



Slingsby T.38 *Grasshopper*

This design is based on the pre-WW II German *Schulgleiter*, modified to use the wing design of the Slingsby *Kirby Cadet* glider. It was cheap to manufacture and could be assembled and dismantled quickly and easily. Designated the *Grasshopper* by the RAF, 165 aircraft were delivered between 1952 and 1963. They were used at Halton by the apprentices and by ATC Squadrons all over the country, with some still in use in the late 1980s.

Launch was by winch or the use of a bungee (elastic rope) pulled by a team of helpers. The rope is laid out in a V with the glider hooked at the point of the V. The helpers grasp each end of the rope and run forward, stretching the rope until the glider is catapulted into the air.

Our glider is mounted on a pivoting tripod so that we can demonstrate its controls.

General characteristics

Crew: 1
Length: 20 ft 8 in (6.3 m)
Wingspan: 39 ft 0 in (11.88 m)
Height: 8 ft 0 in (2.43 m)
Wing area: 173.9 sq ft (16.16 m²)
Aspect ratio: 8.73
Airfoil: *Göttingen 426*
Empty weight: 293 lb (132.9 kg)
Gross weight: 550 lb (249.5 kg)

Performance

Stall speed: 30 mph; 26 kn (48 km/h)
Never Exceed Speed: 80 mph; 70 kn (129 km/h)
Wing loading: 3.10 lb/sq ft (15.13 kg/m²)

