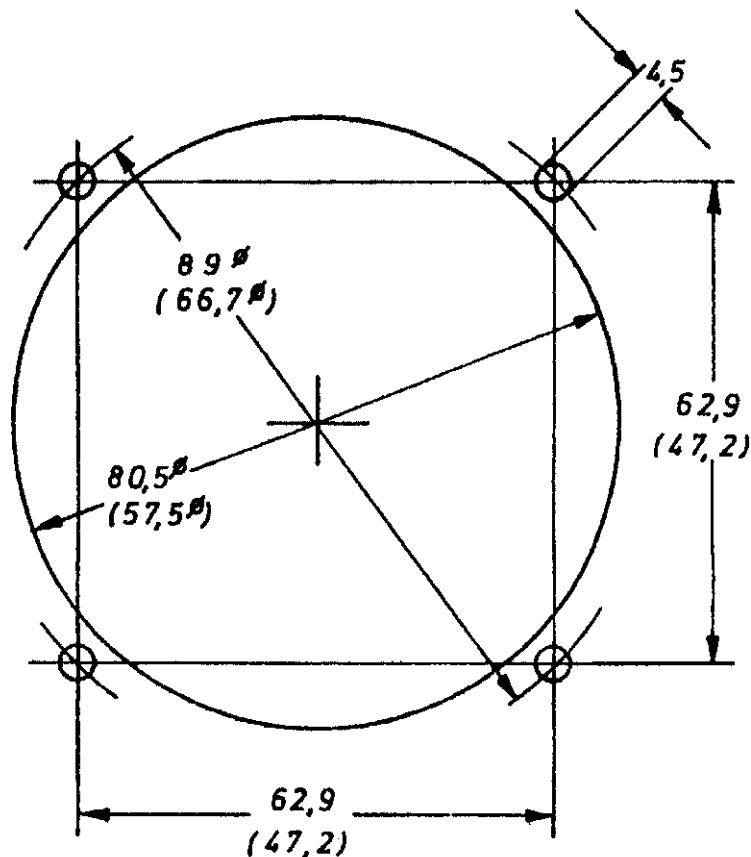


Figure 1: Opening in the instrument panel

Dimensions in mm, dimensions in brackets for 57-mm-norm (additional display)

2.4. Electrical installation

Electrical appliances are absolutely just as reliable as mechanical ones, provided that they are just as well installed as most of the people do that with mechanical appliances.

General remarks (unfortunately all confirmed by experience):

- Main switches in the electrical system can be a source of serious trouble, particular where there are radio sets connected to them. When turning on or off the main switch with the radio on, heavy negative going pulses may be generated on the - positive - bus line during the typical bouncing periods of the main switch. These Pulses can destroy instruments, if not at once, then they will do it in the long run, also yours!
- If master switches are not avoided altogether, individual instruments MUST be switched ON AFTER the main switch, and OFF BEFORE it.
- The smallest possible number of switches, cable connectors, sockets, fuses, etc. in the wiring!
- All current carrying parts must be insulated: danger of short circuits
- All connectors must have a solid mechanical lock: danger of opening
- Exclude all possibilities of false polarity connections by at least using colour codes, much better keyed connectors. The SC-7 is protected against false polarity connection.
- Use only professional components, no cheap automotive or do-it-yourself components, they are unreliable.
- Cables must be fixed at critical points, no pull may be transmitted to them, unless they may break when stressed.
- When crimping or screwing wire, never tin. Tin flows under stress and releases tension: open circuits or intermittant contacts

2.5. Pneumatic connection

Input pressure

The instrument must be connected to a TE-probe via the tubing connector on the rear. As the quality of the variometer's response depends entirely on the quality of the TE-pressure, a good TE-probe should be used. It should be sufficiently insensitive to slip and changes in angle of attack and should be placed in a good position, generally high up on the tail fin. ILEC has developed a probe with excellent properties. These probes are available with a 6mm or 8mm connection diameter for installation on the fuselage or the tail fin.

