

Rutan Long-EZ, G-BMUG

AAIB Bulletin No: 4/2003	Ref: EW/G2002/12/04	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Rutan Long-EZ, G-BMUG	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-235-L2 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1986	
Date & Time (UTC):	16 December 2002 at 1500 hrs	
Location:	Perth Airport, Scotland	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Minor damage and abrasions on the lower surface of the fuselage	
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilots Licence	
Commander's Age:	47 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	3,870 hours (of which 55 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 6 hours	
	Last 28 days - 2 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The pilot carried out a normal approach having complete his checks, including lowering the landing gear, prior to rejoining the circuit. The landing was normal but as the speed reduced and the pilot lowered the nose the gear horn and light operated. The aircraft adopted a nose down attitude consistent with the normal retracted parking position and decelerated rapidly to a stop. Both occupants exited the aircraft without difficulty.

The Long-EZ has a retractable nose landing gear. It is retracted in the parking position to allow access to the cockpit and mechanically extended for takeoff and landing. The nose landing gear is held in the extended position by the landing gear selection lever which on this aircraft is held in the down position by a piece of bungee cord. There is no locking mechanism. The aircraft also has a gear warning horn, which sounds if the landing gear is not down when the throttle is closed. On this occasion however, both the pilot and passenger only heard the landing gear warning horn operate

when the aircraft nose contacted the runway. The pilot therefore concluded that he had probably not secured the bungee cord and thus the nose landing gear collapsed as the aircraft touched down.

Since this accident the pilot has decided to fit an electric nose lift mechanism to the aircraft that includes a gear position indication system.