

BOA®

ALWAYS READ INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PROPER USE OF
KITES OR OTHER KITES. (ALL KITES)

As the owner of this Blade traction kite, you are responsible for its safe operation. You or anyone else must not use this product without first reading and understanding these instructions and safety warnings.



FLEXIFOIL

REG. U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Contents	pages 1-2
Safety	pages 3-4
Bag Contents	page 5
The Wind	page 6
Flying Lines	pages 7-8
4 Line set up overview	page 9
2 Line set up overview	page 10
Setting up your BLADE on 4 lines:	pages 11 - 13
- Connecting the flying lines to the kite	pages 11 - 12
- Connecting the flying lines to the handles	page 13
Flying your BLADE on 4 lines:	pages 14 - 20
- General points	page 14
- Launching (Self-launch in light winds)	page 14
- Launching (Self-launch in strong winds)	page 15
- Assisted launch	page 16
- Turning/steering	page 17
- Stopping or reversing	page 18
- Landing	pages 18 - 19
- After landing	page 19
- Packing away	page 20

Setting up your BLADE on 2 lines:	pages 21 - 24
- Setting up your BLADE on two lines without "Cross-over kit"	pages 21 - 22
- Setting up your BLADE on two lines with the "Cross-over kit"	pages 23 - 24
Flying your BLADE on 2 lines:	pages 25 - 29
- Launching (Self-launch)	page 25
- Launching (Assisted launch)	page 26
- Turning/steering	page 26
- Stopping or reversing	page 27
- Landing	page 27
- After landing	page 27
- Packing away	pages 28 - 29
Care and Maintenance	page 30
Warranty	page 30
Line length adjustment	page 30
Tuning tips	page 30

Thank you for purchasing your new Blade II traction kite. If operated and looked after properly, it will serve you well. Before flying your Blade II, you MUST take time to read and understand these instructions and safety warnings.

Blade II kites have been designed as high performance traction kites for both land and water based activities. They are NOT designed to be water relaunchable, although with experience, this may be possible under certain conditions. Please note that Blade II traction kites are not suitable for inexperienced power kite flyers.

SAFETY FIRST:

Kite traction activities including kite buggying, kiteboarding, kite skiing etc. are extreme sports that can be both exhilarating and dangerous. You must read and abide by the following safety warnings to ensure that you have a great traction kiting experience.

GENERAL:

- Read all product instructions and safety guidelines before using Flexifoil products.
- Use extreme caution when using kite traction equipment. Improper use of this equipment can cause serious injury or death.
- Kite traction kites are not parachutes or paragliders and must not be used as such.
- Do not fly under the influence of alcohol or mind altering drugs.

LEARNING:

- Always learn to fly with a smaller traction kite, such as a Flexifoil Power kite, before attempting to fly a large and powerful traction kite.
- Beginners should learn to fly traction kites in light winds.

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

- Never fly traction kites in conditions that are too extreme or winds that are too strong for your skill level.
- Never fly your traction kite if you cannot safely handle its power (i.e. if you are "overpowered"). Use a smaller kite or wait for lighter wind.
- Do not fly in thunderstorms, lightning or at night.



LOCATION:

- Do not fly your kite near overhead power cables, roads, airports, cars, railways, people or animals.
- Always select safe launching and landing areas free of people and obstacles. Stay away from other unsecured kites and lines on the ground as a kite can re-launch itself at any time. Disable your kite and lines on the ground when not in use.
- Always maintain plenty of space around you in all directions, especially downwind. A traction kite can pull you downwind for a considerable distance.

EQUIPMENT:

- Always check your equipment for wear and tear before flying. Do not fly with worn or damaged equipment or flying lines. Repair or replace accordingly.
- Always use the appropriate safety equipment - helmet, kneepads, elbow pads, protective eyewear, gloves etc.
- Never attach yourself permanently to the kite.
- Kite lines and bridles under tension can cut like a knife and can cause injury or death. Always keep your lines away from people and animals.
- Never allow inexperienced kite flyers to use your equipment.

Remember, you are always responsible for the safe operation of your kite and equipment.
Use common sense.

KITEBOARDING:

When using the kite for kiteboarding or other water use, the following additional warnings apply:

- A kiteboarder must be fit, healthy, be able to swim and be over 18 years of age (under 18's should have parental permission and adult supervision).
- A kiteboarder should know and abide by the rules of the sea, navigation laws and local rules and regulations, including coastguard requirements.
- Do not attempt to kiteboard until you have completely mastered control of your kite on land.
- Instruction should be taken from an officially recognised kiteboarding instructor when going out on to the water for the first time.
- Never kiteboard in an offshore wind.
- Never kiteboard so far away from the shore, that you cannot swim back in an emergency.
- Never kiteboard in congested areas with swimmers, boats, water craft, solid obstacles or other water users.
- Never kiteboard alone or without a rescue craft on hand. Always have someone watching out for you.
- Always wear an officially approved buoyancy aid.

Your Blade II bag should contain the following items.
If your pack is not complete, please contact your dealer immediately.



1 x Folded Blade II kite



1 x pair of 4-line Handles



1 x Product registration card
1 x Free repair voucher

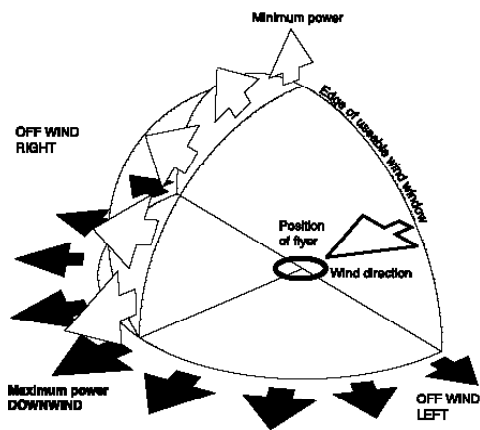


1 x Instruction manual

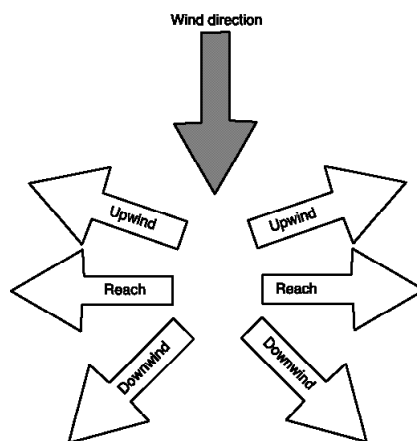
THE WIND:

Before using your kite on land or water, it is important that you have a basic understanding of the wind as well as the terminology used in describing the different conditions. You will find that these terms are frequently referred to in warnings and instructions, so please take some time to familiarise yourself with them.