Protection against water and dust

Any pneumatic instrument can be damaged by dust or water ingested. Therefore a water separator must be inserted into any line leading outboard. As on top of that most tubing on gliders is contaminated by dust from sanding, small gasoline filters, available from ILEC or in car shops, must be inserted into each tube next to the instrument. Certainly they should never be reversed, this would be the best way to drive the dust collected into the instrument. These filters are excellent water separators at the same time.

It must be repeated here, that ILEC will refuse any warranty where instruments have suffered from water or dirt ingestion.

Pneumatic connection

The pneumatic connector is for flexible tubes with inner diameter of 4 to 5 mm, PVC-tubes with inner diameter of 5 mm and a side-thickness of 1,5 mm are customary. In case a tube sits too tight, do not pull with force. Cut it open carefully without damaging the connector. Use an adaptor where tubing is too wide or too narrow.

Leak tightness:

The line from the measuring head of the TE-tube up to the variometer must be air tight, if the quality of the display is not to suffer. The following is a rapid test, it should be carried out at least at the start of the season:

1. Press flexible tube next to vario and hold it.
2. Seal off TE-probe (adhesive tape).
3. Release tube: vario produces a pulse in positive direction.
3. Wait 1 minute.
4. Open TE-probe: vario produces a pulse in negative direction of about the same magnitude as above. If not, the system is not tight.

Mutual interference between variometers:

Where an SC-7 is run alone on a TE-tube, there is normally no problem. Where a variometer with a big flask (big means here some liter, to be found with certain moving vane variometers or gust filters), is hooked up to the same tube: caution! The response of the SC-7 may be distorted by the large airflow in the system in case of sink or climb. Here, a test flight with all other instruments disconnected should be done for comparison.

Never there should be any capillaries or so called gustfilters in the conduit between TE-probe and the SC-7. At best they would only cause a delay of the response of the SC-7. Contrary to the wide spread opinion, errors of a poor TE-compensation can not be cured this way, only on the TE-probe itself.

3. MAINTENANCE

3.1. General indications

The SC-7 normally does not need any maintenance, nevertheless some hints to ensure reliable operation and long life:

- Most cases of malfunction are due to leak problems! Problems with electrical contacts would follow (consult "Electrical Installation").
- Too much heat is of no good to any instrument, therefore the glider should not be abandoned in the sun without the cockpit being covered. Temperatures in an cockpit not covered can easily reach 70°C

in the sun. There are at least some momentary measurement errors to be expected, if not worse. (We have seen SC-7s with holes burnt into the front panel!) If no cover is available, then at least open the canopy for ventilation.

- All tubing must be checked from time to time - and at any rate at the start of the flying season - for leak tightness, good tension around the pneumatic connector, sharp bends and squeezes. Tubes gone hard must be replaced. This is particularly necessary in the case of PVC tubing.
- Protect your instruments and their tubing against dust and dirt!
- Before doing any repair on your glider, disconnect all tubes and shut off their ends.
- Must be checked from time to time: Connectors, switches, fuseholders for good contact, insulation; and all cables for chafing, kinks, jamming, in order to spot possible sources of intermittent contacts.
- An old, feeble battery must be replaced immediately. Recharge the battery systematically after every flight.
- The instrument panel hitting structure of your fuselage upon bouncing around during take off and landing because of too sloppy a suspension, is to be avoided absolutely.

3.2. Verifications

Mechanical zero

The pointer of the indicator must be within $\pm 0,1$ m/s around 0, when the SC-7 is off (about the width of the pointer). Normally a correction is not necessary. As a consequence of an extremely hard shock, during transport e.g., one of the 2 spiral springs of the meter movement may become trapped in its support; the needle then will be wrong by 0,5 m/s about, and will show much friction. Here the instrument must be returned to the manufacturer.

