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#### MERCURY PARACHUTES

The 63-foot Mercury parachute was used to provide for a safe water landing of the Mercury spacecraft. Its "ringsail" design was chosen because of the reliability and stability of this type parachute.

The ringsail canopy design employs a series of 10 concentric nylon cloth rings (sails) joined by radial tapes. Forty-eight gores are sewn together to form the quarter sphere shape. The parachutes are made from ripstop nylon weighing 1.1 ounce per square yard to about half way up and then the nylon increases to a weight of about 3 ounces per square yard. The colors are international orange and white. The inflated canopy has a saw-tooth profile with sharp edges pointing downward. Forty-eight suspension lines and four risers complete the ringsail parachute.

The parachutes shown here were used during the Mercury testing-training phases of the project.