

How To Replace the GRS Window Grommet

There is a pop-out window in the rear canopy which provides egress for the GRS ballistic recovery system in the event it is activated. The window is held in place by a rubber grommet. Replacing the window and grommet is a simple procedure but it can be tricky. You'll need the pop-out window, the grommet, a length of string and two people to accomplish it, one inside the airplane and one outside.



In cross-section, the grommet looks like the illustration below. If you are installing the pop-out window with a new grommet, the first step is to cut the grommet to length. First, wrap the grommet around the outside of the pop-out window, snugging the window into the groove in the grommet. Next, mark the length of the grommet and cut it squarely so that, once it is cut, the two ends will butt together snugly, without bulging or overlap.



Cross-Section Through Grommet

Replace the window using the following steps:

- Wrap the pop-out window with the trimmed grommet, inserting the edge of the window all the way into one groove in the grommet.
- Insert the string into what is now the outer groove of the grommet and wrap it completely around, leaving a tail to pull on that is several inches long.
- Position the window into the opening so that, at one point, the outer groove of the grommet receives the edge of the rear canopy, trapping the string between the grommet and the edge of the canopy. This is where the tail of your string should depend.
- Outside person: hold the window in position and press it gently but firmly into place
- Inside person: pull down on the tail of the string, which temporarily deforms the lower lip of the grommet, allowing it to wrap beneath the opening in the rear canopy.
- The inside person will need to pull slowly, and may need to tease the grommet into place using a slim piece of plastic or wood, like a popsicle stick, which will not scratch the plastic canopy.

This is often a trial and error procedure.