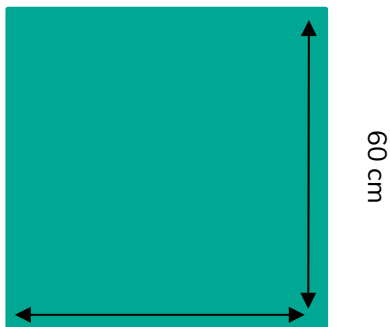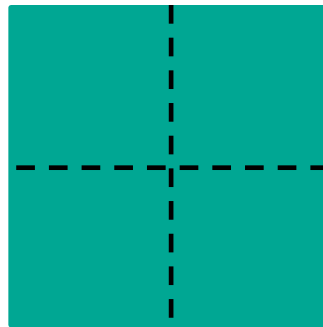# Perfect parascending parachutes
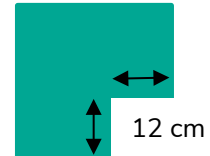
Follow these simple step by step instructions to craft a parachute.

60 cm

60 cm

1. Get a 60cm square piece of thin plastic.
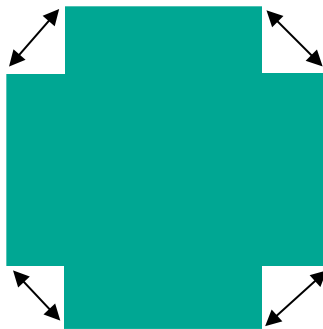

2. Fold the square in half, then in half again. There should now be a four layers of plastic squares that are 30cm square.
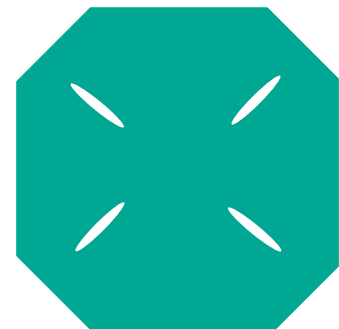

12 cm

3. Use a ruler to draw a 12cm square starting from the four loose corners and carefully cut it out. Make sure you're using the four loose corners – it won't work if you cut into a folded edge.
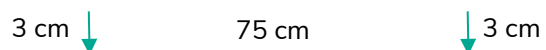

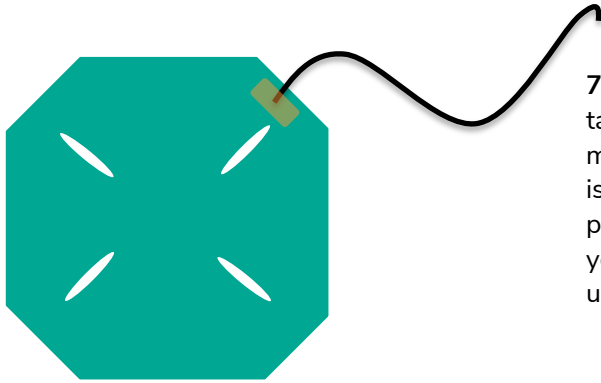**4.** Unfold the canopy and lay it out. It should be a plus shape.

5. Stick the two edges on each corner of the canopy together using sticky tape. This should make the parachute 'pop up' to become more 3D. Put the sticky tape at the edge of each corner of the canopy, leaving a gap to create a slit for an air vent. It's important to leave the air vents and not tape along the entire edge – the air vents let air escape in a controlled way, so it doesn't leak out from underneath and make the parachute rock as it descends.
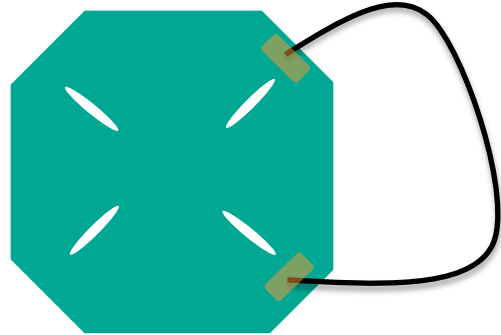
6. Cut two pieces of string that are 75cm long. Mark around 3cm from each end of the string using a pen and ruler.

3 cm   75 cm   3 cm

7. Stick the end of one piece of string inside a taped corner of the parachute. Line up the 3cm mark with the edge of the canopy so 3cm of string is inside. Some string should stick out once you've put the first bit of tape on. Fold this over before you tape it, so the string doesn't just slip out from underneath the tape as the parachute falls.

8. Attach the other end of the string to the next corner of the canopy in the same way.

← Knot

9. Hold the two corners of the canopy together and stretch the string out to find the middle. Tie a knot in the middle to create a small loop.

10. Repeat steps seven to nine with the other piece of string and other two corners. Try to make sure the loops are as even as possible. The two looped strings are the parachute's suspension lines.

11. Thread some elastic cord through both of the loops. Tie a knot in one end of the elastic cord to attach it to the loops. Tie a swivel hook to the other end of the elastic cord and trim any excess. These are the parachute's links and harness. Alternatively, attach a swivel clip to each end of the elastic cord and attach the clips to the loops.

Thread elastic cord

Thread elastic cord