

EXITS



There are three parts to a good exit:

- **Timing**
- **Individual Presentation**
- **Group Presentation**

A great skydive starts with a good exit. Getting the whole group off the plane together allows you to get the jump off to a quick start. Launching the first point requires us to take up grips in the door. This often puts us in compromising positions. The key to getting a good launch is having balance and physically putting the formation on the air. Firstly, knowing where on the hill you want the formation to be, and then putting it there – no matter what!

To make all your exits work every time, everyone must achieve the following:

- Know exactly where the formation is to be in relation to line of flight.
- Be comfortable, balanced and stationary in the door.
- When lined up in the door, look at your opposite, establish your cross-referencing. Even if you cannot get direct eye contact, look in the direction of your clone. Then as the formation hits the relative wind you will have them in your sight.
- Know where you need to be as an individual, present to the relative wind as you launch, don't wait until you are outside.
- Use what you see to make the formation sit exactly where you want it.

Timing

Timing is getting everyone in the group out of the plane at the same instant. Good timing is achieved by having one person initiate an exit count. The person giving the count should use three ways to communicate:-

Audible

Give a loud verbal count, this not only communicates to others around you, but helps with your own rhythm. Not everyone is going to be able to hear your count, that is okay. Others will and everything we can do to help adds up.

Tactile

Give a shake that can be felt. Physical movement is a great form of communication. If you are giving the count, make your shake strong and clear so that there is no mistaking your intentions. If you are not the person giving the count, you should have a heightened awareness of the person who is. Feel every nuance from that person and from the group.

Visual

Along with feeling, the team members should look for movement from the key person. Heighten your awareness so that you see everything. The person giving the count also should communicate visually loudly, ie, vigorously. Be powerful in your communication, though not so much that you put someone off balance. Obvious subtlety is the key.

Individual Presentation

It is important to have both individual presentation and group presentation to the relative wind.

Individual presentation refers to your body's position and attitude to the relative wind. Be sure you are aware of where the wind is coming from as you are lined up in the door and have a plan about presenting your body to it. Know at what angle the rest of the piece will be presented and what heading you will need to have.

Group Presentation

This refers to the presentation of the entire piece to the relative wind. When a group exits the plane, each individual needs to have their own space so they can get clean air for their individual presentation. If we don't get this clean air then we are immediately put in another burble and this will create a funnel. Basically it works like this, the point needs to jump up and away from the centre and the tail needs to drop down and away from centre. Imagine a piece of clear plastic set up on a 45° angle horizontal to the wing dropping down from the front edge of the door. If the front person goes up and the tail goes down then everyone will get clean air and the piece will fly.

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Main 8-way launch picture

shows good group presentation. You can see the line of flight is straight up the centre of the formation, which means no rotation. You can see the box out, where everyone has their own air to fly in and they are being strong to make sure the formation is flying nicely before they move to the first point. (8-way is a little different to 4-way, you typically launch a chunk, then transition to the first point.)

In the picture below, imagine a piece of clear plastic set up on a 45° angle from the aircraft wing, dropping down like a slide across the front of the door. This camera angle shows the inside divers are perfectly presented, exactly on the same piece of plastic. The outside floaters have a big dip in the centre, this could be due to the third floater not getting down and away, or from the point person, who needs to get his hips higher, probably a combination of the two factors.



In the 4-way launch below, each of the flyers are on different planes, not on the same piece of plastic. It looks like the inside centre had trouble getting out, maybe even hit the back of the door. Each exit is unique as for the position out the door, the 2-way on the left wants to be angled between 2 & 8 o'clock. This formation over-rotated and they are at 10 & 4 o'clock.



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