





## INTRODUCTION:

Estes Industries introduced an altitude prediction technical report called TR-10 a few years ago. Although the report has been updated and is still quite accurate, some of the information needed from it takes time to extract. The new ESTES ALTITUDE COMPUTER has been created to provide altitude information quickly. After a few short movements of the center slide, the predicted altitude will appear in the appropriate window.

All standard Estes body tube and engine types are represented so that expected altitude performance for almost any single engine — single stage model can be computed.

Use of the computer is quite simple and can be easily mastered. Follow instructions exactly. Two sample problems are provided for practice. Three factors that must be known for each computation are engine type, body tube size, and the model's ready-to-launch weight without engine. (See catalog for this information.) A fourth factor, called  $C_D$ , or drag coefficient, is extremely important.  $C_D$  is a numerical figure having to do with the aerodynamic properties of the model and is dependent on how well the model is built and finished. The rocketeer must decide on this figure by visual evaluation of the model or by the

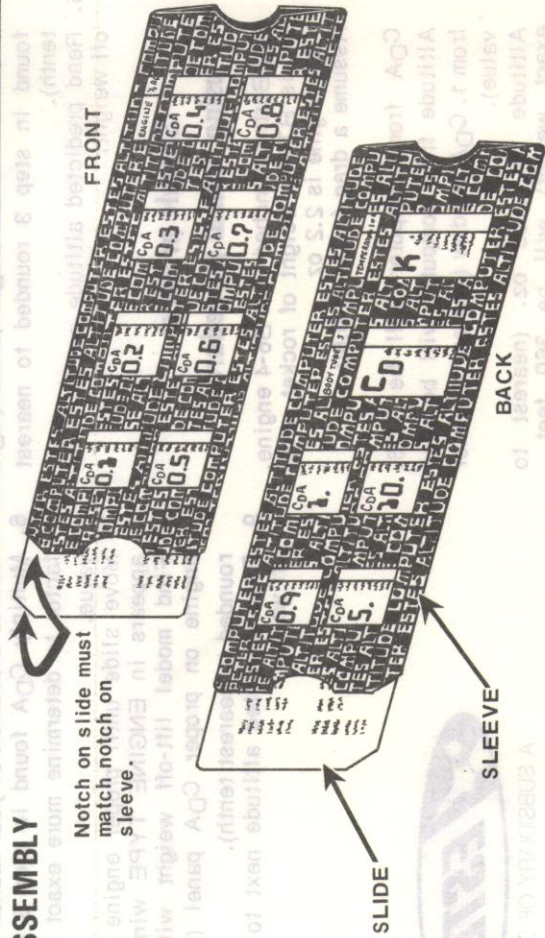
use of technical report TR-11. For unflying the visual examination method is actually quite satisfactory.

A  $C_D$  value of 0.75 or higher should be used if a model has been built properly but not finished (no balsa filling or painting). It may be safe to use a  $C_D$  value as low as 0.3 if the model has been carefully built with airfoiled fins,

filleted fin joints, ogive nose cone, and gleaming finish. Remember that a clean model will have a lower  $C_D$  value than a poorly finished one. Once the  $C_D$  has been determined the computer automatically multiplies it and the various body tube cross sectional areas to form the  $C_D A$  factor used from then on.

## ASSEMBLY

Notch on slide must match notch on sleeve.



## NORMAL PROCEDURE

1. Move slide until proper body tube size appears in BODY TUBE window.
2. Decide on DRAG FACTOR ( $C_D$ ) for your rocket.
3. Read and record  $C_D$  value in window next to drag factor ( $C_D$ ) of your rocket.
4. Move slide until proper engine type appears in ENGINE TYPE window.
5. Find model lift-off WEIGHT without engine on proper  $C_D$  panel ( $C_D$  found in step 3 rounded to nearest tenth).
6. Read predicted altitude next to lift-off weight.

### Sample problem using normal procedure

Big Bertha launched with B6-4 engine. BT is BT-60. Weight of rocket without engine is 2.2 oz.  
Assume a drag factor of 0.60.

$C_D$  from computer will be 1.26.  
Altitude from computer will be read from 1.  $C_D$  window (nearest to exact value).  
Altitude for 2.00 oz. (nearest to exact weight) will be 360 feet.

## PRECISION PROCEDURE

1. Move slide until proper body tube size appears in BODY TUBE window.
2. Decide on DRAG FACTOR ( $C_D$ ) for your rocket.
3. Read and record the  $C_D$  value in window next to drag factor ( $C_D$ ) of your rocket.
4. Move slide until TEMPERATURE is most closely correct.
5. The correct K factor is then read next to elevation of your launch site.
6. Multiply  $C_D$  found in step 3 by K factor to determine more exact  $C_D$  value.
7. Move slide until proper engine type appears in ENGINE TYPE window.
8. Find model lift-off weight without engine on proper  $C_D$  panel ( $C_D$  rounded to nearest tenth).
9. Read predicted altitude next to lift-off weight.

### Sample problem using precision procedure

Alpha launched with C6-5 engine. BT is BT-50. Weight of rocket without engine is 0.8 oz.  
Assume a drag factor of 0.50.  
Assume temperature of 80° F and elevation of 3000 feet above sea level.

$C_D$  from computer will be 0.37.  
K factor for 80°F at 3000 feet elevation will be 0.88.  
Exact  $C_D$  will be 0.33 (0.37 x 0.88 rounded to nearest hundredth).  
Altitude from computer will be read from 0.3  $C_D$  window.  
Altitude for 0.75 oz. (nearest to exact weight) will be 1680 feet.



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