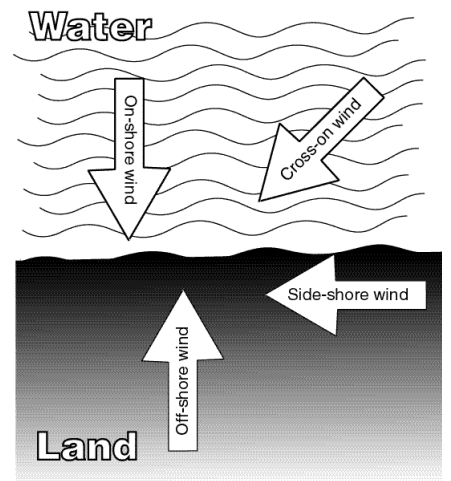
WIND WINDOW



TERMINOLOGY



CONDITIONS



Force	Wind Speed				Description	Wind Speed Indicators (probable)	
	MPH	Knots	KPH	Metres/sec		On Land	At Sea
0	<1	<1	<1	0-0.2	Calm	Calm; smoke rises vertically	Smooth as glass
1	1-3	1-3	1-5	0.3-1.5	Light Air	Smoke drift indicates wind direction; vanes do not move	Ripples with no appearance of scales; no foam crests
2	4-7	4-6	6-11	1.6-3.3	Light Breeze	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; vanes begin to move	Small wavelets; crests of glassy appearance
3	8-12	7-10	12-19	3.4-5.4	Gentle Wind	Leaves & small twigs in motion; light flags extended	Large wavelets; crests begin to break, scattered whitecaps
4	13-18	11-16	20-29	5.5-7.9	Moderate Wind	Leaves & loose paper raised up; flags flap; small branches move	1-4ft waves; numerous whitecaps
5	19-24	17-21	30-38	8.0-10.7	Fresh Wind	Small trees begin to sway; flags flap & ripple	4-8ft waves; many whitecaps; some spray
6	25-31	22-27	39-50	10.8-13.8	Strong Wind	Large branches in motion; whistling heard in wires	8-13ft waves forming whitecaps everywhere; more spray
7	32-38	28-33	51-61	13.9-17.1	Near Gale	Whole trees in motion; resistance felt in walking against wind	13-20ft waves; white foam blown in streaks
8	39-46	34-40	62-74	17.2-20.7	Gale	Whole trees in motion; resistance felt in walking against wind (again)	13-20ft waves; edges of crests beginning to break; foam in streaks
9	47-54	41-47	75-86	20.8-24.4	Strong Gale	Slight structural damage occurs; shingles blow from roofs	20ft waves; sea begins to roll; dense streaks of foam
10	55-63	48-55	87-101	24.5-28.4	Storm	Trees broken/uprooted; considerable structural damage occurs	20-30ft waves; white churning sea; rolling is heavy; reduced visibility

FLYING LINES:

Your choice of flying lines will depend on the following:

- The type of traction activities you want to get involved in
- Your body weight
- Your skill level
- Whether you want to fly your Blade on two or four lines
- The wind conditions.

If you need further help, please contact your dealer or Flexifoil International. Please use the line table below to select the most suitable lines for you.

SIZE		RECREATIONAL USE	HEAVY USE	WATER USE (two line)
2.0 m	Main Lines:	300 lb / 135 kg	300 lb / 135 kg	500 lb / 225 kg
	Brake Lines:	150 lb / 70 kg	200 lb / 90 kg	
3.0 m	Main Lines:	300 lb / 135 kg	300 lb / 135 kg	500 lb / 225 kg
	Brake Lines:	200 lb / 90 kg	200 lb / 90 kg	
4.0 m	Main Lines:	300 lb / 135 kg	500 lb / 225 kg	500 lb / 225 kg
	Brake Lines:	200 lb / 90 kg	300 lb / 135 kg	
4.9 m	Main Lines:	500 lb / 225 kg	500 lb / 225 kg	500 lb / 225 kg
	Brake Lines:	300 lb / 135 kg	300 lb / 135 kg	
6.4 m	Main Lines:	500 lb / 225 kg	500 lb / 225 kg	700 lb / 315 kg
	Brake Lines:	300 lb / 135 kg	300 lb / 135 kg	
7.8 m	Main Lines:	500 lb / 225 kg	700 lb / 315 kg	700 lb / 315 kg
	Brake Lines:	300 lb / 135 kg	300 lb / 135 kg	
9.0 m	Main Lines:	500 lb / 225 kg	700 lb / 315 kg	700 lb / 315 kg
	Brake Lines:	300 lb / 135 kg	300 lb / 135 kg	

KEY FOR LINE TABLE:

Recreational Use - Sliding and skidding along under power, light wind buggying and flying for fun. (approx. Force 1-3)

Heavy Use - Getting air, body surfing, buggying, snowboarding and other traction activities. (approx. Force 3-6)

Water Use - Kiteboarding and similar water related traction activities.

Please note : Line strength recommendations are for people of average weight (70-80 kg / 154-176 lb) and are valid for most wind conditions. If you intend to use your kites for extreme activities in extreme conditions or you are above average weight, please consult your dealer or Flexifoil International for further advice.

LINE LENGTH:

Blades are designed to perform well on line lengths of between 25 and 40 metres. Your choice will depend on the activity and the local conditions.

Inland sites are usually prone to gusty winds and turbulence caused by obstacles. In these conditions it is advisable to use 40 metre lines to allow the kite to fly in 'clean' air.

Open unrestricted areas like beaches usually have 'clean' winds and shorter line lengths can be used. We do not recommend using lines shorter than 25 metres.

The line length will influence the way the kite performs. Longer lines will slow the kite down (due to increased drag), but can lead to greater power being generated by the kite (bigger power band). Shorter lines will speed the kite up, but can lead to less power being generated by the kite allowing the same size kite to be used in stronger winds.

If you use your Blade on the water, the strain on your flying lines will be around 30% greater than when you use your Blade on land. This is due to the resistance of the water on your body or board. You can use Flexifoil Dyneema flying line in the water but we would recommend the use of Hydro line, which has been specifically developed for water and snow use.