Electrical Zero

Shut off the pneumatic connector of the instrument and switch on the SC-7. The needle of the indicator should now be within ± 0.1 m/s of the mechanical zero. In case the offset is larger, adjust the vario zero (see chapter 4.2 for details). After a long rest period, several weeks or months e.g., larger errors may result after switching on. However they should disappear gradually within one hour with the SC-7 switched on.

3.3. Cleaning the instrument

For cleaning the exterior, the meter screen e.g., one must never use a strong solvent like spirit or nitrocellulose, because they will damage or even destroy the plastic parts. Well suited are soap suds, washing-up liquid or special detergent for synthetics.

The screen of the indicator is of polycarbonate and sensitive to static electricity. It should not be rubbed with a dry cloth. In case the needle gets trapped by static charges, humidify the screen and cleanse with an antistatic product.

4. ADJUSTMENTS AT THE SC-7

4.1. General

Normally there is no need for any adjustment or programming, as this is done by the manufacturer. This chapter is intended for the case where the customer wants to change something by himself.

For all adjustments one of the 2 halfshells of the case must be removed. To do this, first remove the 6 corresponding selftapping countersunk screws and pull off the halfshell up-, or downwards. Never take away both halfshells at the same time, as the instrument's parts will no longer be held together. After finishing the job, mount the halfshell again.

ATTENTION :

- When remounting a halfshell, first turn the selftapping screws backwards until they fall back into their old track, then turn forward.
- When mounting the lower shell, take care not to squeeze the silicon tube!
- Observe the most stringent measures of cleanliness. Even the smallest magnetic particles can disturb seriously the meter movement!
- Always pull off the battery connector before working on the instrument.
- Do not touch sealed trimpots, calibration would be lost!

4.2. Zeroing of the Transducer

Remove upper halfshell after having closed the pneumatic connection tightly. The sensor board is located next to the indicator. The sensor board has got two adjustment potentiometers, that can be reached from the top. One of them is secured with red paint. It must not be misplaced. For adjusting turn the other adjustment potentiometer with a small screw-driver until the zero-point is correct. Install the halfshell back and reconnect the SC-7 to the TE-probe.

4.3. Temperature calibration

At first delivery the SC-7 is calibrated to the enclosed temperature sensor. When changing the sensor, the instrument should be readjusted. A comparing thermometer is to be brought to the same temperature together with the sensor. Therefore both of them should be put in a glass of water. For adjustment the lower halfshell has to be removed. On the left side of the instrument is a switch, that is inscribed with numbers from 0 to 9 and letters from A to F. Turn this switch until the temperature display is correct. Now install lower halfshell back on.

5. THE SC-7 VARIOMETER IN FLIGHT

The following chapter has been written in order to help the user to draw a maximum of benefit from the information delivered by the instrument. It is always worth while to read it, as the matter treated here is rarely or not at all covered in the general literature on soaring.

