

# ROUSE-TECH

## EL GRANDE INSTRUCTION MANUAL

### INTRODUCTION

The ROUSE-TECH CD3 *El Grande* unit is designed for deploying parachutes and recovery items in high power and amateur rockets at any altitude. From sea level to space. The *El Grande* can be used in both "low altitude" and "high altitude" configurations. The low level application is for flights under 20,000 ft. where there are no problems with the burning of a pyrogen, in the case of the CD3 *El Grande* unit- black powder. (Pyrodex or 777 brand smokeless powders can be used instead of black powder. See manual for information). For flights over 20,000 feet, the *El Grande* can be prepared for high altitude flights by "potting" the electric match heads with epoxy into the electric match holder and using Krytox lube to seal the o-rings. After the flight the epoxy is drilled out along with the spent e-match from the holder with a 1/4" bit.

As in any type of ejection and recovery system, only after ground testing to confirm desired results, should you proceed with the flight. Remember to always ground test the rocket to insure that the ejection of recovery items and separation of rocket components is adequate. The use of the *El Grande* system eliminates the need for black powder or other pyrogen based ejection charges in rockets. These charges are dangerous and injury has occurred to people from the charges going off accidentally. Another benefit of the CO2 system is the elimination of Nomex protection parachute cloths and recovery line protection sleeves. These items often consume valuable recovery volume and never completely protect the recovery items from the burning of the pyrogen- black powder. Your expensive parachutes and recovery items can now be used many years with no damages.

A year of research and testing went into the CD3 unit and *El Grande*. From the initial tests conducted to determine exactly what was happening at high altitudes we discovered that not even a Davey Fire electric match would completely burn at altitudes of 55,000 ft. and above. Pyrogens placed in contact with the matches would not completely burn either, with noticeable drop offs in burn rates starting at 20,000 ft..

Many different types of pyrogens were tested including nitro-cellulose based, black powder, Pyrodex, Igniter Man pyrogen, potassium based pyrogens, Clear Shot, Red Dot, Blue Dot and "777 brand" pyrogens. Each exhibited different characteristics in their burning and burn rates. However, the common denominator was that none worked in vacuums of 3" Hg and lower. (Roughly 55,000 ft..) All of these compounds are pressure dependent for their burn characteristics. The lower the pressure, the slower the burn. (Burn rate co-efficient). There was a significant drop off in gasses produced at approximately 20,000 ft. (13" Hg). Incomplete combustion occurs at an alarming rate above this.

After some assistance from NASA, the units design could be finalized to incorporate both the needs of low altitude flights and high altitude flyers. At high altitudes, NASA pointed out that there can be no burn in a vacuum due to the lack of air molecules needed to transfer heat to sustain burning. (Heat transfer in both convection and conduction. Radiation plays little in the role of sustaining combustion). Anything that burns must maintain its individual ignition temperature to sustain the burn. At these high altitudes, the ignition temperature is not maintained, nor can it be transferred due to the lack of a medium to transfer (conduct) temperature- air molecules.

Another factor that contributes to the high altitude burn problem is that of cooling gasses. As altitude increases, so does the cooling of the expanding gasses due to the pressure differential. The expanding combustion gasses expand so fast that they cool, like that of a CO2 cartridge or air hose. This cooling effects the burning of the pyrogen. At high altitudes, the cooling extinguishes the burn as the cooling and expansion of gasses lowers the ignition temperature to below that of the ignition temperature of the pyrogen.

The physical characteristics of the pyrogen are also critical to the burn. The powders used in rocketry are granular and when they burn they "spray" the adjoining grains out. At low altitudes, the flame front and ignition temperature keeps up with the moving particles and a complete burn is accomplished. These ejection containers fail prior to all the pyrogen being burnt, with particles burning out side the canister. Keeping the granules in a confined area to insure complete combustion by maintaining pressure, is whats needed to produce the gasses needed to separate the rockets components for these canister types of applications.

