
The Loop

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I remember when I was first learning how to fly and I couldn't wait to break up the boredom of flying around in circles by cranking back on that elevator stick and watching my airplane do a 20' diameter loop. Never mind it was shaped like an egg and the plane was heading off to right and my altitude was 10' lower than I started. I did a loop! Now that was some fancy flyin'. Sound familiar? Since then I've learned that there's a little more to doing a loop than just pulling back on the elevator stick.

Since our field runs North-South let's set some flying conditions. The wind will be from the South straight down the runway. Loops should be done into the wind so we will be flying a left to right pattern. Remember you must start this maneuver level. If you don't your plane will start to immediately veer off in the direction of the low wing. This makes for a very difficult loop. Here's how I do a loop.

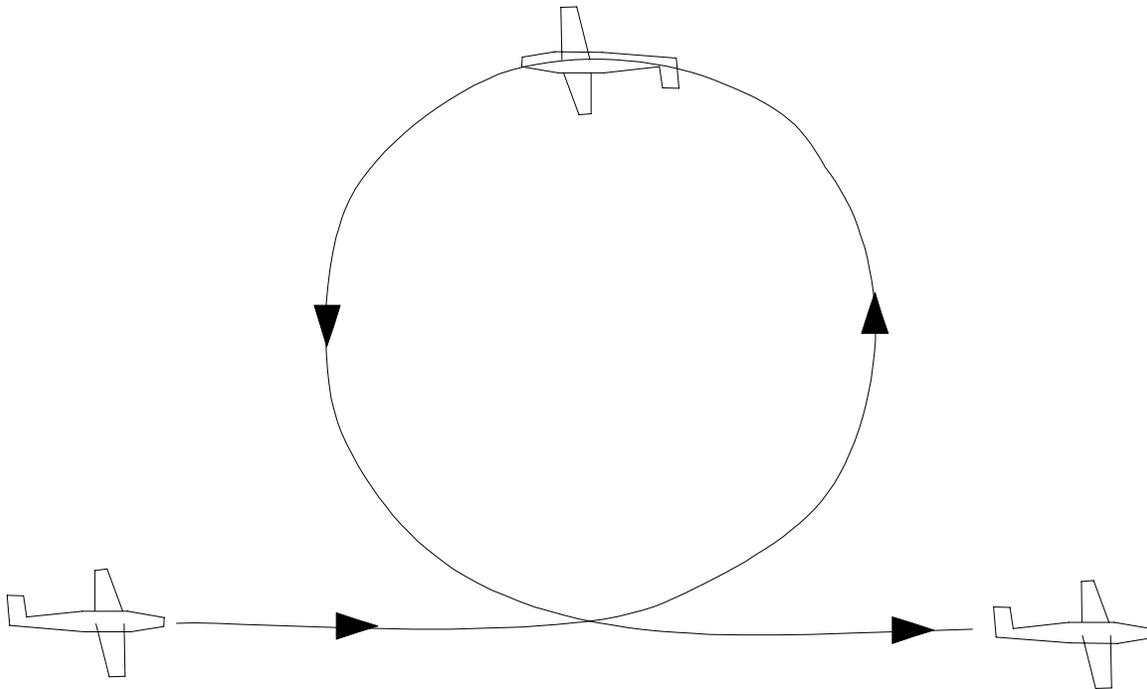


Figure 1 The Loop

Starting with straight and level flight at $\frac{3}{4}$ throttle. When the plane passes directly in front of you gently pull back and hold the elevator stick. Pull back far enough to do approximately a 100' diameter loop. When the model reaches about 4 o'clock apply full throttle. This will give you enough speed to power up through the loop. As your plane reaches 1 o'clock ease off the elevator a bit and come down to about $\frac{1}{4}$ throttle. Don't worry the speed you have and gravity will bring you over the top and start you down on the second half of the loop. As the plane reaches 3

o'clock pull back on the elevator stick to make your loop round and start to add throttle. When you get to the bottom of your loop release the elevator stick back to neutral and resume straight and level flight.

There you have it. Hopefully you finished your loop at the same altitude and heading at which you started and your loop was round. If not keep trying it will happen. Don't expect to do perfect 360 degree loops right off the bat, but with a little practice you'll be doing big beautiful circles in the sky.

Next: The Horizontal Roll