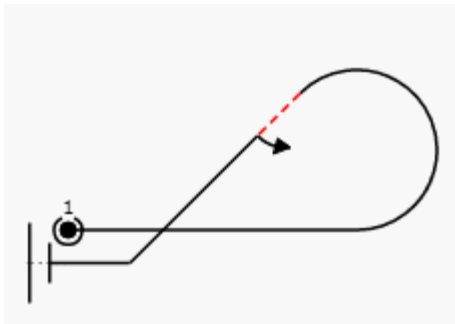


## The Half Cuban Eight & Reverse Half Cuban Eight

All books on aerobatics will have a section on how to fly the Half Cuban Eight as it is a manoeuvre found in most sequences, Free and Unknowns. So I will leave it to you pilots to read up on it more thoroughly. Of course, don't forget to look at the judging criteria as well to understand how it is to be flown.

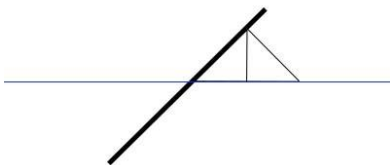
Though to help get you started there is this link from the International Aerobatic Club's Chapter 34 – [The Aerobatic Textbook: The Half Cuban-Eight - YouTube](#) and below the following article from the British Aerobatic Academy's website ( [How to Fly a Half Cuban Eight - British Aerobatic Academy](#) )

### How to Fly a Half Cuban Eight



Fly the first 5/8 of a loop as per the ['How to Fly a Loop'](#) blog post

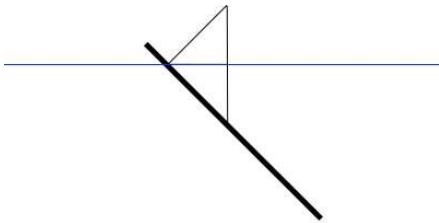
- Looking at the wing sight, stop the loop at 45° down (inverted)



- Count "1 banana, 2 banana" (or *one thousand, two thousand*)
- Looking at the wing sight, apply full aileron until the 45° down (canopy up) reaches the horizon – this insures a perfect half roll and gets you to maintain the 45° line.

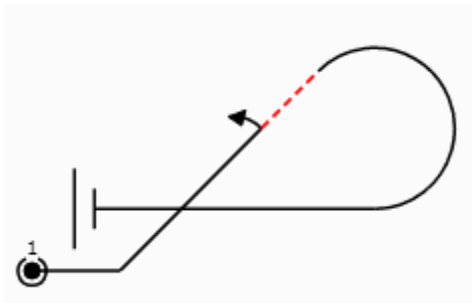
## The Half Cuban Eight & Reverse Half Cuban Eight

- Another technique is to look forward during the roll. This is ok but care must be taken to immediately move the eyes back to the wing sight so that any errors are immediately corrected.



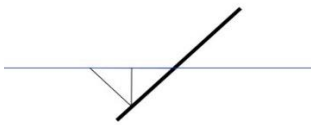
- Still looking at the wing sight making sure you maintain 45° down line, count "1 banana!"
- Pull to the horizontal

## How to Fly a Reverse Half Cuban Eight

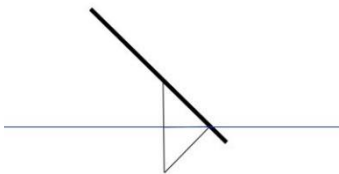


- Looking at the wing sight, pull to 45° up

## The Half Cuban Eight & Reverse Half Cuban Eight



- Count "1 banana"
- Looking at the wing sight, apply full aileron deflection until the 45° up line (inverted) reaches the horizon



- Count "1 banana, 2 banana"
- Still looking at the wing sight, apply elevator, drawing a constant radius loop until upright and straight and level – a 'harder' pull when flying faster as per 'How to Fly a Loop' blog post

### **Common Mistakes**

- 45° lines being too shallow or too steep
- Rolling off heading
- Lines before and after the rolls being different lengths

## The Half Cuban Eight & Reverse Half Cuban Eight

**Entry** does not contain a Half Cuban Eight and in **Graduate** you have a standard Half Cuban Eight with a half roll on the 45° down line.

**Sportsman** may have both the Half Cuban Eight and Reverse Half Cuban Eight. You may also be given full Cuban and Reverse Cuban Eights (basically two half eights done in a row). Again, the only rolls allowed are ½ rolls on the 45° lines.

For the **CIVA** level competitors the types of half Cuban eights that you may get in an unknown are listed in the FAI Section 6 appendices and the types start to become too many to list here. There are half Cuban eights that go down instead of climbing and rolls can be added to before after looping segments plus combinations on 45° lines. So read up on the rules and put together some combinations to practice in advance.

Below is a copy from the FAI Section 6 of some of the Half Cubans allowed in unknowns.

