

HELIUM BLIMP INSTRUCTIONS



FLY HIGH ABOVE THE COMPETITION!

****IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU READ ALL DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY
BEFORE YOU ASSEMBLE YOUR BLIMP****

California
BLIMPS

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NOTICE & WARNING

California Blimps takes no responsibility for lost or damaged blimps because of failure to follow these instructions:

The FAA prohibits the flight of blimps within five (5) miles of an airport. The FAA also prohibits the flight of blimps above 200 feet.

The blimp must fly between 150 and 200 feet to avoid ground turbulence. The tether supplied with the blimp is 200 feet.

Safety Guidelines

- ?? Do not fly the blimp near telephone or power lines.
- ?? Always keep the blimp over your own property line.
- ?? Do not fly the blimp directly over moving traffic.
- ?? Do not fly blimp at night while unattended.
- ?? If possible, store the blimp indoors (garage) to protect it from weather and vandals.
- ?? Do not step on the blimp at any time as this could lead to a tear in the material.

Prior to filling the blimp with helium, **attach the tether line to the blimp harness and tie off the other end of the tether line to a secure, fixed object.** Make sure the tether line does not come into contact with any sharp objects, as this may result in the tether line being severed and the blimp escaping.

Check knots in harness prior to filling blimp with helium.

HELIUM FILLED ADVERTISING BLIMPS

General Information

Congratulations on the purchase of your advertising blimp!

15-FOOT BLIMP: This blimp is 220 cubic feet in volume. It stands 5 feet tall and has a net lift of 4 pounds when inflated. It withstands gusts of wind up to 20 mph.
CAN BE SEEN UP TO 1/2 MILE AWAY.

HELIUM TANKS USED TO FILL UP: LESS THAN 1 TANK

20-FOOT BLIMP: This blimp is 380 cubic feet in volume. It stands 7 feet tall and has a net lift of 11 pounds when inflated. It withstands gusts of wind up to 25 mph.
CAN BE SEEN UP TO 1 MILE AWAY.

HELIUM TANKS USED TO FILL UP: 1 1/2 TANKS

24-FOOT BLIMP: This blimp is 1000 cubic feet in volume. It stands 9 feet tall and has a net lift of 50 pounds when inflated. It withstands gusts of wind up to 30 mph.
CAN BE SEEN UP TO 2 MILES AWAY.

HELIUM TANKS USED TO FILL UP: 3 1/2 TANKS

26-FOOT BLIMP: This blimp is 1200 cubic feet in volume. It stands 11 feet tall and has net lift of 60 pounds when inflated. It withstands gusts of wind up to 30 mph.
CAN BE SEEN UP TO 3 MILES.

HELIUM TANKS USED TO FILL UP: 4 TANKS

HELIUM

Non-flammable helium is available from a local welding supply or industrial gas company. We recommend Grade A or Welding Grade Helium for use in the blimp since these are a more pure type of helium and will improve the lift of the blimp. Use of lower grade helium that is contaminated with air may cause the blimp to fly tail down.

Average cost of helium tanks is \$60 - \$70.

The number of tanks used to fill the blimp is based on the **standard tank size of 291** cubic feet of gas. (see *general information* on page 3 for how many tanks of helium your blimp requires)

WARNING

HELIUM EXPANDS WHEN EXPOSED TO WARM CONDITIONS

Helium expands as temperature increases, and contracts as temperature decreases.

Decrease in temperature may cause the blimp to sag and reduce lift capacity; increase in temperature will increase tautness with the possibility of rupture. **Do not inflate the blimp taut.** After inflation you should be able to push your hand 3 to 4 inches into the body of the blimp.

If you fly the blimp in cold temperatures during the day and then store the blimp in warmer conditions indoors at night, you must release some helium, as the warmer conditions will cause the blimp

to expand. If this is not done, there is a possibility of rupture or leaking.