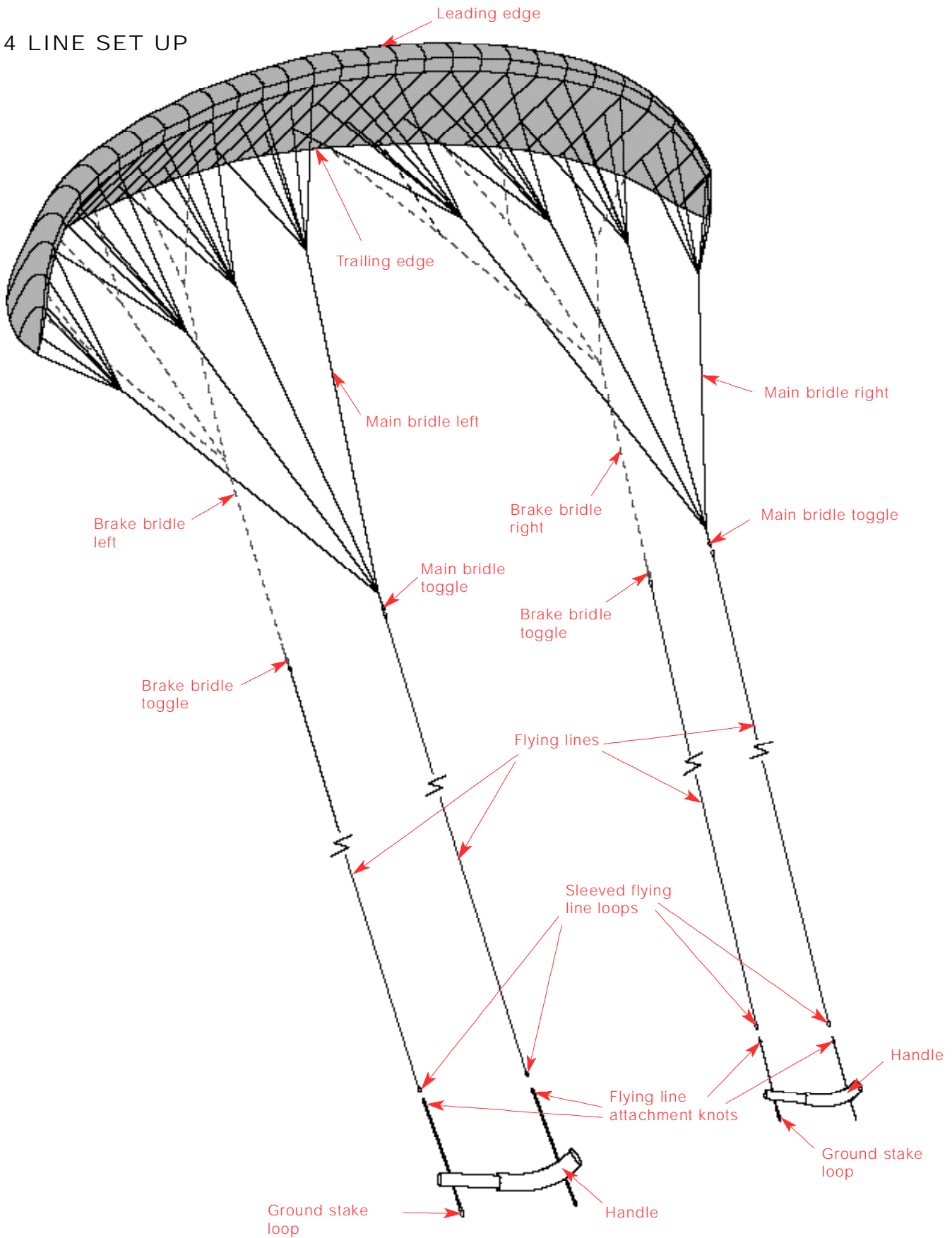


HYDRO LINE retail pack

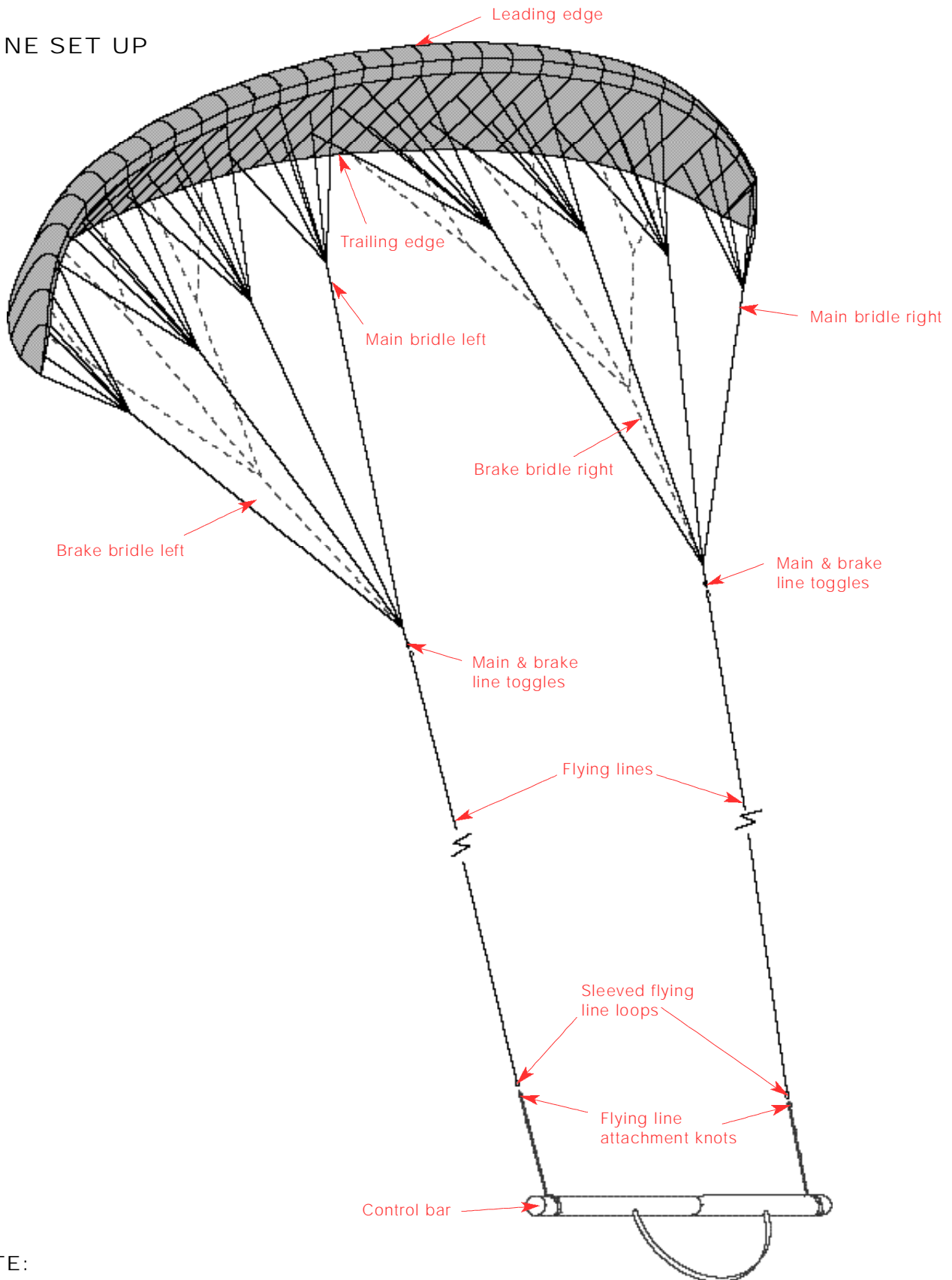


FLYING LINE retail pack

4 LINE SET UP



2 LINE SET UP



NOTE:
For illustration purposes the kite in the diagram is a Blade 4.0.

