

Forty-seven? FORTY-SEVEN?!? Man, typing that really hit me with just how many of these PML News we've done over the last few years. Well, here's another...

New Website Page, "Staging Systems"

We've added a new page to our website, called Staging Systems. This page covers items that are involved with/can be used for multi-stage rockets. We created this page because there was really no other proper place to put the next item, and because staging seems to be becoming more popular.

Interstage Coupler 3000

Interstage Couplers are used in multi-stage rockets to house staging timers and to connect the upper and lower stages. We've used them in our Thunder 'n' Lightning and Quantum Leap kits for years. If you've been a PML News subscriber for a while, you'll recall the release of our Terrier Booster for the MiniBBX kit late last year. That Terrier Booster also included an Interstage Coupler, but a new one that'd been totally redesigned with features we'd learned we wanted over the years of work with the T'n'L and QLeap. That new IS was called the Interstage 3000 system, because it incorporated a system of timer mounting and usage that was much like our newest CPR3000 system.

So, the Terrier had the new IS3000. The next step was to redesign the T'n'L and Quantum Leap IS systems to the new IS3000 style. We announced the new Thunder 'n' Lightning 3000 in PML News 43 back in January and the Quantum Leap II with the new IS3000, and the all-new/never-been-available-before Quantum Leap 3000 just last month. So, we'd equipped all our multistage kits with the IS3000.

Next step? Offer the IS3000's as separate kits for scratchbuilders! So, that's where we are today...the IS3000 system is available in FIVE different sizes, 2.1, 2.5, 3.0, 3.9, and in the Terrier/MiniBBX configuration of 2.5" booster, 2.1" sustainer. (The IS-3000-TERR also requires the MiniBBX tailcone, available on our Nosecones Page). Also, to help you design your rockets to easily accommodate the IS3000 system, we've put a couple of PDF documents on the Staging Page showing you the requirements. Nothing complex, but wanted to make sure you know the few items you'll have to have in your design to use the IS. We really think this is going to be a boon for two- (or more-) stage scratchbuilders, as designing the interstage system and the ignition electronics housing has always been a pain. Not any more! Again, check out the new Staging Page in the webstore for more information.

Major FAQ Revisions

As always, we're keeping this important document up-to-date with the latest information we think can help you with PML products and services. It's not only a true FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions), but also a resource document to help you understand and work with PML products. We like to think that there's something there for everyone, whether you're new to PML or if you're building your 15th rocket from us. I've just finished up another relatively large revision set to the FAQ, so be sure to check out the FAQ Page of the website and see the latest information. As always, the new stuff that's been added since the last update is in yellow to help you easily pick out the latest. One

thing, though...if an entire SECTION has been updated, you'll see it in yellow in the Table of Contents of the FAQ. However, if just information WITHIN a section has been updated but not the whole section, the Table of Contents entry won't be yellow. The short story? Page through the whole FAQ looking for yellow, don't just rely on what major sections are shown in yellow in the Table of Contents. (Also, don't forget you can right-click on any PDF document on our website and save it to your local hard drive to review it later, or just to keep it on hand. Be sure to check back occasionally to be sure you have the latest, though!).

Revised ST-2b Timer Igniter/Ematch Recommendations

For those of you who own the ST-2b Staging Timer, we've recently done some additional testing and changed our recommendations for ignition devices to use with it. We now recommend a Daveyfire N28F ematch (sold on our Igniters Page) dipped in Magnelite pyrogen. From the N28F description on the Igniters Page:

"The Daveyfire N28F Electric Match works perfectly with the ST-2B staging timer for second stage ignition of G-80 single use motors. Can also be used for ignition of other popular rocket motors. For best results for motor ignition, dip N28F one time into a MagnaLite pyrogen mixture (sold on this page). (Electric matches will usually require extra pyrogen for successful motor ignition). CAUTION: When dipping take care so that resulting match head will pass easily into the motor grain hole. Blocking motor hole can cause over-pressurization of motor which can rupture motor."

We initially recommended the Magnelite and Rapidfire igniters with the ST-2b. Another round of testing with those items and ST-2b's has convinced us that there's too much variability in those igniters to recommend them for the relatively stringent requirements of an on-board ignition system. They're both fine igniters for ground-based ignition systems, but we're much more comfortable with and confident in a properly-prepared Daveyfire N28F with the ST-2b Staging Timer.

So, that's it for PML News #47! Have fun, fly safe, and thanks as always for your support of PML!

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