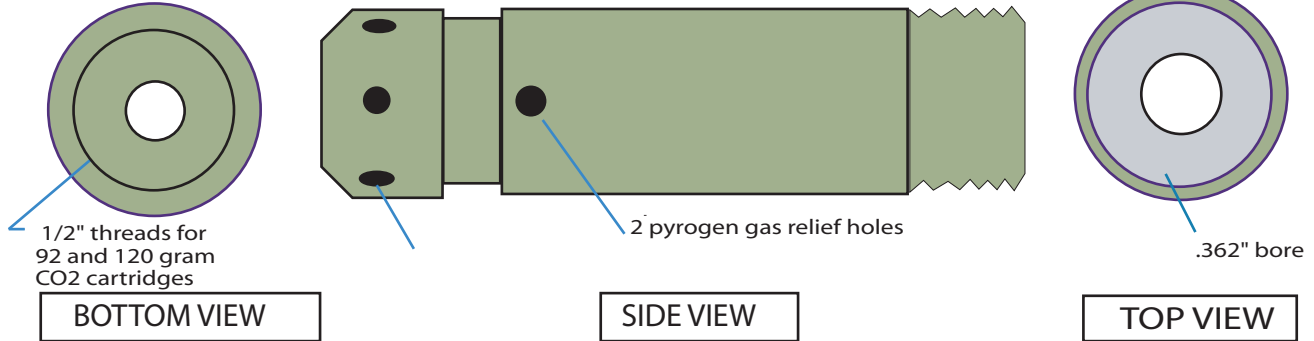
It is the burn rate of a pyrogen (BP) and the physical properties of atmosphere that make the design of a deployment device difficult. For these reasons, ROUSE-TECH recommends 20,000 ft.. as the cut-off altitude for successful deployment of any pyrogen based ejection system. Over 20,000 ft.. the lack of air drastically effects any compounds ability to burn. There is no magical altitude where things "don't work" as it is far more complicated than that, when dealing with different pyrogens, containers, air pressure etc.

Weather you are launching a rocket to 4,000 ft.. and wish to have a high tech system to compliment your rocket and electronic components, or if you are launching a rocket to 80,000 ft., you now have a system to do so safely and without damage to your expensive rocket and recovery components.