5.1. The 1-second- and the 3-second-response

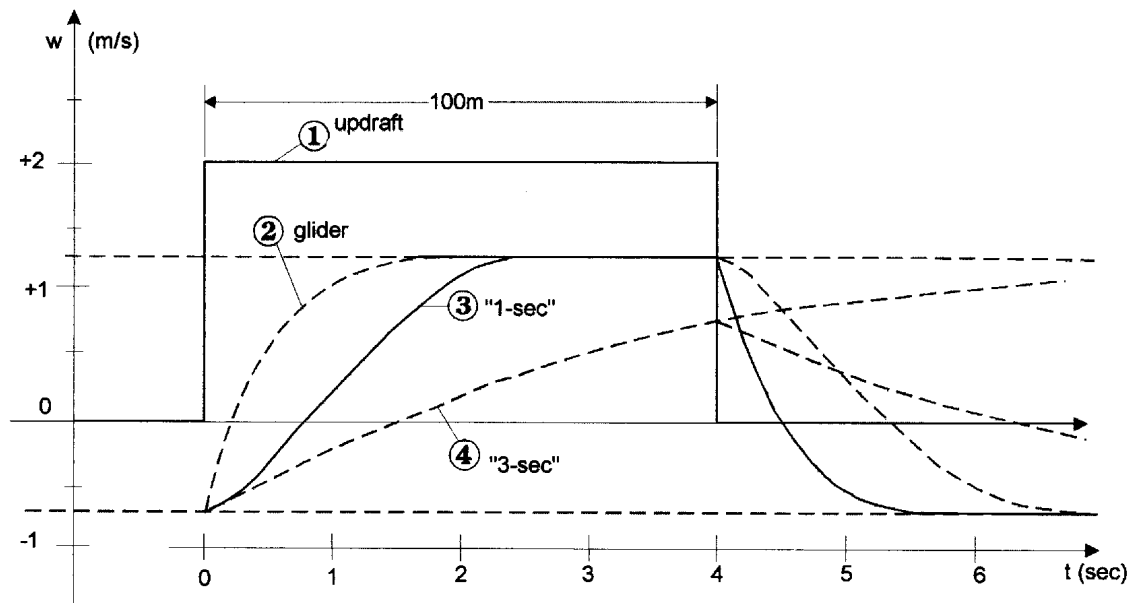
With the 1s-3s-switch the display filters can be switched from the quick 1-s-filter (a filter of second order) to the slower 3-s-filter (a filter of first order). Figure 3 shows what happens upon flying through an idealised thermal updraft, and the corresponding responses of the two different filter outputs, or otherwise, the indication of the vario needle when one or the other response has been selected. For the example a standard class glider with normal wing loading has been assumed. Airspeed be 90 km/h (50 kts), and constant during passing the updraft. The square trace 1 shows the updraft as a function of time: in front of the jump, there is calm air, within it, the air rises at 2 m/s (4 knots). The diameter of the updraft be 100 m (100 yards).

Before entering, the plane sinks steadily at 0.7 m/s (1.4 kts). Upon entering, it is accelerated upwards, the pilot will feel this clearly on the seat of his pants. The transition to the new vertical speed is fast, the time constant being only 0,4 seconds. The acceleration at the beginning is 0,5 g, the g-meter will jump from its steady state indication of 1 g to 1.5 g. Upon leaving the same sequence will happen, however this time downwards. Curve 2 shows the response of the glider. Curve 3 describes the indication by the 1-second filter: after a short hesitation of about 0.2 s the needle swiftly swings upwards, after 2 seconds already 90 % of the change are reached, after 2.5s 100 % of the real climb rate of the glider, now being 1.3m/s (2.6 kts) upwards, are attained. The indicator needle remains there to the very end of the updraft, and returns to its original sink of 0.7 m/s (1.4 kts) as fast as it mounted upon leaving the thermal.

For a first order filter to be as fast, its time constant would have to be 1 second. Such a filter would be useless in normal thermal conditions as one would not be able to read it because of its permanent random jitter induced by turbulence. Curve 4 shows the behaviour of the slow 3-s filter. This one corresponds to the response of a good moving vane variometer: The output creeps up slowly. For it to reach 90 % of the change in input, one would have to wait 7sec. At the end of our thermal it just arrived at 0.8 m/s (instead of 1.3 m/s).

Which response to use to search for thermals? As the main problem here consists of discriminating between "gusts" and useful lift, a short consideration: diameter of the general useful thermal is about 150 m. This distance at a speed of 90 km/h (50 kts) will be covered in about 6 s, at 180 km/h (100 kts) in 3 seconds. With this in mind, one can say that it is worth while to take on a "thermal" when the climb lasts at least 3 to 5 seconds, and when on top of that it has the strength looked for. Be it, one is convinced to have cut the lift just on its border. If now we look at figure 3, we can set up a simple rule for day to day use very quickly: When the 1-s-vario-display climbs to the lift waited for, then count to 3. If the needle is still there, then take it on. This thermal is large enough to be centered in 9 out of 10 cases. If not, continue straight on.

