

Naval Gunnery Target Balloons Information and Instructions



Killer Banana™ Naval Gunnery Target balloon

Killer Banana™ is a new RADAR reflective target designed to be towed across the wave surface in low to moderate seas, primarily for RADAR acquisition gunnery target practice or air-to-surface gunnery practice.

It is air inflated, bright **YELLOW**, 6.7 x 3 x 2.3 meters (22 x 9½ x 7½ feet) in size. Made with 12 mil PVC, with a stainless steel metal “D-ring” for towing. Target consists of two large pontoon chambers nested inside a large skirt or boot with reinforced keel and tow ring. Between the pontoons is a set of four vertical chambers housing aluminium reflecting panels each at right angles to the other. Target is intended to have some water put inside to weigh down the target and stabilise it during towing; additional water will splash in during use depending on sea state; the amount of water between pontoons is limited by a partial transom at the rear of the target which will spill out excess water.

Target is expected to be towed in moderate sea states up to 20 knots.

Target balloons individually packaged in a cardboard shipping tube or cartons.

Accessories (not included):

- Leaf blower to inflate (such as *Black & Decker* shown, figure 1)
- 15' tie down lines with quick connector clips to secure inflated balloon until deployment.



Leaf blower can be used to quickly inflate target balloon (not included)

Figure 1

General Instructions:

1. Select deck with an area about 30 foot long where there are no sharp objects and where the target can be tied down during & after inflation.
2. Remove the target from its shipping container. Unroll to flat. Fasten handling line to D-ring; tie other end of handling line to something secure. Locate inflation tubes and fittings.
3. Insert blower, exhaust hose or whatever air source is to be used for inflation, into the inflation tubes. Hold inflation tube tight against sides of blower or hose. Begin inflation.
4. As target balloon inflates, have additional personnel hold it against blowing away. Various chambers may be inflated in any order. All inflation points are accessible at any time.
5. Disconnect air source, hand twist inflation tube to hold shut, or seal inflation fitting. Fold over end of inflation tube and tightly roll-up tube except for the last few inches, then “stuff” rolled up tube into itself and into the body of the target (like when inflating an air mattress).
6. Do not over inflate. Balloon should be full, but not bulging.
7. Untie from secure point onboard. Have personnel pick up target to launch over side. See additional instructions for special uses.

Warning: Over inflation will damage the target balloon.

Additional instructions

Line on D-ring should be used for moving or towing target at up to only 20 knots maximum in moderate sea state. Higher speeds may be possible in calm waters, but are not recommended.

Target may be used adrift in higher sea states, but towing in high sea states will damage the target.

To recover an inflated target balloon, slowly pull a line attached to the D-ring until you can access the inflation tube, open the tube and rotate the target to dump out water ballast, **the weight of water ballast can damage the balloon out of the water.**



Figure 2

Hold the fill tube by hand during full operation.



Figure 3

Hold and Roll-up inflation tube except for the last few inches, then “stuff” rolled tube into itself and into target.



Figure 4

Target is intended to be filled with SOME water to act a ballast to slow roll and tumble action in the waves.



Figure 5

D-ring may be used to fasten a line for handling, or recovery. D-ring primary purpose for connection to cable for towing target.



Figure 6

When inflated and ready to use, pickup and launch over the side.