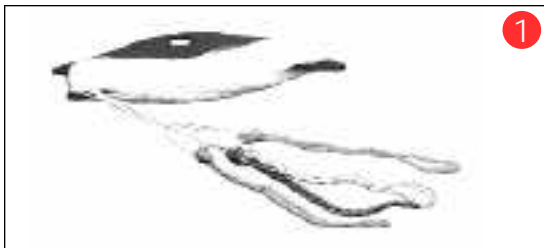
SETTING UP YOUR BLADE ON 4 LINES:

The Flexifoil Blade is a four-line kite which has been designed for easy conversion to two lines, depending on your preference. Using four lines will give you greater manoeuvrability and more control over your kite and its performance. We recommend the use of four lines for land based traction activities.

Using the Blade on two lines will give you greater simplicity and allow the use of a control bar, which is favoured by some kiteboarders. These instructions explain the set up of both systems in detail. Should you be unsure about which system to use, please contact your dealer or Flexifoil International.

CONNECTING THE FLYING LINES TO THE KITE:

It is important to understand that even pre-stretched lines will stretch further during initial use, especially the main lines. As this will alter the performance of your kite, it is important that you check your line lengths frequently and adjust if necessary. (see LINE LENGTH ADJUSTMENT on page 30)



You will need a suitable set of four pre-stretched flying lines of the same length. Use the line table on page 7 as a guide to select the correct lines.



First, read the safety label attached to the kite, then tear off and dispose of responsibly.



Spread the kite sail out on the ground on its back with the bridle facing up and the trailing edge facing into the wind. Place sand (or other suitable objects) onto the trailing edge to prevent it being blown away. Do not use sharp objects as these can damage the kite sail.



Secure all four line loops with a ground stake near the trailing edge of the kite. Unwind all of your lines while walking into the wind and away from your kite. Then separate them on the ground.



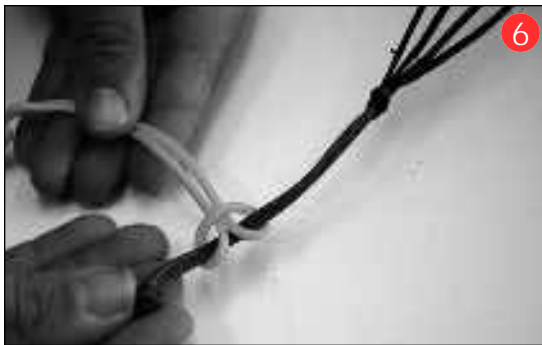
Ensure your main and brake bridles are free of tangles.

MAKING A LARKS-HEAD KNOT:



All line to kite connections are made by using a larks-head knot. The pictures above show you how to easily make one in the loops at the ends of your flying lines.

CONNECTING THE FLYING LINES TO THE KITE: (cont.)



Connect the two strongest flying lines to the main bridle toggles. Use larks-head knots as shown above.

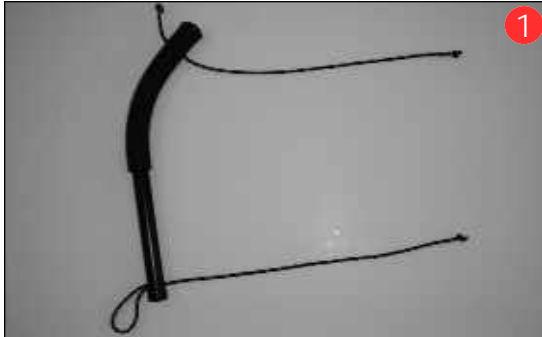


Connect the two remaining flying lines to the brake bridle toggles, again using larks-head knots.

(Please note: If you have purchased Flexifoil flying lines, the sleeving has been colour coded for easy identification of the line breaking strain. If you have not purchased Flexifoil lines, it is usually fairly easy to tell by eye, which lines to use as the main lines and which to use as the brake lines. The main (stronger) lines are a little thicker than the brake lines in appearance).

Once you have connected all four flying lines to your kite, you are now ready to connect the other ends of the flying line to the handles.

CONNECTING THE FLYING LINES TO THE HANDLES:



You will notice that each handle has two "leader" lines (main and brake) which both have knots at the end.



When you are attaching a set of lines for the first time, we recommend that you use these knots.



You can add more knots to these leader lines to vary the lengths of your flying line to tune your kite. (see TUNING TIPS on page 30)



Connect the left main and brake lines to the leader lines on one of the handles, attaching the main line (strongest line) to the top of the handle and the brake line to the bottom of the handle. Use larks-head knots. Repeat the procedure for the right main and right brake lines.

NOTE: The two handles supplied may have colour coded mouldings. You can use these colours to identify which handle you want to use as left (usually red) and which you want to use as right.

TIP: We strongly recommend that you keep a set of lines permanently attached to each kite you own. Having to go through the same set up procedure every time you want to fly on a windy beach or field is difficult and time consuming.

Your Blade is now ready for its first flight, but before you go flying, you must read the rest of these instructions.

FLYING YOUR BLADE ON 4 LINES:

GENERAL POINTS:

Before you attempt to fly your Blade ensure that your chosen flying site is of a suitable size and free from obstructions and people (see "Safety First" on page 3).

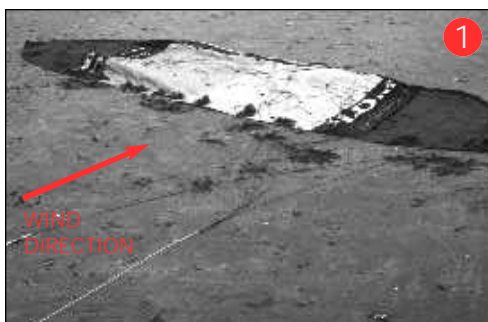
We strongly recommend that you make your first flights in light and steady winds to get used to the power and flying characteristics of the kite.



