

The Tail Slide

It can be a turnaround maneuver
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Let me introduce you to another good friend, the Tail Slide. If any of you have tried the loop without enough airspeed, gone straight up and fallen back down, you have already gotten a taste of what this maneuver is all about. This stunt is simple but, at the same time, very versatile. First, let's run through the Tail Slide as illustrated.

Here's how to do it. Pick up speed, and with the wings level, give up elevator and go exactly vertical. Let the glider run out of airspeed until falls back down, rotates and points the nose at the ground. Pick up speed and ease in up elevator to level flight. This is not a difficult maneuver, but if you do not enter it with the wings exactly level, when you go vertical the glider will be off center and it will be difficult to keep the wings from turning one way or the other. Remember to keep the wings exactly level throughout this maneuver and you will have no problem with the Tail Slide.

Variations on a Theme

There are other ways to enter, execute and exit a Tail Slide, which makes it one of the handiest of all maneuvers. If you fly it as illustrated, the Tail Slide is not a turnaround maneuver, but with a different exit, it will get you going in the opposite direction

Here's how. Now let's fly through it... Up we go (2); at the top we fall back down (3,4); the nose snaps around and we are heading straight at the ground. Now, instead of up elevator to level flight (5), we give down elevator and head in the opposite direction, now in inverted flight.

