

# Hand Braking Vs Gravity Brakes\*

**Hand Braking**—“A braking system widely used outside US borders. This system requires the rider to judge their speed and apply appropriate brakes by grabbing the cable with a heavily gloved hand. The friction of the glove against the cable slows the rider down avoiding a violent collision with the termination point. This sketchy system is most likely needed for platform landings. The lack of documentable training for riders and frequency of injuries keeps this system from being widely used in the US. Installing a zip line that requires hand braking will most likely result in injury at some time down the road.

**Gravity Brakes**—“A brilliant system that shows wisdom as a designer and builder. The cable ends are attached nearly level and the cable is sagged appropriately to assure the rider stops before crashing violently into the receiving end. The rider will stop at the landing deck or glide back toward the low point of the cable for dismount. GRAVITY NEVER FAILS.”

\*Zip Line Consulting, Design, Installation, and Program Development

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