Hold your handles as shown, with the main flying line between your first and second finger and your hand firmly gripped around the top part of the handle. Place your thumb on the top of the handle. Make sure that your lines are not twisted and that your left handle is connected to the left side of the bridle and vice versa.

LAUNCHING: (Self launch in light winds)

You can launch your Blade kite on your own, as follows:



Make sure you launch your kite with your back to the wind. As described earlier on, your kite should still be lying on its back on the ground with the trailing edge secured.



Pull back gently on both handles until the Leading Edge of the kite starts to lift off the ground and the kite begins to inflate. The kite will now stand up on its trailing edge in preparation for take-off.

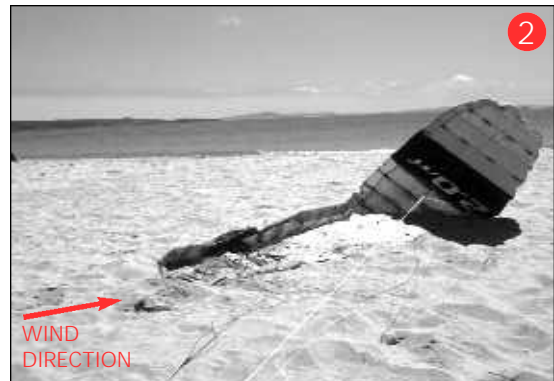
A further sharp pull will fully inflate the kite and it will now start to lift off. Let the kite fly straight to the top of the wind window, where it will stay in a stable minimum power position (above your head).

LAUNCHING: (Self launch in strong winds)

This procedure is largely the same as self-launching in light winds but you must launch the kite from the edge of the window, not the centre. The kite will be fully powered up in strong winds, so make sure you keep the kite near to the edge of the Wind Window when launching.



Set the kite on the ground so that the wind is blowing across the kite from wingtip to wingtip. Secure the upwind wingtip with sand or similar, leaving the downwind wingtip unsecured.



Pull back gently on the downwind handle and the unsecured tip of the kite will rise into the air and inflate.



The kite will then launch and fly to the edge of the wind window.



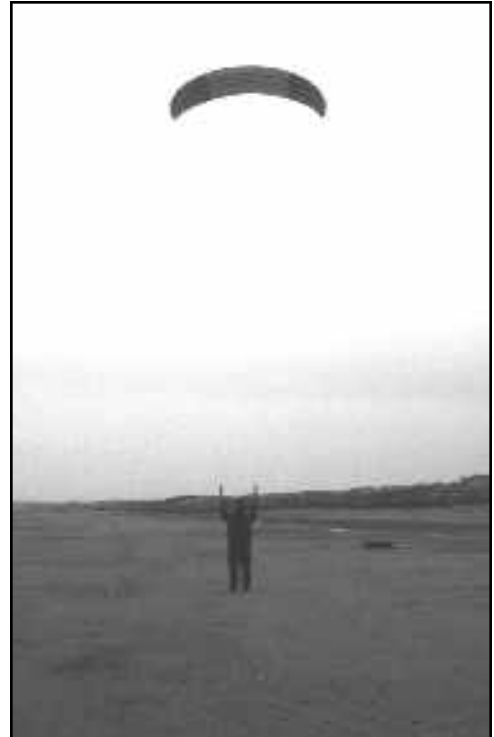
Carefully steer the kite from the edge of the wind window to the overhead position, where it will stay with minimum power.

ASSISTED LAUNCH:

If you have someone to help you launch, make sure that they understand what you want them to do, before launching your kite. Initial launches are best done at the edge of the wind window.



Get your helper to stand **BEHIND** the kite, holding it up so that the Leading Edge is facing into the wind. Once the kite inflates, the helper can release it. It is important not to "throw" the kite into the air as this will prevent a smooth take-off.



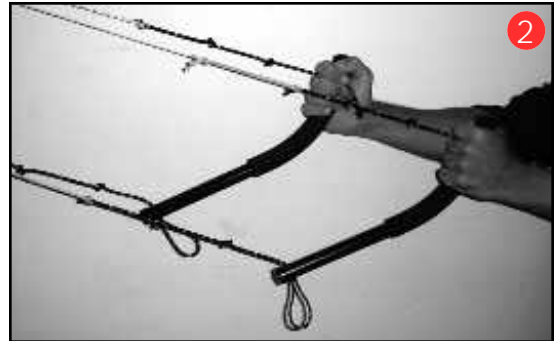
Steer the kite up the edge of the wind window to the top of the window (above your head), where it will stay in a stable minimum power position.

TURNING/STEERING:

When learning, it is best to make gentle left and right turns at the top of the wind window to get used to your kite. If you fly through the centre of the wind window, the power of the kite will increase significantly and could cause you difficulties. Get confident first and then go for full power!



Basic turns are made by pulling the right handle towards you to turn right...



...and by pulling the left handle towards you to turn left.

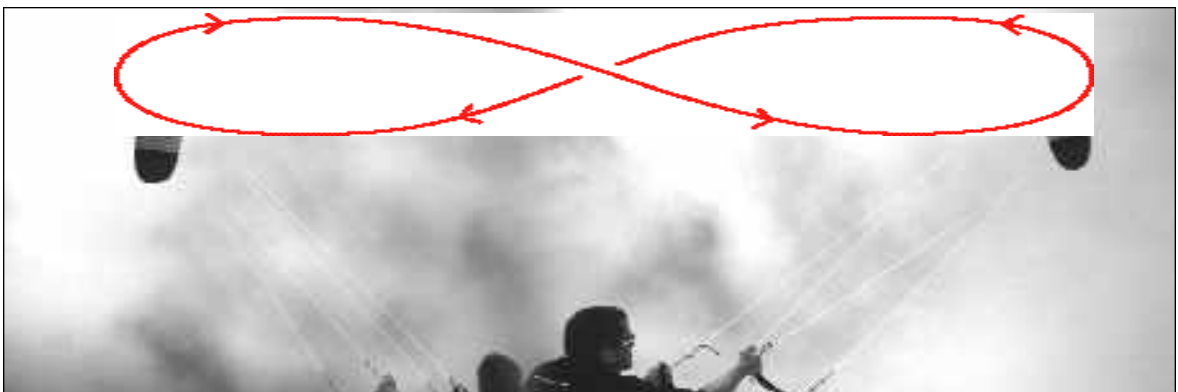
You can achieve better turns by rotating your wrist to pull the bottom of the handle towards you as well as the top of the handle. This pulls the brake lines as well as the main lines which means the kite will turn faster or even spin on its axis. Return the handles to the neutral position to stop turning.



Fast left turn.



Fast right turn.



