

The sideslip

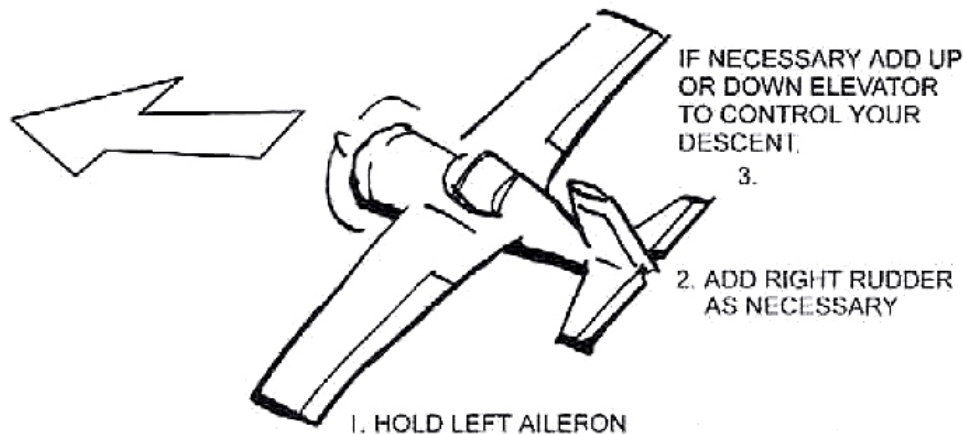
From RCSD

The sideslip is a very handy maneuver that can get you safely out of trouble. Let's say that you're coming in for a landing and Ooops! You're too high, but *you're* too low to do a 360 and make another approach; your only option is to dive or to do a sideslip. Sometimes when you point the nose down you pick up a lot of speed, which can cause you to miss your landing strip. What to do? The sideslip, of course!

With a gentle sideslip you can lose height without gaining a lot of speed and safely land your model. If your model is a real floater, you will find the sideslip to be a very gentle and manageable maneuver. If on the other hand your model flies rather on the fast side, the sideslip might be a bit more difficult. In either case, the sideslip will sooner or later come in very handy.

Most of the time the sideslip is used when you're coming in for a landing, so let's run through it as though you are on a landing approach. Let's say you are doing a left hand circuit and have just lined up on the runway with your left wing tilted down (and your right wing up). You've not yet leveled out from your turn. At this point, add right rudder, and hold left ailerons so that the wings stay tilted (as much as 45°).

Each model will require a different proportion of ailerons and rudder to hold the wings at a stationary tilt in the sideslip. It takes just the right combination of ailerons and opposite rudder to hold the wings steady.



When sideslipping, some models point their noses up and some pitch down; consequently you will need to add either up or down elevator as necessary in order to maintain a nice gentle descent. If you're lucky enough to have a model which will sideslip with no elevator input, you will find this a very easy maneuver and you will be able to make very controlled and steep descents with ease. If it turns out your model requires a combination of aileron and opposite rudder with either up or down elevator, the sideslip will take a bit more practice to perfect.

I doubt that you have seen many model airplane sideslip. This is very probably because almost nobody ever attempts this maneuver. Hopefully, this introduction will change all that! With just a little bit of practice you should be able to achieve an excellent and spectacular sideslip. And once you get to know this maneuver you will

wonder how you ever landed without it! You will be able to slip your sailplane til just above the ground, then level off and grease it in.