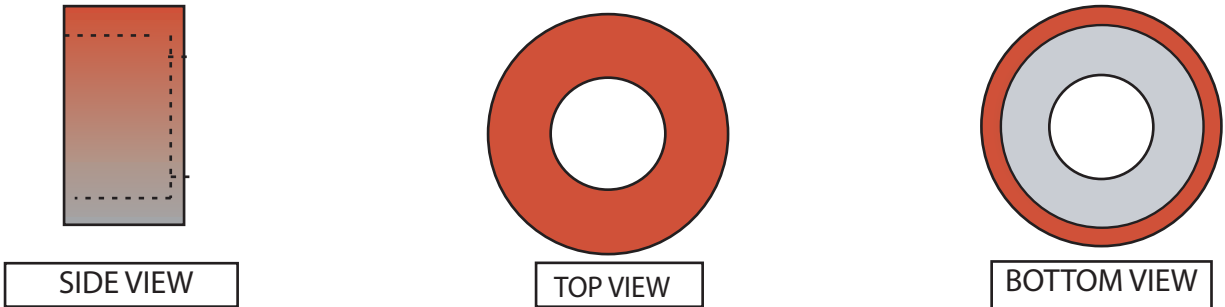


# EL GRANDE PARTS LIST

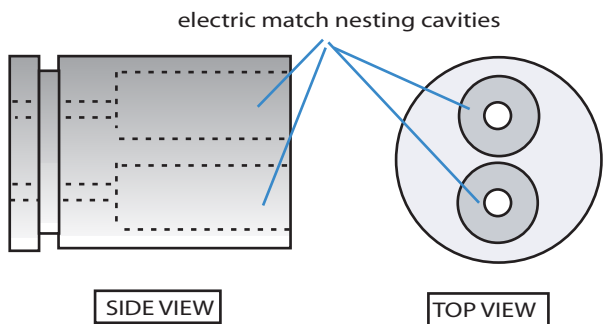
## CASING- HARD ANODIZED



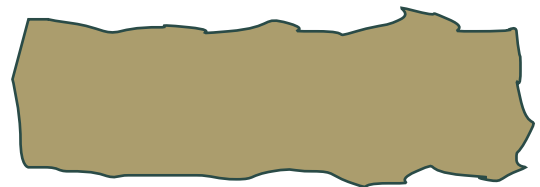
## CAP- red anodized aluminum



## ELECTRIC MATCH HOLDER- stainless steel

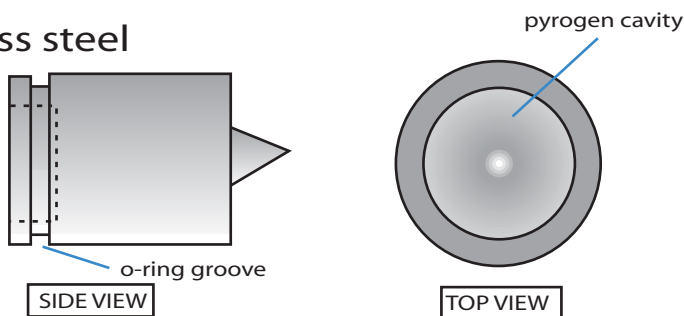


## NOMEX SLEEVE



## EL GRANDE PLUNGER---

stainless steel



## VITON O-RINGS (2)



# MOUNTING DETAILS

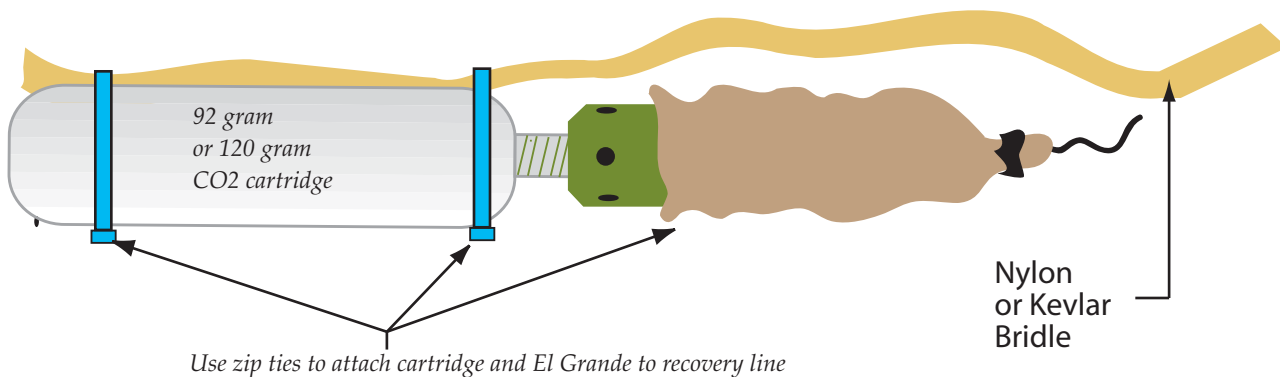
## *El Grande*

The El Grande can be mounted on the recovery lines, a technique called "bridle" mounting or it can be attached to other parts of the rocket as the builder deems appropriate. Like in the black powder canister method, the El Grande should be placed below the recovery components- ie. parachute and recovery lines. Recovery components and parachutes should always be "above" the El Grande unit to insure they are pushed out by the gasses. Your recovery compartment MUST be airtight to contain the CO2 gasses