In case the slow 3-s-filter has been selected, one will have to not only observe the position of the pointer, but also its tendency: Does it still climb (after 3 seconds), and does it at least indicate half of what is waited for, then take it. In case it stands still or even falls, continue on your way.



Glider: Standard class, 30 Kg/sqm, 90 km/h

Figure 3: Passing through an updraft

5.2. Turbulence and gusts

Everything which is shorter than a useful lift is only a disturbance. Therefore it would be nice, if a vario would not indicate these short gusts. Suppressing horizontal gusts at the TE-vario is principally impossible. As changes in airspeed also leave their mark in the measuring of the vario-display (the principle of measuring is to eliminate "control-stick-thermal"), horizontal gusts are also indicated proportionately as rising or sinking. This being so, we will have to content ourselves to filter out the gusts without losing too much in speed of response.

To show the influence of a gust on the indication of a TE-vario, let us assume the following case: A standard class glider flies at 150 km/H (83 kts). On the one hand it enters a thermal with a vertical air speed of 2 m/s (4 knots), on the other hand a zone with windshear or a whirl with horizontal axis such, that the plane's airspeed increases suddenly by 2 m/s (4 kts). What happens in both cases? Figure 3 shows it for the first case, with the exception that the initial sink rate is 1,8 m/s (3,6 kts) rather than 0,7 m/s (1,4 kts). The initial thrust of vertical acceleration is stronger, due to the higher airspeed. The plane is accelerated upwards from 1,8 m/s to +0,2 m/s, 150/90 times as strong as in fig.3. The g-meter would bounce from 1,0g, its steady state value, to 1,8 g and back to 1 g with a time constant of only 0,3 s.

Fig.4 shows the case of the horizontal gust: The airspeed indicator jumps from 150 km/h to 157 km/h (from 83 kts to 87 kts), damped by its inertia. The plane is being accelerated upwards only a little bit, just 0.1g. The trajectory of the glider that follows depends mainly on the pilot's reaction. He can continue at the increased airspeed, or swap the kinetic energy he has gained for a bit more altitude (in the example this would be 8.7 m !) and then continue at his original airspeed. This maneuver however has little influence on the response of the TE -vario. At the entry of the gust, the TE-vario "sees" a jump in dynamic pressure corresponding to the above mentioned altitude jump of 8.7 m. It will interpret this pressure jump correctly as a gain in energy and produce a positive pulse. This pulse will be proportional to the potential gain in altitude. Its size and duration depends on the filter of the vario. Thereafter it is irrelevant to the TE-vario whether the potential gain in altitude is realised or not, as there would be no change in total energy involved in the maneuver, only an exchange between kinetic and potential energy.

