

# GETTING THE MAX OUT OF YOUR CAT GLIDER LAUNCH HANDLE

By Bob Thoren

Behold my latest invention!! It's a Catapult Glider launch handle on steroids. It meets the 6-inch maximum allowed length and is legal for competition. I've enclosed 6 inches of the loop inside the handle so I can increase the stretch to near max using Tan II and easily to max with FAI or Champion black rubber. Max stretch means more launch altitude. Without this aid I can only get 75% of max stretch and probably less than 50% of max energy since most of the energy is in the last 25% of the pull.

I made the launch handle out of a piece of flared 3/4 inch schedule 40 PVC pipe. Three-quarter inch schedule 40 tubing is really a bit over 1 inch OD (1.052) with .125" thick walls. Home Depot carries it in 10' lengths with one end flared. For \$3, I can cut off the flared end and either use the rest of the tube for blast tubes or toss it out — it is that cheap. The rubber is anchored at the bottom by a #6-32 bolt with brass tubing over it to protect the rubber. The loop passes over a bobbin at the top which acts like a pulley for smooth elongation of the loop. The bobbin is a standard rubber model bobbin I bought years ago but never used.