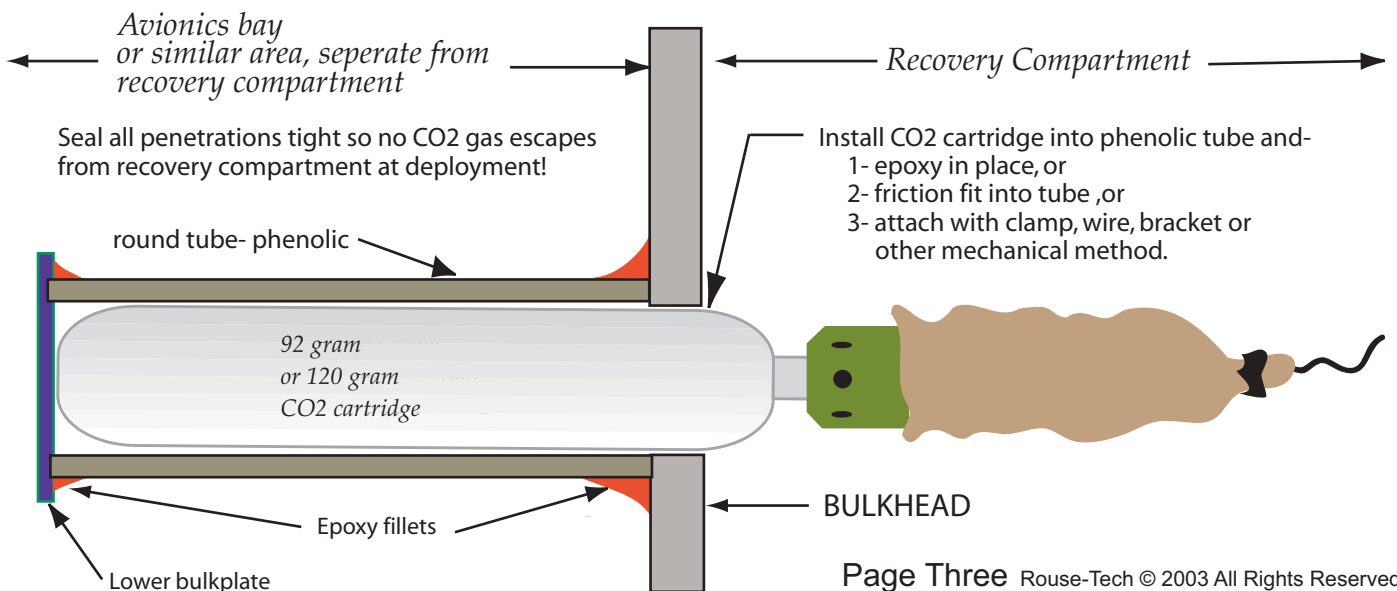
and not allow them to escape through leaky interfaces. This means tight fits on couplers too. Remember, using the CD3 El Grande eliminates the need for Nomex protection cloths, shock cord protection cloth and wadding. All components can be placed in the recovery area and rest against the unit without concern for damages from burning. Make sure that all electric match wire leads are secure so they don't tangle with recovery components.

### BRIDLE MOUNT

The CD3 El Grande unit can be attached to recovery lines. Make sure to conceal electric match wire leads so they do not tangle with recovery items.