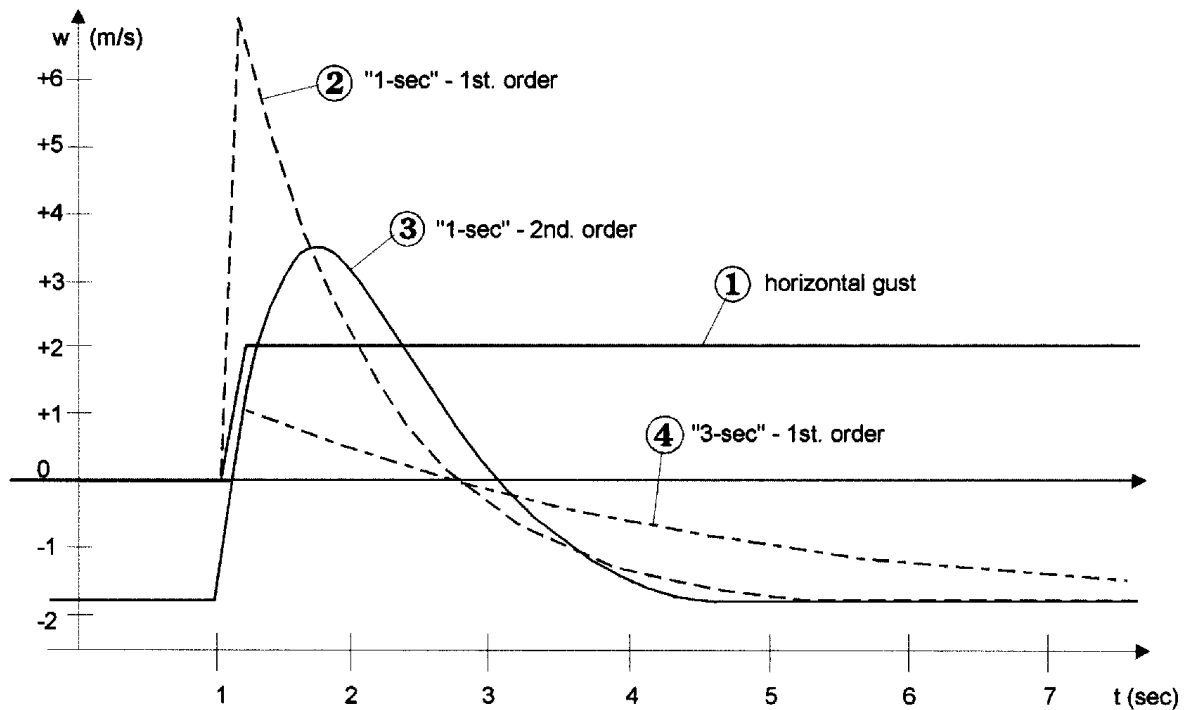


Figure 4: Flying into a horizontal Gust

However, the needle's excursion is larger here than in the case of the thermal. The indication eases off again, how fast, that depends on the kind of filter being used. The slow 3-second response might feign generation of energy which is not there anymore. The fast 1-second response of the SC-7 swings higher at first, but comes back a lot quicker.

It should not be overlooked that in reality turbulences is rarely as sharp edged as presented in our model for simplicity. The leading edge of the response will therefore be "rounder" than shown in figures 3 and 4.

Now, which lessons can be drawn from these facts for practical flying?

1. If the vario climbs fast, without being accompanied by a strong upward thrust of acceleration, then as a rule, this is a horizontal gust. One can "pull up" to profit from the increase in airspeed, however, one will have to "push down" again as there is a negative jump to follow.
2. If the vario climbs up rapidly after an upward thrust of acceleration, then normally there is a lift.
3. In weak thermal conditions the vario will usually climb slowly. Now a large field of lift may announce itself. Mostly one will not notice any particular acceleration in the context. In this case it is advisable to reduce the speed and observe the vario-display carefully.

5.3. The Averager

The average vertical speed whilst spiralling in thermals is by far the most important value to know. It decides whether the thermal one is exploiting at the moment is good enough to reach the goal. Further it plays a decisive role when setting the McCready value. Thus it helps to determine the right cruising speed. As one will overestimate the average climb rate by 50 to 100 % when relying on the vario display and one's power of estimation alone, the SC-7 is fitted out with an averaging filter. Figure 5 shows the response of the averager upon entering and circling in a thermal with an updraft of constant 2 m/s (4 knots).

