



SKYTIGER™

A COBRA KITES DESIGN BY FLEXIFOIL

FLYING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SKYTIGER SERIES TRACTION KITES (ALL SIZES)

As the owner of this Skytiger 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™

AIR SUPREMACY SINCE 1972

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

Skytiger kites have been designed as recreational traction kites for land based activities including snow and ice. They are **NOT** designed to be used for water-based activities such as Kiteboarding.

SAFETY FIRST:

Kite traction activities including kite buggying, 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.



SKYTIGER INSTRUCTIONS

Bag Contents

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



1 x Folded Skytiger kite



1 x pair of 4-line Handles



1 x Product registration card
1 x Free repair voucher

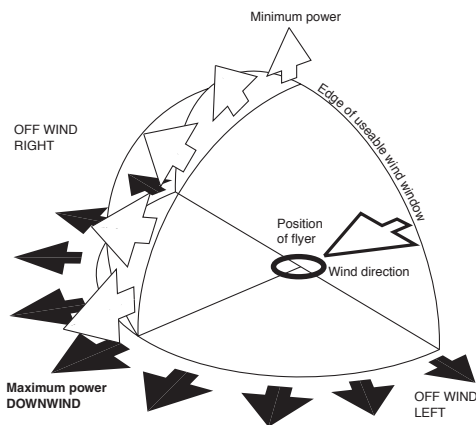


1 x Instruction manual

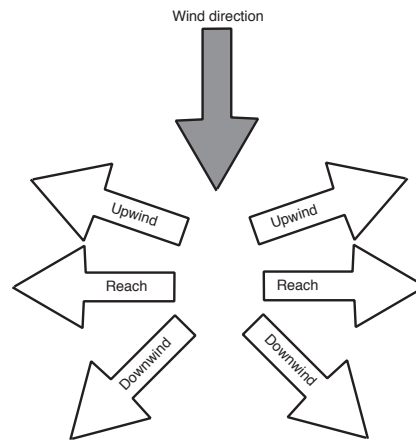
THE WIND:

Before using your kite, 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



Force	Wind Speed				Description	Wind Speed Indicators (probable)
	MPH	Knots	KPH	Metres/sec		On Land
0	<1	<1	<1	0-0.2	Calm	Calm; smoke rises vertically
1	1-3	1-3	1-5	0.3-1.5	Light Air	Smoke drift indicates wind direction; vanes do not move
2	4-7	4-6	6-11	1.6-3.3	Light Breeze	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; vanes begin to move
3	8-12	7-10	12-19	3.4-5.4	Gentle Wind	Leaves & small twigs in motion; light flags extended
4	13-18	11-16	20-29	5.5-7.9		Leaves & loose paper raised up; flags flap; small branches move
5	19-24	17-21	30-38	8.0-10.7	Fresh Wind	Small trees begin to sway; flags flap & ripple
6	25-31	22-27	39-50	10.8-13.8	Strong Wind	Large branches in motion; whistling heard in wires
7	32-38	28-33	51-61	13.9-17.1	Near Gale	Whole trees in motion; resistance felt in walking against wind
8	39-46	34-40	62-74	17.2-20.7	Gale	Whole trees in motion; resistance felt in walking against wind (again)
9	47-54	41-47	75-86	20.8-24.4	Strong Gale	Slight structural damage occurs; shingles blow from roofs
10	55-63	48-55	87-101	24.5-28.4	Storm	Trees broken/uprooted; considerable structural damage occurs



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
- 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
18	Main Lines: 200 lb / 90 kg Brake Lines: 150 lb / 70 kg	300 lb / 135 kg 200 lb / 90 kg
26	Main Lines: 300 lb / 135 kg Brake Lines: 200 lb / 90 kg	300 lb / 135 kg 200 lb / 90 kg
40	Main Lines: 300 lb / 135 kg Brake Lines: 200 lb / 90 kg	500 lb / 225 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)

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:

Skytigers 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.