### RECESSED MOUNT



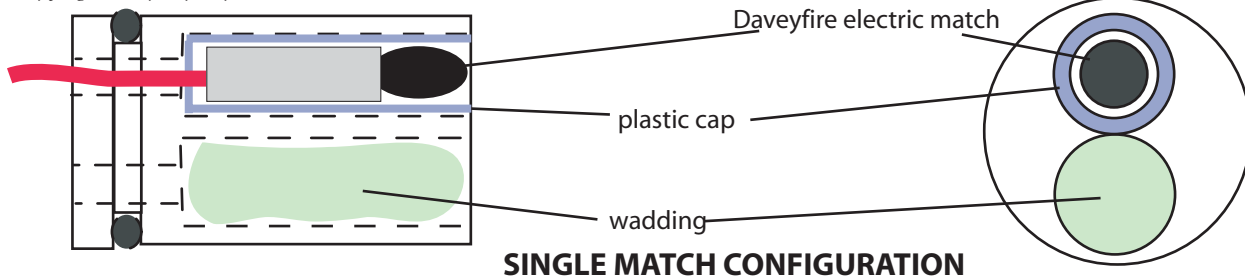
# EL GRANDE - below 20,000 feet

**STEP 1-** Place a coating of Teflon lube (found at Radio Shack and other places) on the 2 o-rings and place a liberal amount inside the bore of the CD3 unit. Install the two o-rings on the plunger and electric match holder. Slide the plunger into the greased casing bore with the point of the plunger pointing inwards. You will feel a slight resistance when the o-ring reached the casing bore. Push into the casing about 1/8". (If you push the plunger into the casing farther than +- 1/8", the placement of black powder into the pyrogen cavity can be difficult). Place the black powder into the pyrogen cavity. Fill with black powder until it is level with the top of the cavity. It is not "critical" to be perfect. If you end up with a little too much in the designed cavity, it will not hurt the operation. Set aside and keep vertical to insure the pyrogen does not spill. **NOTE-** Pyrodex and 777 brand smokeless powders can be used instead of black powder, if twice the amount is used as allowed in the stainless steel plunger pyrogen cavity. This can be measured by using 1/2 cup of the pyrogen scoop cup as provided in the kit. Do not use more than 1/2

cupfull!!!

**STEP 2-** Check the Ohms resistance of the Daveyfire electric match(s) you will be using in the flight. The CD3 unit is designed to accommodate the Daveyfires sold with the plastic cap on the tip covering the match head. If you are not using this type or another brand, you **MUST** cover the metallic soldered end of the match with tape or other item to prevent the match shorting out against the stainless steel body of the holder. Unwind the electric match wire leads and feed them through the large hole and into the small hole at the bottom of the e-match holder. Pull the wire on the Daveyfire through the holder until the plastic cap rests on the bottom of the cavity. There will be part of the plastic cap protruding from the end of the stainless steel holder. Trim off flush with holder with razor knife.

**STEP 3-** If using one e-match, the second cavity must be plugged with wadding or paper towel to prevent the pyrogen from spilling into the vacant cavity and to contain the combustion gas. Fill the second cavity fully with



**SINGLE MATCH CONFIGURATION**

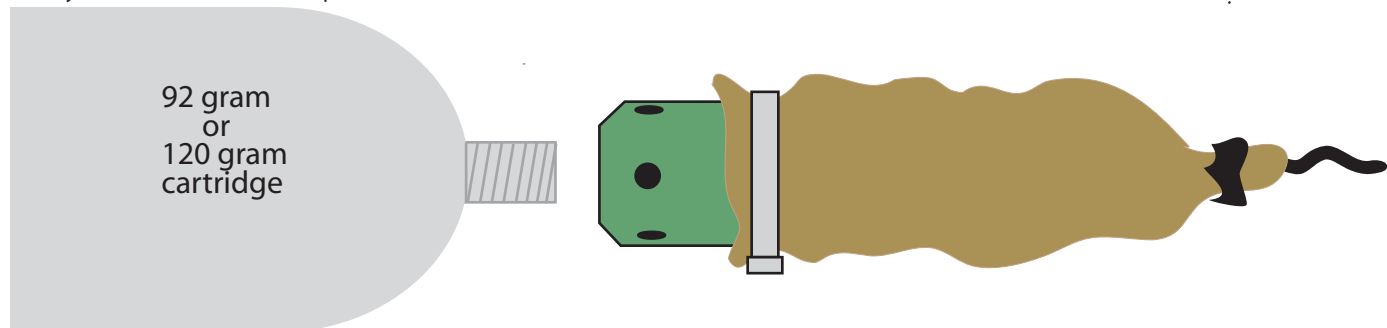
**Step 4-** Hold the casing with the installed plunger and pyrogen firmly with one hand, keep upright, and push the stainless steel electric match holder with the installed Daveyfire(s) into the casing. The plunger will also go into the casing further as the holder slides in. You will again feel a slight resistencs when the o-ring contacts the casing.