HOW TO ASSEMBLE & ATTATCH YOUR TAIL FINS

First find an area that is clean and free of sharp objects or place blimp on a plastic sheet. **Do not step on the blimp.**

STEP 1) ASSEMBLING AND ATTACHING THE TAIL FINS

You will need:

- 4 fins
- 8 fiberglass rods with rubber ends (if you have a 24' or 26' blimp, you will also need the 4 shorter fiberglass rods with nothing on the ends)
- 4 metal connector fittings. (8 for 24' and 26' blimp)
- 8 plastic screws and wing nuts

A) Connect two fiberglass rods together (ends without rubber caps) using a metal connector fitting. Place one end of the rod through the sleeve and into the corner pocket of the tail fin. Bend the rod to fit around the fin. Place remaining end into the other pocket at the opposite end of the tail fin. (24' and 26' blimps require the smaller rods in between the larger rods) *see illustration # 1*

B) When all fins are completed, attach them to the velcro fin strips located on the tail of the blimp. Use the screws and wing nuts to secure the fins to the body of the blimp.

STEP 2) BRACING THE FINS

You will need:

- 16 fiberglass rods with velcro covered ends

A) On each fin there are four velcro clasps, two on each side. Take the fiberglass rods (with velcro ends) and attach one end to the fin and the other to the corresponding velcro clasp on the body of the blimp between the fins. *See illustration #2*

INFLATING AND LAUNCHING YOUR BLIMP

1) At the end of your tether line there is a safety clasp. Attach clasp to metal ring on the harness attached to the underside of the blimp.

* Only one tether line is required. Do not attach additional tether lines to any other part of the blimp as this will put undue stress on the fabric and cause the blimp to tear.

2) **Before inflating the blimp** secure the tether line to heavy, secure object. An assistant at this point would be very helpful.

3) Using the inflation tube (plastic tube with metal nozzle) screw the metal nozzle tightly into the valve of the helium cylinder. Insert the plastic end of the hose about 12 inches into the valve on the underside of the blimp.

4) When inflating the blimp, open tap on helium tank **slowly** and **carefully**. If helium is opened too quickly it may damage your blimp or cause the hose to whiplash. This can be very dangerous, so please be careful. Also if the hose starts to ice, reduce the flow of helium.

5) **Do not fill the blimp up taut.** Helium will expand or contract in hot or cold weather so make sure when you fill your blimp you can push your hand into the blimp 3 or 4 inches.

Now is the time to attach your optional lighting system or banner *see instructions on page 8*

6) When the blimp is full and ready to launch, let the line out slowly. This will protect you from rope burns.

DEFLATING YOUR BLIMP

If you choose to deflate your blimp, the fastest way is to use a vacuum cleaner. Open the inflation nozzle and cover with a vacuum cleaner hose to draw out the helium. If you do not have a vacuum with a hose attachment apply pressure on the blimp until it is completely deflated.

TAKING CARE OF YOUR BLIMP

If you take good care of your blimp it could last several years. Inspect your blimp on occasion. Check your tether line; if it becomes frayed or gets cut, replace it immediately. We stock blimp materials for replacement when needed. When storing blimps indoors don't drag fins on the ground this will cause them to wear out quickly. Keep blimp away from sharp objects that may damage or put a hole in the material.

REPAIRING YOUR BLIMP

We warranty seams and parts on your blimp for one year. If you should accidentally tear the blimp, we include a patch kit that consists of extra blimp material and a tube of glue. When repairing small holes or rips, be careful not to get any glue on the inside of the blimp or you will glue one side of the blimp to the other. Allow glue to become tacky before attaching patch to blimp. Also make sure the patch is glued flat so there are no little holes that could cause air to leak out. Allow 8 hours for glue to completely dry.

If the patch kit cannot repair the damage to your blimp, ship back to us and we will quickly repair it for you. Remember California Blimps is not responsible for damage done to the blimp because of mishandling or misuse.

For repairs, ship only the body of the blimp to:

California Blimps
738 W. 17th Street #D
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Freight must be prepaid.

