

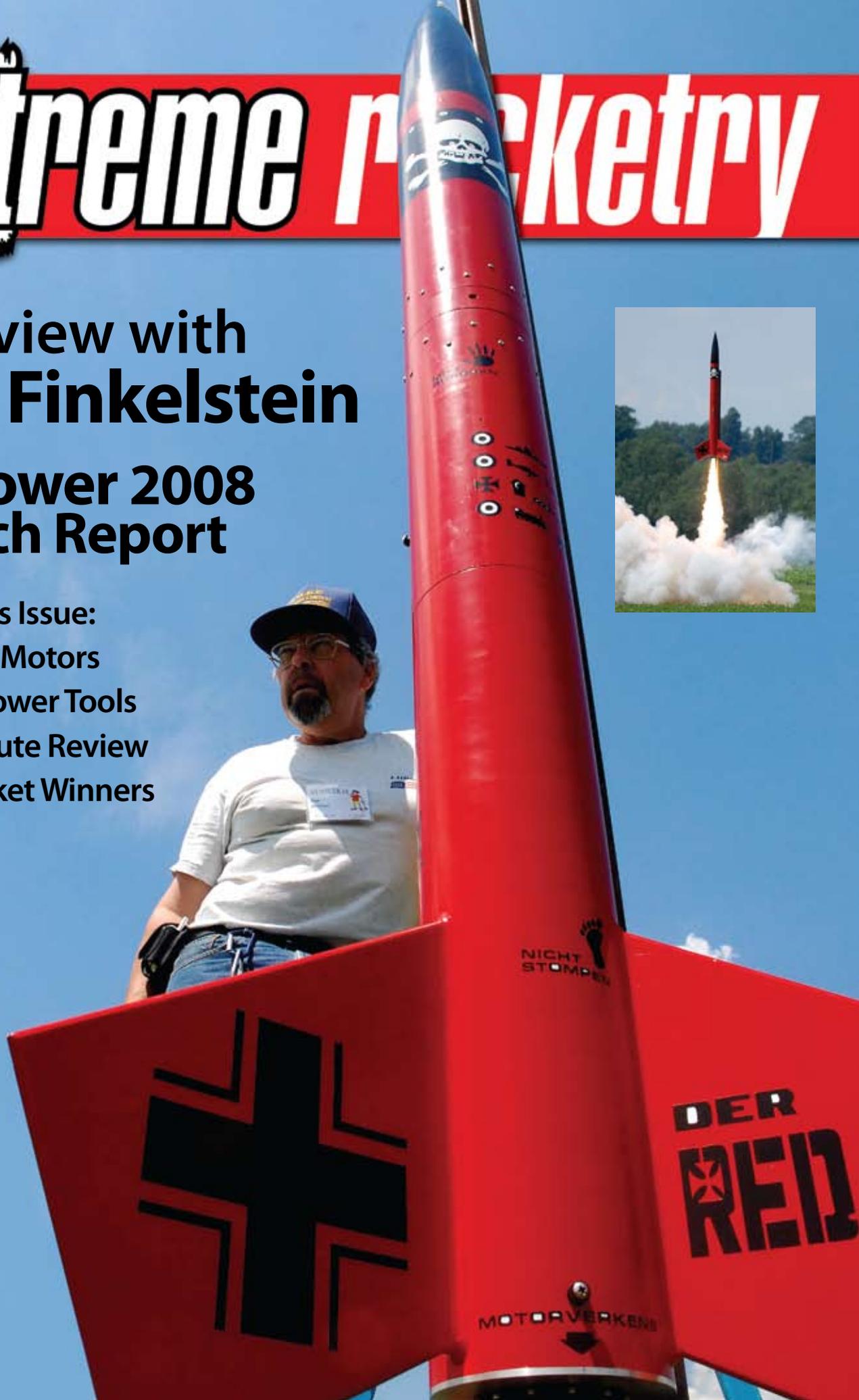
# extreme rocketry

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## Fruity Chute Product Review

By BE McNeely

Looking for a unique, one of a kind or rare design for a parachute? One of the newest recovery system companies in rocketry is Fruity Chutes. The name was chosen because the company specializes in offering custom colorized parachutes and a wide variety of colors. Additionally, if you have an idea for a parachute they don't currently offer, Fruity Chutes will work with you in order to create it if it's possible. This level of customization is a very nice touch!

### Ordering

Shortly after the press release for the new company, I ordered a 60-inch Fruity Chute with custom designed red and white striped panels. I was elated when the parachute arrived and I opened the package—the red and white striped pattern just popped out. It looked just stunning when I opened it. I also noticed the high quality shroud lines, heavy-duty bridge and connection swivel. The connection point between the shroud lines and bridge even had a nice plastic shrink wrap sleeve over it. The product looked just fantastic!

### Test Flight

I flew my rocket loaded with the Fruity Chute at LDRS 27 to an altitude of 8310 feet. The parachute worked flawlessly, bringing the rocket back to earth with no damage at all.

### Quality

It is one thing to offer unique parachutes in fun designs like flag patterns (half stars on blue and half red and white stripped panels), flames, bugs, animals and fish, but Fruity Chutes also creates a very high quality product. Similar to the Rocketman parachutes, the material used for Fruity Chute panels is 1.1 ounce Mil-spec calendared Ripstop nylon. This material is thinner than some used by other manufac-

**FRUITY CHUTES HAVE A COEFFICIENT OF DRAG OF 1.5 WHICH IS VERY CLOSE TO THE THEORETICAL MAXIMUM FOR PARACHUTES.**

turers while still having significant sheer strength, meaning you can pack a very large parachute into a fairly small space.

Although I am using the 60-inch parachute in this review, I noticed on the Fruity Chute website that "shroud lines for larger chutes are made from 550-lb test military surplus paracord... The connection to the canopy is triple stitched for maximum strength directly to the parachute seam." The normal shroud line length is 115% of the canopy diameter. Stitching is of very high quality, with all seams being double stitched and extended about 20% up into the hemisphere. They do not, however, extend all the way around the hemisphere like other brands, such as Rocketman or B2 Skyangle parachutes. The high power parachutes are manufactured with bias-tape reinforcements around the base and the spill hole.

### Design

Fruity Chutes use an ellipsoid design. This flattened hemispherical shape is considered to be among the best for high drag while using a minimal amount of material. In other words, it's the best economical use of materials for given results. Fruity Chutes are also designed with a spill hole to help stabilize the parachute's movements during descent and maximize a controlled descent.

### Coefficient of Drag

Fruity Chutes have a coefficient of drag of 1.5 which is very close to the theoretical maximum for parachutes. The company

also provides profile information that you can plug into the popular RockSim software program to calculate your descent rate on a project-by-project basis.

### Conclusion

Overall, the Fruity Chute is made of high quality materials and is of excellent construction. One of the best things about this company is the customization options available. If you want a flag or insect type design, Fruity Chutes is up for the task. This level of quality and customization does come at a cost. The 60 inch parachute reviewed here retails for \$100 which is higher than B2's SkyAngle at \$90 and Rocketman's standard chute at \$45. That said, if you are looking for high customization in a spherical parachute, you won't be disappointed in the Fruity Chute.

### Pros

Custom designs, high drag for low weight, strength

### Cons

Cost

### Company Information

Fruity Chutes  
[www.FruityChutes.com](http://www.FruityChutes.com)