**Step 5-** Slide the red anodized, knurled cap over the wires and onto the now assembled casing. Screw onto the casing. **DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN!**

**Step 6-** Slide the Nomex sleeve over the assembly and past the knurled cap. Slide until the end of the sleeve is over the groove on the casing. Secure the sleeve onto the assembly, at the groove with a tie-lock. The 4 CO2 gas escape holes will be exposed and the 2 pyrogen relief holes should be covered by the sleeve. Place masking tape to close the other end of the sleeve around the wires.



**Step 7-** Tightly screw the CO2 cartridge into the CD3 El Grande unit. Connect electric match wires to flight computers) and secure so they are not loose in the compartment.



# HIGH ALTITUDE USE

- ABOVE 20,000 FEET

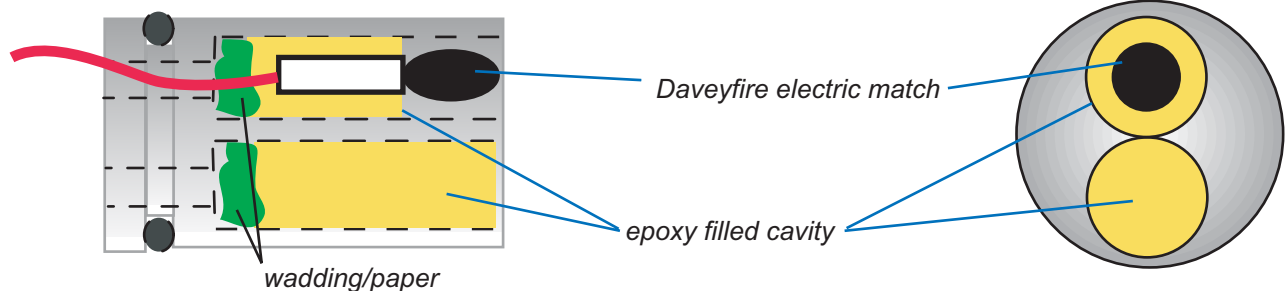
## *El Grande*

**STEP 1-** Place a generous coating of Krytox or Teflon grease on the two o-rings and inside the bore of the CD3 casing. The o-rings and the grease seal the cavity to keep the air inside. With no air or even a small amount of air, the pyrogen will not burn, even in the small cavity. Krytox will stay thick when it heats up, where the Teflon based grease gets runny as temperature goes up. This can be a concern to rocketeers launching in the summer when rockets are often on the launch pad and in the sun. The Krytox will maintain a proper seal even in elevated temperatures. You must fill the o-ring grooves in the plunger and holder with the sealant grease to insure a proper seal at the inside diameter of the o-ring too.

Install the o-rings. Slide the plunger into the casing bore approximately 1/8". You will feel a slight resistance when the o-ring contacts the casing.

Place the pyrogen inside the pyrogen cavity. Fill until level with the top of the cavity. Set aside and make sure not to tip over and spill the pyrogen.

**NOTE-** Pyrodex and 777 brand smokeless powders can be used instead of black powder, if twice the amount is used as allowed in the stainless steel plunger pyrogen cavity. This can be measured by using 1/2 cup of the pyrogen scoop cup as provided in the kit. Do not use more than 1/2 cupfull!!!



### **SINGLE MATCH CONFIGURATION SHOWN**

**STEP 5-** Place the casing on a flat surface in an upright position (the plunger and pyrogen already installed) and push the stainless steel electric match holder with the installed electric match(s) into the casing. You will feel a slight resistance when the o-ring contacts the casing. Push until flush.

