

Bensen B8M, G-BVKJ, 20 August 1997

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Aircraft Type and Registration:	Bensen B8M, G-BVKJ
No & Type of Engines:	1 Arrow GT500R piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1994
Date & Time (UTC):	20 August 1997 at 1800 hrs
Location:	Melrose Farm, Humberside
Type of Flight:	Private (Training)
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None - Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to rotor blades and propeller
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	48 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	141 hours (of which 2 were training on type)
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was a solo student under instruction carrying out taxiing practice and a 'main wheel balancing' exercise along the east/west tarmac runway. At the eastern end of the runway the student carried out a taxiing turn resulting in the gyroplane tipping gently onto its right side allowing the rotor blades to make contact with the surface. After switching off the engine and removing his harness the student was able to lift the aircraft upright.

After the accident the instructor explained to the student that particular attention had to be paid when manoeuvring the machine on the ground because the close coupling of the wheel axles made the aircraft potentially unstable when turning. The student reported that he had not received any pre-flight briefing regarding the taxiing characteristics.