

Tower Tutorial

- **What is a tower controller?**
 - The tower controller is the controller responsible for the aircraft in the vicinity of the airport. This can be holding short of the runway(s), in the traffic pattern, or even 5-10 miles out in an instrument approach about to land. The tower controller clears planes to take-off and land.
- **Monitoring Tower?**
 - At big airports, the ground and tower controllers will work together to expedite traffic as best as they can. For this to work, the ground controller will tell that aircraft to monitor the tower frequency which means to just listen for your callsign. The tower controller will call you when he is ready for you and you better be ready.
- **Tower and Pattern Work?**
 - The tower controller is responsible for any aircraft in the pattern. The pattern has five legs: Upwind, Crosswind, Downwind, Base, and Final. While holding short of the runway, call tower when you are ready for departure and advise them that you are remaining in the pattern. They will tell you cleared for takeoff, make left/right traffic and will usually tell you to report either downwind or base. This is so the tower does not have to watch you as he is controlling more than one frequency or airplane. With this, just call them and say you are on downwind or base. They will then say “clear for the option” or cleared to land.
- **“Cleared for the Option/Cleared to land?”**
 - When flying in the tower pattern, you will hear the tower will say one of two things. They will either say “Cleared for the option” or “Cleared to land”. “Cleared for the Option” means you can make a full stop landing, stop-n-go, low

pass, Touch n go, or a missed approach. "Cleared for landing" means you must make a full stop landing and either taxi back for takeoff or taxi to parking.