Tip: Flying your kite in a flat figure of eight motion in the centre of the wind window will give you the maximum power available.

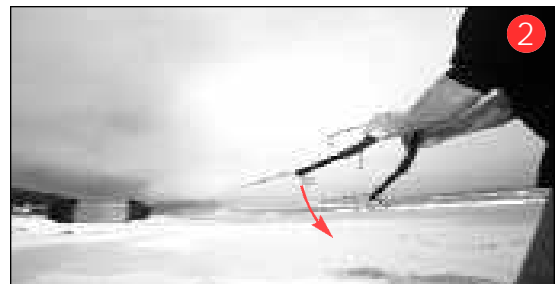
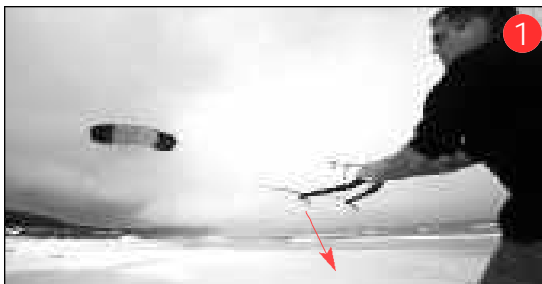
STOPPING OR REVERSING:



You can stop the kite in mid air by pulling on both brake lines together. Do not pull on the main lines. This action changes the aerodynamics of the kite and can also reverse the kite. Fine adjustments of braking and reversing will enable you to put the kite just where you want it in the wind window.

LANDING:

Landing is a variation on stopping or de-powering the kite. This can be done anywhere in the wind window as long as the leading edge of the kite is facing up towards the sky. Apply full brake by rotating both your wrists to pull the brake lines only towards you. The kite will descend and land on its trailing edge. This manoeuvre takes practice as you need to gently "play" the handles to keep the kite steady and in position as it descends to the ground.



LANDING: (cont.)

If the kite lands nose (Leading Edge) down, you can re-launch it by reversing it or flying it "backwards". Rotate your wrists to pull both brake lines towards you (pull back on the brake lines only). This will make the Trailing Edge of the kite rise into the air. As this happens, push one of the brake lines away from you and the kite will rotate on its axis and point upwards. You can now fly away or attempt to land again.

AFTER LANDING:

When the kite is on the ground, keep the brake lines taut to stop the kite from taking off again. Secure the handles to the ground by inserting a ground stake through the loops at the bottom of the handles.



Walk over to the kite and secure it by putting sand or heavy objects on the trailing edge. Avoid using sharp objects as these can damage the kite sail.

NEVER leave your kite unattended. If you have finished flying, pack it away for safety.

PACKING AWAY:

We recommend that you do not disconnect your lines!



With your kite secured on the ground remove the ground stake and take both handles together in one hand. With your other hand, wind all four lines together around the top (foam rubber part) of your handles. Do not change hands and keep winding while walking towards your kite.

When you reach the kite and have wound the first part of the bridle around your handles, stop winding and place the handles on the ground in front of the kite.



Then fold your kite sail from the tips towards the middle, keeping the loose bridle inside the sail and leaving the handles on the ground.

Keep folding the kite inwards on itself until you have a neat package. Then place the handles on the kite, in the centre.

Roll the kite up neatly with the handles on the inside. Make sure you roll the kite up towards the Leading Edge as this will allow any excess air inside the kite to be expelled.

IMPORTANT: When you next fly, remember to unwind the lines from the handles from the same side as they were wound on. Failure to do so will cause a lot of twists in the flying line and will seriously reduce your flying time!

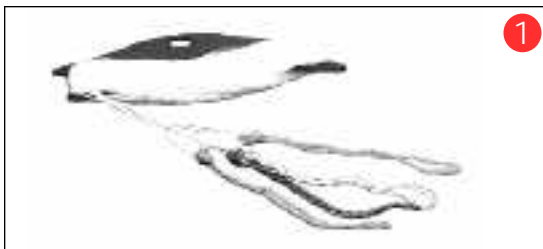
SETTING UP YOUR BLADE ON 2 LINES:

Flying your Blade on two lines could be your preferred choice if you wish to use your kite on water or snow with a control bar. We recommend a control bar that is between 61 and 71 cm in length (24 to 28 inches). The length of the bar you choose depends on your personal preference but generally speaking, the bigger the kite, the bigger the bar you will need.

Converting the Blade for use with two lines is very simple for all sizes up to and including the 4.9. For the larger sizes, it is advisable to use the Flexifoil "Cross-over" kit which increases the turning speed of the kite.

CONNECTING THE FLYING LINES TO THE KITE WITHOUT THE "CROSS-OVER KIT":

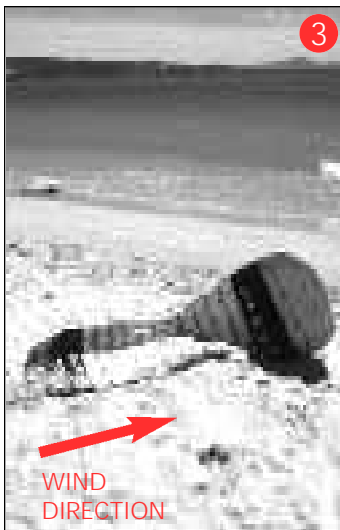
It is important to understand that even pre-stretched lines will stretch further during initial use. As this will alter the performance of your kite, it is important that you check this frequently and adjust if necessary. (see [LINE LENGTH ADJUSTMENT](#) on page 30)



You will need a suitable set of two pre-stretched flying lines of the same length. Use the line table on page 7 as a guide to select the correct lines.



First, read the safety label attached to the kite, then tear off and dispose of responsibly.



Spread the sail out on the ground with the bridle facing up and the trailing edge facing across the wind. Place sand (or other suitable objects) on the upwind wingtip to prevent it being blown away. Do not use sharp objects as they can damage the sail.



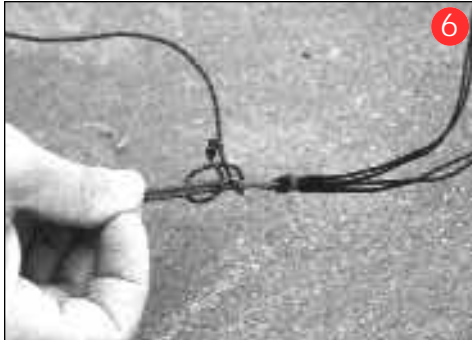
Secure both flying line loops with a ground stake, near the trailing edge of the kite. Unwind all of your lines while walking into the wind and away from your kite. Then separate them on the ground.



Ensure your main and brake bridles are free of tangles.



