

Cross-Country Soaring With Condor

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Introduction:

This book is aimed at glider pilots interested in getting started (or getting better at) cross-country soaring, both for pleasure and for cross-country racing. My intent is to show you how the Condor Competition Soaring Simulator can be used to achieve this goal. It is my belief, backed up by the extensive use of simulators by the military and commercial airlines, that simulators can significantly improve skill levels, especially when practice opportunities in the 'real world' (RL) environment are limited by the availability of equipment, time, and appropriate weather.

In RL, it is unusual for even a dedicated cross-country pilot to fly more than 100-200 hours of cross-country per year. In Condor, it's not unusual for top pilots to fly 50 hours **per month**. In soaring, just like any other competitive sport, repetition and practice is the path to improvement. Talent can take you a long way, but there's no real substitute for air miles.

This book is organized into this introduction plus eight chapters. Chapter 1 contains information useful for getting started with Condor, i.e. how to obtain the program and related files and how to get it installed and set up properly. Chapter 2 talks about basic skills and techniques required for successful cross-country soaring, and Chapters 3-5 provide additional details about flat land, ridge, and mountain soaring respectively. Chapter 6 deals with the psychology of cross-country racing, Chapter 7 talks about using Condor as a training tool for helping other pilots become better racers, and Chapter 8 deals with putting everything together in a typical Condor online race environment.

The companion CD for this book (available separately) contains flight files and additional graphics keyed to the relevant chapters. For instance, for each example flight a Condor Flight Plan (.FPR) and Condor Replay (.RPY) file is provided so the reader can fly the same flight themselves and/or watch the flight progress.