

GLASTAR SERVICE BULLETIN 31

Subject: Flap handle ratchet plate [P/N 602-02001-01 (bare) or 602-02001P01 (plated)]

Applicability: All GlaStar kits with -01 ratchet plates

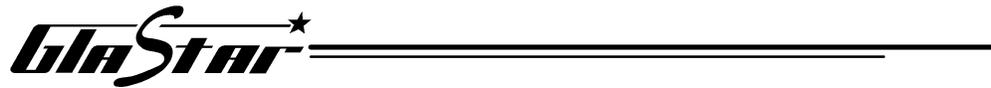
Discussion: As a result of a recent flight in the EAA Young Eagles GlaStar, a potentially serious condition was brought to our attention: the lightening holes in the flap handle ratchet plate are large enough to accommodate human fingers. Fortunately, the Young Eagles pilot noticed just as he was about to deploy the flaps that his passenger had inserted a finger through the ratchet plate, but it is easy to see that serious injury could have resulted had the pilot been less vigilant.

In addition, any object inserted through a ratchet plate hole—be it a finger, a pencil, a headphone lead, etc.—will obviously impede the deployment or retraction of the flaps. While this problem would not be flight-critical, GlaStar pilots should certainly be aware of the possibility that this situation may arise.

Recommended Action: We recommend that one or more of the following actions be taken at the pilot/builder's discretion:

- A) Be aware of the possibility that small objects inserted through the ratchet plate may impede normal flap operation, as well as causing possible injury. Maintain a clean cockpit, in which loose items like pencils and headphone leads are secured as a matter of course. Brief your passengers on this potential hazard and request that they keep their hands clear of the flap handle at all times. Consider installing a warning placard on the instrument panel in front of the passenger's seat.
- B) Construct a flexible boot over the entire ratchet plate. Such a boot could be constructed of rubber, leather or fabric and coordinated with the upholstery in your GlaStar.
- C) Glue or weld plugs into the holes in the ratchet plate. Small plugs of wood or plastic could easily be glued into the holes with super glue or epoxy, or, alternatively, steel plugs could be welded into the holes.

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- d) Replace the -01 ratchet plate with a new, -02 version. The holes will be omitted from the -02 plate, which will be produced when the next run of parts is ordered. We currently anticipate that this run of parts will be in stock by approximately **November 1997**. If you are interested in purchasing this upgraded part, please call Option Sales **after** that date for price and availability.

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