**STEP 6-** Slide the red anodized CD3 El Grande cap over the wires and screw onto the casing. DO NOT OVER TIGHTEN.

**STEP 2-** Check the Ohm's resistance of the Daveyfire. electric match(s) you will be using. Unwind the wire leads and remove all kinks. Remove the plastic cap from the head of the Daveyfire by sliding down the wire leads and discard. Push the wire leads into the electric match cavity and out the smaller hole on the bottom. Pull through all the way until only 1" of the match head is left sticking out of the end. Bend the wire over so you can pack wadding or paper towel into the hole around the wire at the bottom. Pack the bottom 3/16" of the cavity. This serves two purposes. First it keeps the epoxy from dripping out of the cavity when potting. Second, when drilling out the cavity after the flight, the paper allows the point of the drill bit to hit the paper before it hits the flat bottom of the cavity. You will know when you hit the paper with the drill. Still, be careful not to hit the bottom!

**STEP 3-** "POTTING THE ELECTRIC MATCH IN EPOXY". Mix a small amount of 5 minute epoxy and fill the cavity about 1/2 way. Straighten the match wire and pull the match head down into the cavity until its flush with the end of the stainless steel holder. Your epoxy should cover all of the electric match except the pyrogen dipped tip. (Usually black). Do not get epoxy on the tip. The goal here is to seal the cavity up to the match head and not get epoxy on the match head.

**STEP 4-** If using one match in the flight, place wadding or paper towel inside the other cavity about 1/2 way and fill the remainder with epoxy to seal the cavity.

**STEP 7-** Slide the Nomex sleeve over the assembly past the knurled cap. Continue to slide until the end of the sleeve is over the groove on the casing. Secure the Nomex with a zip tie.

The 4 CO2 gas escape holes will be exposed and the two pyrogen escape holes will be covered by the Nomex. Place a piece of tape around the open end of the Nomex sleeve to close the other end around the wires.

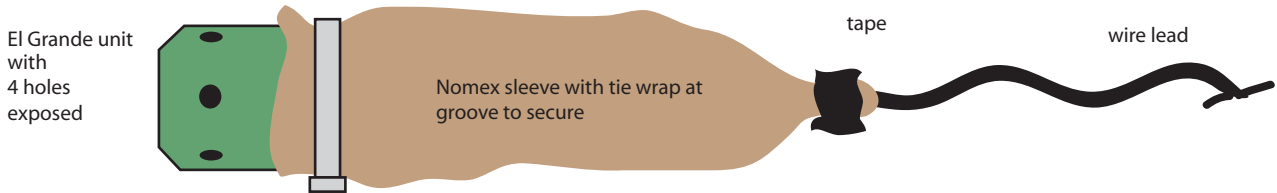
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**HIGH ALTITUDE USE** - above 20,000 feet