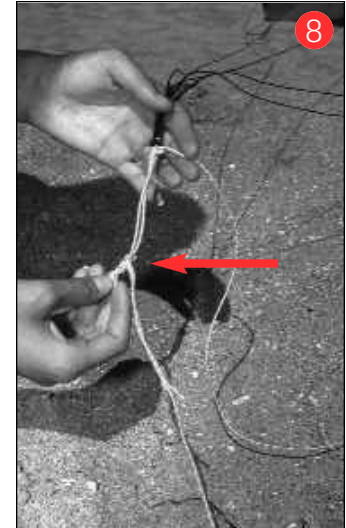
CONNECTING THE FLYING LINES TO THE KITE WITHOUT THE "CROSS-OVER KIT": (cont.)



Take the left brake bridle toggle and larks-head it onto the left main bridle toggle. Repeat this for the right side of the bridle, keeping the bridle free of tangles.



The brake bridle toggles are now attached to the main bridle toggles.



Connect the two flying lines to the main bridle toggles. Use larks-head knots as shown.

Once you have connected the flying lines to the kite, you are now ready to connect the flying lines to the control bar.



Simply connect the flying lines to the leader lines on either side of the control bar using a larks-head knot taking note of which one is left and which one is right. If your control bar is not supplied by Flexifoil, follow the manufacturers instructions for line attachment.

Your Blade is now ready for flight, but before you go flying, you must read the rest of these instructions.

SETTING UP YOUR BLADE ON 2 LINES WITH THE "CROSS-OVER KIT":

For the larger sizes of Blade (6.4 and above) we recommend the use of the Cross-over kit as this will increase the rate of turn by automatically applying the brakes in flight. It is similar to flying a four-line kite, but on two lines only. You can use the same Cross-over kit for all sizes of kite as it is fully adjustable.

You will need a suitable set of two pre-stretched flying lines of the same length. Use the line table on page 7 as a guide to select the correct lines.

It is important to understand that even pre-stretched lines will stretch further during initial use. As this will alter the performance of your kite, it is important that you check this frequently and adjust if necessary. (see LINE LENGTH ADJUSTMENT on page 30)

Spread the sail out on the ground with the bridle facing up and the trailing edge facing across the wind. Place sand (or other suitable objects) on the trailing edge to prevent it being blown away. Do not use sharp objects as they can damage the sail.

FITTING INSTRUCTIONS: (see diagram on page 24)

1 - Unwind the link lines and lay them out on ground as shown (Figure 1 main diagram). You may find this easier with the help of a friend to keep tension on the lines. Attach the toggles (which are near the metal rings) to the loops on the flying lines (Figure 2).

2 - Unwind the thinner cross-over lines. Attach them by the small loops to the link line loops. Use the "larks head knot" as shown (Figure 3). Pull tight.

3 - Feed each cross-over line through a ring (Figure 4) and make sure it runs under the other cross-over line at the kite end (see 'UNDER' in Figure 1).

4 - Check that the sliding knots are next to the silver marks (Figure 5). This special knot allows adjustment on the brakes. Should this knot become undone, re-tie it as shown (Figure 6).

5 - Before connecting the accelerator kit to your kite you must make sure that the kite is secure and cannot self-launch. To secure the kite, put sand on the trailing edge or get a friend to assist.

6 - Connect the accelerator kit to the main bridle and brake lines of the kite as shown (Figure 7).

7 - Fly the kite and adjust the turn rate to your preferred setting. Shortening the cross-over lines by the sliding knots will increase the turn rate and making them longer will decrease the turn rate. Uneven adjustment may cause the kite to turn, even with the flying lines equal. Adjust until it flies straight. Please note that over-tightening of the brake lines will decrease the performance of your Blade.

8 - Always check all connections and the condition of your flying lines, accelerator kit and bridle before you fly your Blade. Repair or adjust first, as the last thing you want is equipment failure especially when you are out at sea or during a buggy race.

9 - We recommend that once you have fitted the accelerator kit, you leave it attached to your kite. Should you need to remove it, wind it back on the winders to avoid messy tangles.

Once you have connected the flying lines and cross-over kit to the kite, you are now ready to connect the flying lines to the control bar. Simply connect the flying lines to either side of the control bar using a larks-head knot, taking note of which one is left and which one is right. If your control bar is not supplied by Flexifoil, follow the manufacturers instructions for line attachment.

Your Blade is now ready for flight, but before you do so you must read the rest of the instructions.

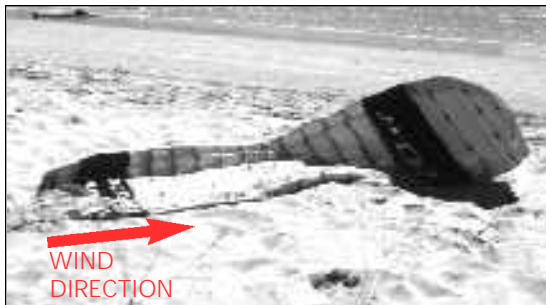
FLYING YOUR BLADE ON 2 LINES:

Before you attempt to fly your Blade ensure that your chosen flying site is of a suitable size and free from obstructions and people (see "Safety First" on page 3).

We strongly recommend that you make your first flights in light and steady winds to get used to the power and flying characteristics of the kite.

LAUNCHING: (Self-launch)

It is possible to self-launch your Blade with a two line set up but you must launch the kite from the edge of the window, not the centre. Self-launch should only be attempted in lighter winds. You have less control over the kite with the two line set up, so it is important to have a helper in stronger winds.



Set the kite on the ground on its back so that it is side on to the wind. (e.g. the wind is blowing across the kite from wingtip to wingtip). Place sand (or other suitable objects) on the upwind wingtip. Do not use sharp objects as they can damage the sail. The downwind wingtip is unsecured.



Pull back gently on the downwind side of the bar and the unsecured tip of the kite will rise into the air and inflate. The kite will then launch and will automatically face upwind.



Carefully steer it up the edge of the wind window to the top of the window, where it will stay in a stable minimum power position (above your head).

LAUNCHING: (Assisted launch)

If you have someone to help you launch, make sure that they understand what you want them to do, before launching your kite. Initial launches are best done at the edge of the wind window.



Get your helper to stand **BEHIND** the kite, holding it up so that the Leading Edge is facing into the wind, with one wingtip on the ground and one pointing at the sky. Once the kite inflates, the helper can release it. It is important not to "throw" the kite into the air as this will prevent a smooth take-off.



