HOW TO SET UP A PACIFIER OR PARTY BALLOON SYSTEM FOR FF GAS

The part of this article concerning pacifier systems was published in the March/April 2006 issue of the Winding Stooge, of the Nebraska Free Flighters, Hank Sperzel, Editor.

The part concerning party balloon systems was a result of extensive tutoring of this editor by Bob Junk.

For those who fly gas and have never used pacifiers (PFFT Ed Note: You cannot use pacifiers on reed valve engines. For those, see below.) here is a "How to do it article." Once you try it you'll wonder why you waited so long. You will need a nipple or two, available from Hank Nystrom, "Texas Timers" or from Lee Campbell of Campbell Custom Kits, (or from your friendly auto parts store — they are used as connectors in the windshield washer systems of cars, PFFT Ed.) and of course some pacifiers that are available from Fisher Scientific™ 1-800-766-7000. Ask for Latex Bulbs 1ML. Here is a step by step.

1. Slip the pacifiers over the nipple and wrap it with a small rubber band to keep it from slipping off under pressure.' You could use thin wire or a small tie wrap but I have found the rubber band works best. (PFFT Ed note: Take the thing off when you finish flying — fuel doesn’t do well on rubber.)

2. Put a piece of fuel tubing on long enough to reach through the fuel cut off and the NV, don't worry that it's to long you'll have plenty of fuel pressure at the NV.

3. Fill the fuel syringe with fuel, leave a little room for air. Fill the pacifier with fuel and draw the
air out that is trapped in the pacifier, and then clamp the fuel line off. I use a small alligator clamp.

4. Close the NV off and put the fuel line on the NV. Remove the clamp, holding the engine upside down, slowly open the NV till fuel starts to drip from the venturi, then clamp off the fuel line.

Hook up the battery, pinch off the fuel line with your thumb and remove the clamp and chuck the engine in the starter. With the engine turning over remove your thumb. The engine should start almost immediately. It shouldn’t take much tweaking to have the engine running at top RPM. Once the NV is set you shouldn’t have to mess with it for the rest of the year. Oh, if you find you’re burning plugs, back off the NV just a tad, your just a bit lean.

PFFT Editor: The technique described in Hank’s article will work just as well for reed valve engines with the exception that the pacifier creates too much pressure for them. For reed valve engines the device to use is a “penny” balloon which you can buy at party stores. Get the smallest they have, which usually come in packages of several sizes.