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PML News: Volume 9

Hello, everyone. PML is proud to announce a huge amount of new data for you to use!

First, for RockSim 4.0 users, we have released ALL our component data for use with RockSim 4. As you know, in the production release of RockSim 4.0, most PML data was in the database with the exception of fins. Well, now our fin files (as well as a number of other smaller enhancements) have been released. Now you can find EVERY SINGLE PML COMPONENT in the database, to make designing and simulating rockets based on PML components easier than ever.

So you say that's not easy enough? OK, how 'bout this...EVERY SINGLE KIT PML MAKES as a RockSim 4.0 RKT file! That's right, you don't even have to build 'em yourself in RockSim, we did it for you. Just load 'em up, and you're done!

Now, there's another file that's very important that goes along with the above two groups of files, an Installation and "Tips & Tricks" file. This is VERY important to read, for two reasons. One, it tells you how to install the new PML data into RockSim so you can use it, and Two, tells you a number of Tips & Tricks we've learned over the past few months in creating this data. No sense in you "reinventing the wheel", so take the time to read what I've learned in building the 57 (that's right, 57) RKT files!

OK, only one minor "bummer" statement about the whole deal, and that's that RockSim 4.0 does kind of miscalculate descent rates on our standard parachutes. It'll tell you the rocket's coming down too fast, but ignore that. The rocket will be just fine. We've been selecting the right sized chutes for 10 years now, so don't let the software fool you! Here's what Apogee has to say about the chute descent rate situation:

"This is one of the things we expect to change in a future version of RockSim. We want to allow the user to change the Cd for the particular parachute. Right now, it is fixed, and it may be too high or too low (depending on the parachute)."

OK, now back to the good news! Two other huge pieces of work are now available for you, an ALL-NEW altitude prediction and delay time chart, with more than 700 different kit and motor combinations shown!! We've shown all the motors Aerotech currently has on their website in their pulldown menus: (22) 29mm motors, both single-use and reloads, (13) 38mm reloads, and (11) 54mm reloads. This motor selection chart even includes the relatively new Aerotech motors, the J570W and K700W. We also have Hypertech hybrid motors shown for our three hybrid-ready kits.

The last item shown is a much more comprehensive kit specifications chart, containing lots of new information and all our kits, including our latest

like the Lunar Express kits.

All this information can be found on a new site we have called the "PML Annex Site". This is a temporary site we'll use from time to time to post new information as soon as we can. It takes some time to get this much new information formatted and up on our regular website, so we thought we'd provide the Annex Site to you to get the information right away. The PML Annex Site is at: <http://members.home.net/adwaddell/>

You'll find all the files mentioned on the Annex Site, and if you don't own it yet, you should very strongly consider downloading the demo version (and then of course buying the full version later) of RockSim 4.0 from Apogee at <http://www.apogeerockets.com/>

Whew!!! I tell you, it's been a heck of a last couple of months working out all this data and putting it together, but it's been worth it. Enjoy!

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