OPTIONAL LIGHTING SYSTEM

Fill the blimp with helium before you install the lighting system.

Do not touch the light bulb with your bare fingers, as this will reduce the life of the light.

In order to keep the extension cord from tangling, unwind the cord and spread it out before you attach the light to the blimp. Place the light bulb into the light wand. Simply unscrew the light valve cap (located on the belly of the blimp near the inflation valve) and insert the light wand by screwing it into the light valve. Run the cord through the safety clasp that is attached to the harness of the blimp.

Allow slack in the extension cord while the blimp is in flight.

The extension cord is not designed to act as a tether for the blimp.

NOTICE: This lighting system is designed for United States 110 VOLT power supply.

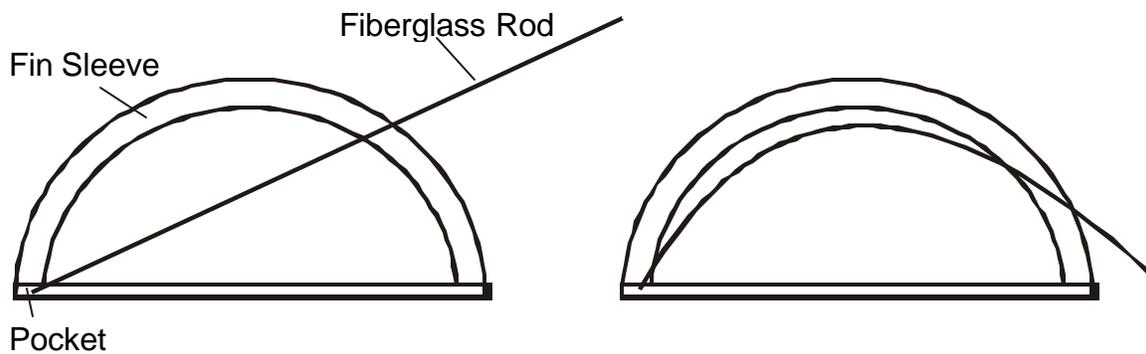
OPTIONAL BANNER

Attach the banner by running the tether line through the handles of the banner. Tie knots with the tether around the handles of the banner.

See illustration #3

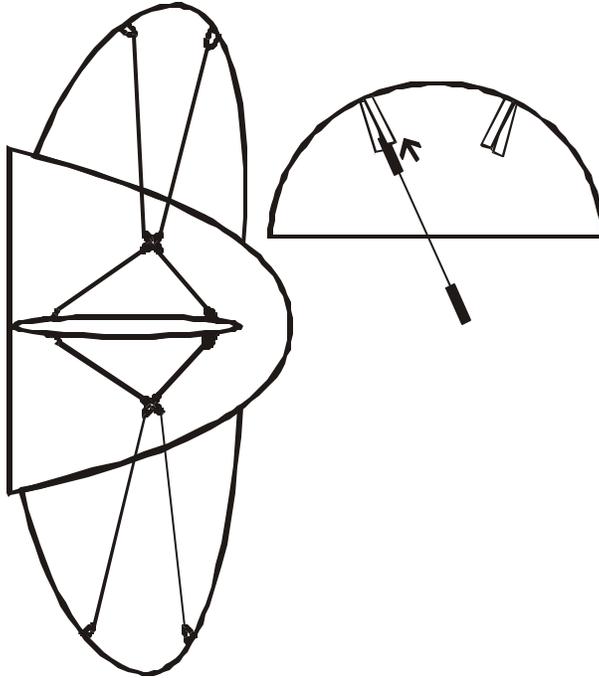
ILLUSTRATIONS

#1 – Tail fin Assembly



The 15' & 20' blimps use two rods and 1 metal connector fitting.
The 24' & 26' blimps use three rods and two metal connector fittings.
Attach the rods together using the connector fittings and slide through the sleeve and into the pocket of the fin.

#2 – Bracing the fins



Insert velcro rods into corresponding velcro tabs on the blimp and fins.

#3 – Attaching the Banner