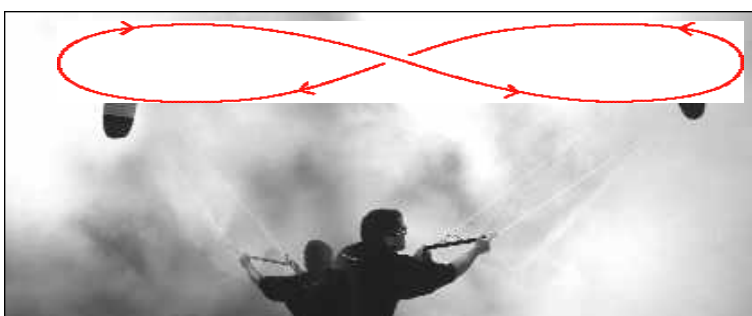
Steer the kite up the edge of the wind window to the top of the window (above your head), where it will stay in a stable minimum power position.

TURNING/STEERING:

When learning, it is best to make gentle left and right turns at the top of the wind window to get used to the kite. If you fly through the centre of the wind window, the power of the kite will increase significantly and could cause you difficulties. Get confident first and then go for full power!

Turns are made by pulling one side of the bar towards you, while pushing the other side away from you. Pulling left turns the kite to the left - pulling right turns the kite to the right.

Tip: Flying your kite in a flat figure of eight motion in the centre of the wind window will give you the maximum power available.



STOPPING OR REVERSING:

When flying your Blade on two lines you will not be able to stop or reverse your kite in flight. If you want to minimise the power, you must fly your kite to the edge of the wind window (to the left, right or above your head) until the kite stops flying forwards.

LANDING: (Self-landing)

Fly your kite to the edge of the wind window and steer it towards the ground. Upon landing, quickly retrieve your kite and secure it on the ground with sand or similar. **Do not attempt** to self-land in stronger winds as the kite can easily blow away while you are trying to retrieve it.

LANDING: (Assisted landing)

When the kite is at the edge of the wind window, steer the kite down towards the ground. Get your helper to get hold of the kite from behind. As soon as your helper has secured the kite on the ground with sand or similar, release the tension on the lines by walking towards the kite.

AFTER LANDING:

Ensure that the kite is secure by putting sand or other suitable objects on the trailing edge. Do not use sharp objects as they can damage the kite sail.

NEVER leave your kite unattended. If you have finished flying, pack it away for safety.

PACKING AWAY:

We recommend that you do not disconnect your lines!



Take the bar in one hand, then with the other hand, wind both lines together around the bar, using the line guides. Do not change hands and keep winding while walking towards your kite.

When you reach the kite, wind the first part of the bridle across your bar



Stop winding and place the bar on the ground in front of the kite.



With your kite lying on its back and secured on the ground, fold your sail from the tips towards the middle, keeping the loose parts of the bridle inside the sail.

PACKING AWAY: (cont.)



Keep folding the kite inwards on itself until you have a neat package. Then place the bar on the kite, in the centre.

Roll the kite up neatly with the bar on the inside. Make sure you roll the kite up towards the Leading Edge as this will allow any excess air inside the kite to be expelled.

When you next fly, remember to unwind the lines from the bar from the same side as they were wound on. Failure to do so will cause a lot of twists in the flying line and will seriously reduce your flying time!

CARE AND MAINTENANCE:

Taking good care of your Blade will prolong its life. If your Blade is used in wet conditions allow it to dry before re-packing and storing it. The kite may be hand washed in warm (not hot) soapy water. Do not use abrasive materials on it as this will damage the fabric. Small tears may be repaired with our clear self adhesive repair tape. For larger and more complicated repairs we recommend that you return your Blade to us through your dealer or direct to Flexifoil International. Make sure it is clean, free of sand and dry. We will charge if we have to clean your kite!

WARRANTY:

At Flexifoil International, we believe in designing and manufacturing our products to the highest possible standards. We pride ourselves on our outstanding quality control but if any of our products fail as a result of defective workmanship or faulty materials, we will replace it free of charge. No questions asked. This is in addition to your statutory rights.

LINE LENGTH ADJUSTMENT:

Flexifoil flying lines are made from low stretch Dyneema and should not stretch significantly during use. Any stretch is most likely to happen when you stretch the lines in or during your first few flights. Any difference in line length can easily be adjusted as follows:

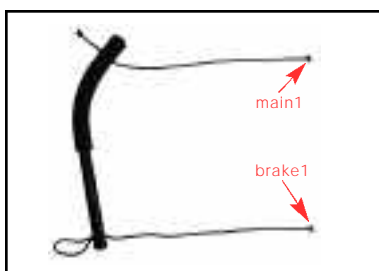
Flexifoil Flying Line: Untie the sleeved loop on the end of the longer line, slide the sleeving down the line and re-tie to match the length of the shorter line. Any excess line can be cut off and then sealed (melted) with a match or lighter.

Flexifoil Hydro Line: Untie the loop on the end of the longer line, and re-tie it to match the length of the shorter line. Any excess line can be cut off and then sealed (melted) with a match or lighter.

TUNING TIPS:

Flexifoil Blades have been designed to fly on lines of equal length. The kite flies primarily on the main lines with the brake lines being used for extra control in launching, turning, landing, reversing etc. To get the most out of your kite, it may be necessary to tune it to match the wind conditions whenever you fly it. It will take some experience to become skilled at tuning your kite, but once you have mastered it, it's easy to do.

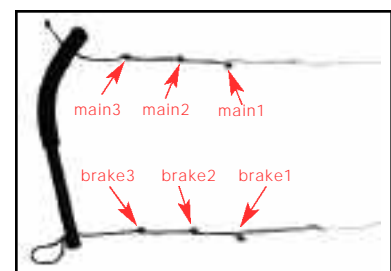
The ideal flying set up is: Main lines taut in flight, controlling the kite - Brake lines loose enough to not interfere with kite control or deform the kite sail in flight. However, the brake lines must be tight enough to control the performance of the kite when applied. When brakes are applied, a crease will appear across the length of the kite.



Your handles are supplied with one knot tied in each leader line (**main1 & brake1**).



You can tie further knots in the leader lines for tuning purposes. Start with knots at an equal distance apart, you can always adjust them later to suit.



For initial flights, tie flying lines to **main1** and **brake1**. This is an ideal setting for light wind flying.

In stronger winds, the main lines may stretch a little, causing the brake lines to become taut which will apply unwanted brake and affect the performance of the kite. Remedy this by moving the main lines to **main2**.

TIP: If the kite is hesitant on take-off and slow through the sky - Brake lines are too short or Main lines are too long.

If the kite has unresponsive steering and will not reverse - Brake lines are too long or Main lines are too short.

© Copyright Flexifoil International Ltd 2001. Colours and specifications subject to change without notice.



pic: team rider **chris calthrop** by john carter

