

# Cross Country TUESDAY TIP

Bonjour from France, where Cross Country is on its annual camping holiday, trying to balance making sure the kids aren't breaking into caravans with getting some airtime.

It's bière o'clock here en France, so just the right time to knock out a little pebble of information from the latest mag, designed to help you fly better.

This week, it's from our feature on how to fly a big Alpine triangle.

## The Toblerone Tip: Flying Triangles

Flying a triangle is one of the most ambitious tasks a pilot can set themselves. So:

- Plan ahead. Get the map out, go on Google Earth, look at other people's tracks online. Study them and learn from the mistakes and successes of others.
- Plan for success and work up. It doesn't help to plan big and fail at the first valley crossing – it's just depressing.
- Get to grips with mountain flying in general, you won't be able to do one without the other. Learn to fly the mountains and by their nature you will learn to fly closed circuits and triangles.
- Read about, understand and practice the flow of the day theory: east faces work in the morning, south during the day and west in the evening. It follows that the perfect triangle starts on an east-facing launch, uses south facing hills during the day, and finishes flying along west-facing mountains in the afternoon and evening.
- Think about your valley crossings. How will you get across? Get high and glide? Or work with convergence lines that snake through the sky?
- Know where the crux of the route is and be prepared. The old adage of switching gear when you need to will pay dividends here.
- Choose a light wind day.

This is just a preview. The full article is in issue 142 of Cross Country magazine, available [here](#) as a digital download or here in [print](#)



Photo: Martin Scheel, [www.azoom.ch](http://www.azoom.ch)