DISCOVER KITE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Adapted by B. Fourniere from "une simplissime nacelle photo", written by Maxime Rousselle and first published by "Cerf-Volant club de France" in "Le Lucane n° 130 - December 2009"

My target was to have something as small as possible, as light as possible, as simple as possible, so I could permanently carry it and take photos each time I desire it with my usual digital camera (Canon IXUS 850 IS).

Adapting the camera

With a very light system, there is no remote control. How to take photos? With an intervalometer! It is possible to configure such a device to take a photo every X seconds, with a limited number of



photos. For example, one photo every 10 seconds and 90 photos. You can then let the camera hang for 15 minutes under the kite. The next step will be to select the few good photos among the 90. Only some brands (e.g. Pentax) have such a function embedded in cameras; it doesn't exist in my Canon. But the solution exists with CHDK. This is a software enhancing the firmware that operates on a number of Canon cameras. CHDK is not a permanent firmware upgrade, it is stored on the SD card and you can always easily remove it. More information on the net: http://chdk.wikia.com/ wiki/CHDK_in_Brief. With CHDK the intervalometer has been easily included in the digital camera. Now

we need a rig!

The rig

Criteria for the rig:

- Light, to be usable with any kite able to lift the camera
- Simple, to be easily used directly from the bag
- Safe, no risk for the camera
- Small enough and easy to fold so it can be carried permanently. Every time you need it, you have it
- Strong enough to not be damaged during transportation and use

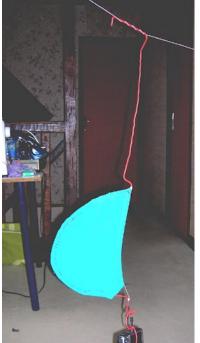
The simple solution is a piece of copper solid core wire, with the plastic sheath, medium size

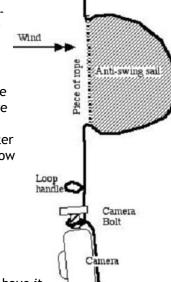
(2.5mm). On the top, make a long hook to attach to the line. So it will not slide on the sheath, several loops of the line are enough. On the bottom, the camera is maintained by a hook

and a screw. The camera (and thus the photo) is upside down, but this is easy to correct on the computer.

A sail, inside a big loop of the wire, with a string as leading edge, prevents lateral swinging of the. Some distance below it, a small loop of the wire allows you to grab on and orient the camera. Take care to maintain the sail parallel to the wind and the kite's line during this. Be sure the last portion of wire is above the center of gravity of the camera to avoid non-controlled swings due to vertical moves. You will quickly learn how to adjust it.

To stow away the rig, you just have to fold it several times. It is better to place it in a specific bag, to be sure you will not find it mixed with bridles. But even without care, nothing will be broken the next time you will need it.





Safety hook

Kite's line

Upper hook

Electric line:

Copper core plastic sheath