



VECTOR 3 & MICRON PACKING TIPS & TRICKS

Order of Importance:

1. Functionally safe and airworthy
2. Comfortable
3. Good looking

Whether you pro-pack over the shoulder or on the floor:

- Lay the canopy out on its side and pull all of the cell's high points even before starting the pack job.
- This reduces the amount of work required to flake the canopy and produce a neat, orderly pack job with good bulk distribution.

Make all of your folds as neat and wrinkle free as possible.

- Less wrinkles = less bulk=easier, neater pack job

Use packing weights and tension techniques to keep the canopy under control at all times.

- Develop handling methods which allow you to work on one section of the canopy at a time without disturbing the rest.

Apply tension along your fold lines when flaking the canopy.

- This causes the canopy material to fold at the line of tension, allowing better control.

Keep all suspension lines in the middle, with the canopy material evenly spread to the sides.

- The center cell's center seam should run down the middle of the pack job to ensure the center cell bulk is evenly distributed.

Width reduction folds should produce a folded canopy that is approximately 2 inches wider than the freebag.

Use the center of the tail to cocoon the pack job.

- The tail should help isolate the steering lines from the leading edge of the canopy when packed as shown in the packing video of the Vector 3 M-Series Micron Owner's Manual.

Pull the tail down carefully.

- Do not pull slack into the "D" suspension lines.
- Do not distort the top portion of the flaked canopy.
- Cocoon the pack job carefully to avoid moving any suspension lines or steering lines from the middle.

Make all "S" folds with packing paddles.

- This establishes precise fold lines.
- This also maintains line tension within the packed canopy.

Spread the slider grommets apart and stagger them.

- Be sure the grommets are lying flat relative to the reserve pack tray.
- This distributes the bulk over a wider area, minimizing lumps in the pack job.
- Spread them apart 4 inches if the rig is Cypres-equipped.



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- This allows the pack job to mold around the Cypres unit and reduce it's protrusion into the main container
- It also prevents the unit from contacting the hard grommets if the rig is dropped

Leave 2-3 inches of folded canopy protruding out of the mouth of the bag.

- This helps fill the corners of the reserve container.
- This also helps prevent excessive bulk distribution in the center of the pack tray.

Do not rely on the container to shape the pack job or hide poor bulk distribution!

The bagged canopy should reflect the desired shape of the rig for best results.

- Putting the canopy in the bag is best described as:
"Pulling the bag onto the pack job, not putting the pack job into the bag"
- It should be square at the bottom, wedge shaped in profile, and thin at the top.
- When pressing down on the pack job, it should be firm at the mouth of the bag and get progressively softer as you get closer to the bridle attachment point.

Make neat and orderly line stows.

- Use protective strips on the bag Velcro to protect the lines from snags.
- Make the line stows the same width as the line stow pocket.
- Distribute the lines evenly from the bottom of the pocket to the top to minimize bulk.
- Leave 12" of line unstowed between the bag and riser ends.

Use a 3/4" opening in the reserve closing loop.

- This allows a temporary pin to remain in place while the loop is pulled through the reserve flap grommets.
- It gives you a chance to determine if you can close the flap prior to unpinning the container, at which time you are committed to closing the flap or losing the pack job.
- The 3/4" opening will be contained within the stacked grommets, minimizing any risk of canopy material from becoming lodged in the loop

When using a Cypres closing loop, use two Cypres pull-up cords.

- Two cords will hold the eye of the loop open wider to ease pin insertion.
- The second cord is inserted after the closing loop is through the loop cutter, as two will not fit.
- Another option is to finger trap one cord into another to produce a fatter pull-up cord.

Pre-stretch Cypres closing loops.

- Pre-stretched loops will behave more consistently than unstretched loops.
- Consistent loop behavior combined with consistent packing techniques will allow you to establish known loop lengths for different canopy/container combinations.

When preparing the container to receive the canopy, turn the upper reserve wrap around corners inside out.

- This allows the reserve bag and canopy to drop straight down into the container.
- It also makes it easier to fill the bottom corners of the container.
- Leave the upper corners turned inside out until it is time to close flaps #4 and #5.



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Place the reserve risers to the far side edges of the pack tray.

- This places the bulk of the toggle assembly to the outer edges, allowing the backpad to lay comfortably flat against the jumper's back.
- Fanning the risers slightly with the rear risers to the outside will help with bulk distribution, and minimize lumps in the backpad.

Securely position the reserve bag before inserting the top corners.

- Pull up on the closing loop and press the reserve bag against the reserve pack tray.
- This will properly position the reserve bag in the reserve pack tray.
- Place your knee on the center of the reserve bag, over the closing loop to hold it in position while you work the corners of the reserve container around the bag.
- Your knee will prevent the reserve bag from moving out of position.
- Leave your knee in position until the #1 kicker flap is nearly closed.

Check reserve riser placement before closing flap #2

- Ensure that the risers are at the edge of the pack tray with the rear riser fanned to the outside.
- Adjust the risers so that they lay flat against the yoke or shoulder padding.

Hold a packing paddle across the top of the reserve bag and bridle to hold them in position while closing flap #2.

- This prevents the top of the bag from rolling up and creating a lump at the top of the pack job.
- Too much bulk, or lumps at the top of the pack job contribute to uncomfortable fit and reduce the security of the outer riser covers.

Keep all folded reserve pilot chute material within 1.5" of the taped pilot chute top.

- "S" folds in the pilot chute material will produce better launches than rolling the material.
- Keeping the material close to the pilot chute top will help fill the void between the stacked pilot chute spring and the container flaps.

Close both side flaps, #4 and #5, at the same time.

- This prevents the bulk of the pack job from pushing to the side that isn't closed, which then makes it more difficult to close that side.
- By closing both side flaps at the same time, the pack job is evenly compressed from both sides.
- NEVER pull the closing loop through the grommets to line them up!
 - **Work both side flap grommets into place with the pull up cord BEFORE pulling the closing loop through.**
 - This prevents the loop from getting pinched in between the grommets and subsequently damaged.

Always count your tools when finished!

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