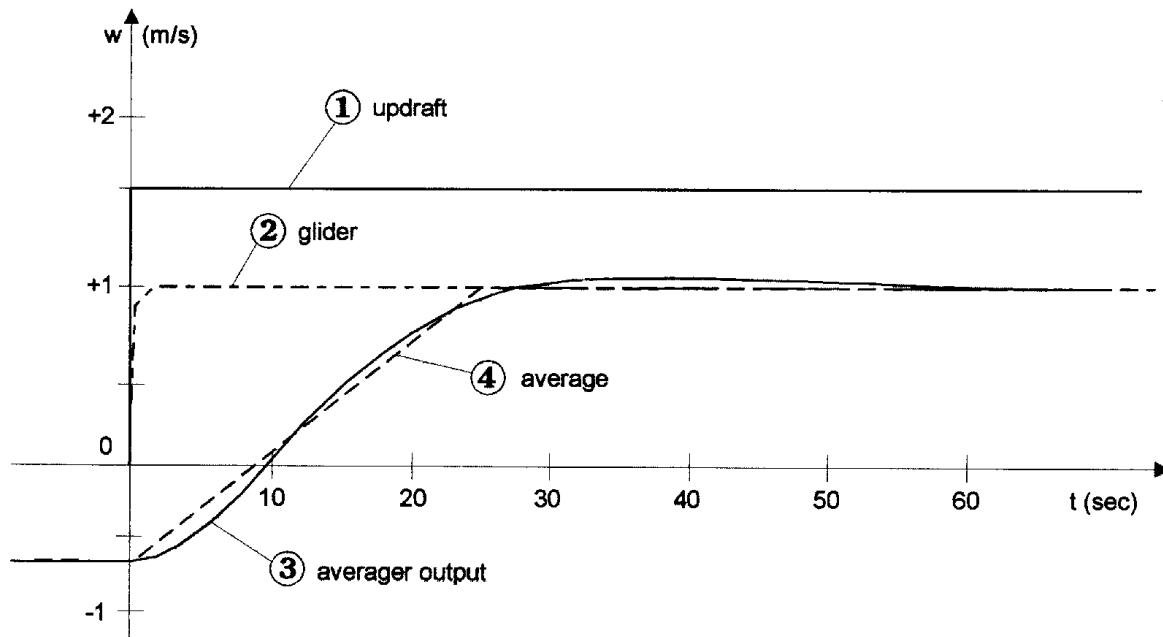


Figure 5: Averager

The plane, curve 2, accelerates very fast to its new climb rate of 1.3 m/s. The slight increase in the sinkrate of the glider has been neglected. After one full circle, exactly after 25 seconds, the averager shows the new climb rate (curve 3). Even during the transition the average value is being shown with good accuracy, as can be seen from the comparison between curve 3 and the theoretical average in curve 4. This holds true even if the lift is very irregular and oscillates between 0 and 4 m/s e.g. The averager will indicate decreasing lift immediately.

5.4. Cruise

We will not treat general tactics in transition or dolphin flying here, one will find this in the special literature. We only give some hints to pilot the glider and to interpret the speed command display.

The McCready disk is turned such, that its zero mark (outer point) comes to lie on the McCready value seen on the vario scale. When cruising, one does not read the vertical speed on the vario scale, but the airspeed indicated on the McCready disk by the vario pointer. One is to accelerate if the airspeed indicator shows less than the disk, and one should decelerate if the airspeed indicator shows more than the disk.

The by far most important parameter to be set is the McCready value, which is to be set according to the tactical situation. The basis for that is always the average climb rate expected in the next updraft, as long as tactical considerations do not determine it alone, as when flying over an obstacle e.g. It must be taken into account here, that even large deviations from the theoretically correct setting, will lead to negligible losses in average speed only. Therefore one reduces the McCready value in order to avoid unnecessary risk.

It is not only of no advantage but stresses the pilot's physical condition as much as it makes the average speed suffer, to practice aerobatics instead of speed-to-fly by following the pointer blindly. It is of no use to change the speed within short stretches of up- or downdrafts. Only when a speed-to-fly error lasts longer, one should correct cruise speed.

How to change airspeed in cruise?

When increasing airspeed, the sink rate of the glider will increase, this means the vario pointer will sink even more when one accelerates. The optimal speed-to-fly will be larger than the speed indicated before accelerating. By how much is it larger?

Rule of thumb: To the difference between the indications on the disk and on the airspeed indicator add one half. This will be the amount by which the airspeed is to be changed.