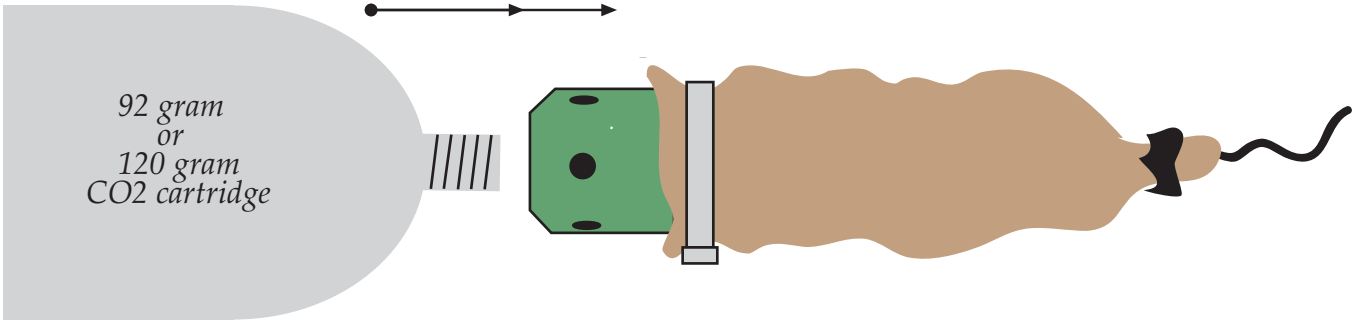
# El Grande

Continued

Your CD3 unit should now look like this-



**STEP 8-** Tightly screw the CO2 cartridge into the CD3 unit.



**STEP 9-** Secure the electric match wires so they don't tangle with any of the recovery items.

**NOTES-**

The CD3 El Grande unit should always be cleaned right after use. Black powder residue is harmful to aluminum and stainless steel if left uncleaned. Be careful not to use emery cloth or sandpaper to clean residue as these will scratch the protective anodizing inside bore of the unit.

In high altitude use, on the stainless steel electric match holder, the epoxy must be drilled out after use. Use a 1/4" bit (.250"), being careful not to drill too deep.

O-rings should be new when launching in high altitude use. O-rings can be re-used in low altitude use if no damage is evident. O-rings are important to contain the black powder gasses or else they escape around the plunger and electric match holder. The residue from the black powder will seize the parts in the casing bore if gasses pass through!

Always take care when removing the plunger. Do not damage the point on the plunger. Push gently with a dowel or other object

Always use Rouse-Tech CO2 cartridges. Other brands may use thicker caps or different thread dimensions! This can cause a failure due to an unacceptably small puncture size!!



## PRODUCT DISCLAIMER AND LIMIT OF LIABILITY

Rouse-Tech has designed the RT unit for rocket parachute deployment in hobby rockets only. Other uses and applications where gas generation is needed, using the RT unit, have not been identified. Do not use this device in any other application. NEVER place more pyrogen in the unit than specified.

Purchaser and user agrees to hold harmless Rouse-Tech for any and all claims, actions, debits, liabilities, judgments, costs, and attorney costs arising, claimed on account of, or other action arising from use of this product, for property damages, injuries and death.

Rocket launching activities are a dangerous activity and acknowledged as so by purchaser.

Rouse-Tech products have not been tested by any agency, organization or entity for certification, approval, rating or qualification.

Extent of liability will be limited to the cost of the product.



Altitude (ft)	Pressure (in. Hg)	Temp. (F.)	Density - slugs per cubic foot
0	29.92	59.0	0.002378
1,000	28.86	55.4	0.002309
2,000	27.82	51.9	0.002242
3,000	26.82	48.3	0.002176
4,000	25.84	44.7	0.002112
5,000	24.89	41.2	0.002049
6,000	23.98	37.6	0.001988
7,000	23.09	34.0	0.001928
8,000	22.22	30.5	0.001869
9,000	21.38	26.9	0.001812
10,000	20.57	23.3	0.001756
11,000	19.79	19.8	0.001701
12,000	19.02	16.2	0.001648
13,000	18.29	12.6	0.001596
14,000	17.57	9.1	0.001545
15,000	16.88	5.5	0.001496
16,000	16.21	1.9	0.001448
17,000	15.56	-1.6	0.001401
18,000	14.94	-5.2	0.001355
19,000	14.33	-8.8	0.001310
20,000	13.74	-12.3	0.001267
25,000	11.10	-30.15	
30,000	8.89	-47.98	
35,000	7.04	-68.72	
40,000	5.54	-69.70	
45,000	4.35	-69.70	
50,000	3.43	-69.70	
55,000	2.69	-69.70	
60,000	2.12	-69.70	
65,000	1.67	-69.70	
70,000	1.31	-69.70	
75,000	1.03	-69.70	
80,000	0.81	-69.70	
85,000	0.64	-64.80	
90,000	0.50	-56.57	
95,000	0.40	-48.34	
100,000	0.32	-40.11	