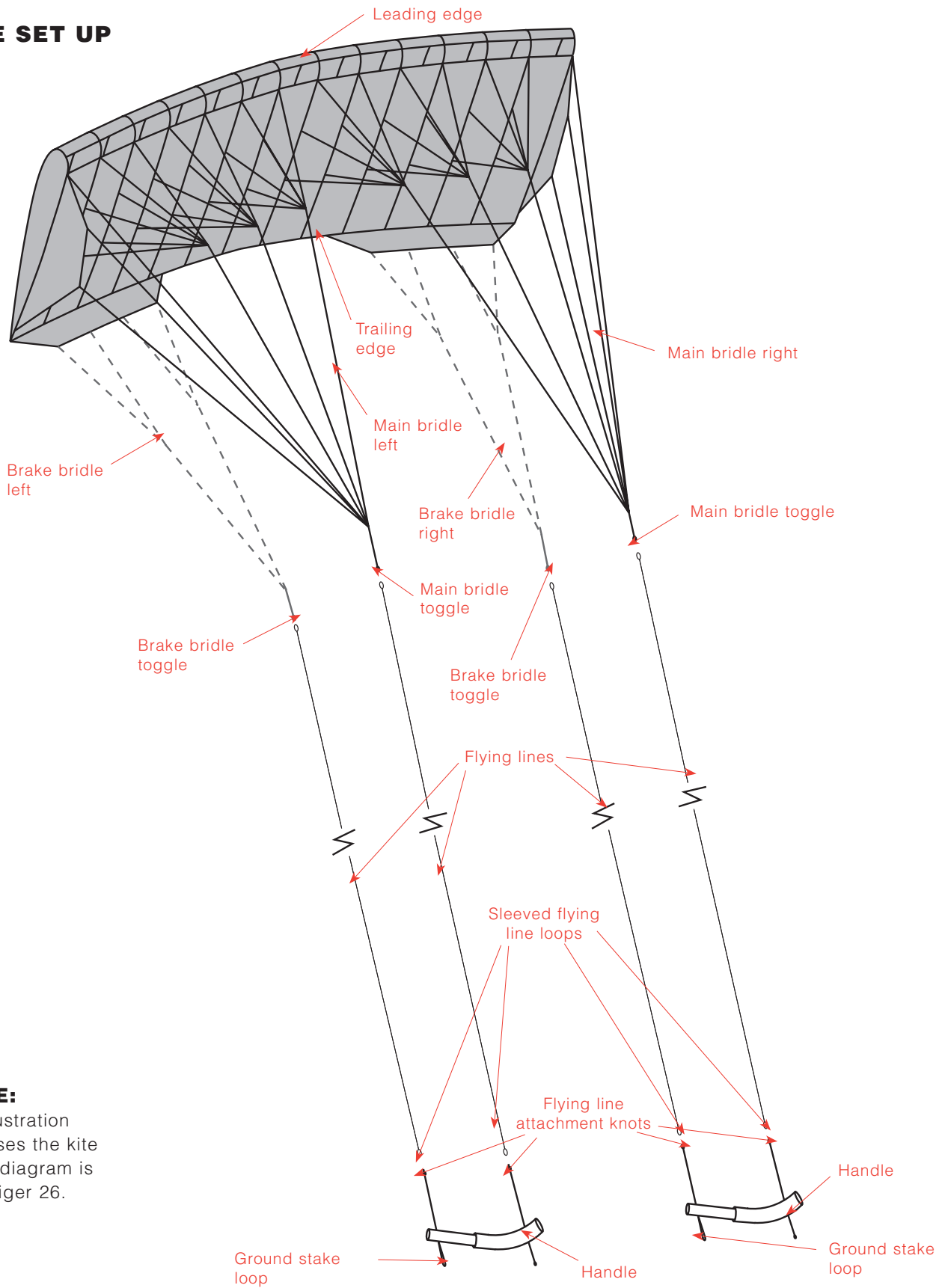
Open unrestricted areas like beaches usually have 'clean' winds and shorter line lengths can be used. We do not recommend using lines shorter than 25 metres.

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.

**FLYING LINE retail pack**



KITE SET UP



NOTE:
For illustration purposes the kite in the diagram is a Skytiger 26.

SETTING UP YOUR SKYTIGER:

The Flexifoil Skytiger is a four-line traction kite. Four lines will give you much more control over the kites performance than two lines, and therefore, they are more popular for traction activities.

CONNECTING THE FLYING LINES TO THE KITE:

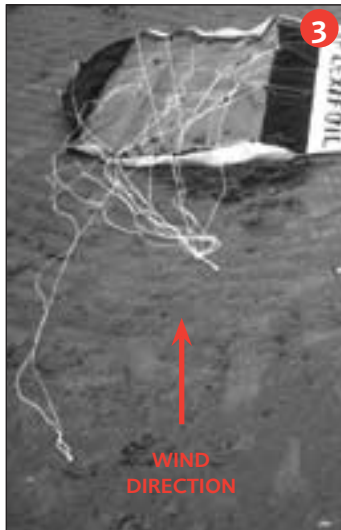
It is important to understand that even pre-stretched lines will stretch further during initial use, especially the main lines. As this will alter the performance of your kite, it is important that you check your line lengths frequently and adjust if necessary.(see LINE LENGTH ADJUSTMENT on page 19)



You will need a suitable set of four pre-stretched flying lines of the same length. Use the line table on page 6 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.

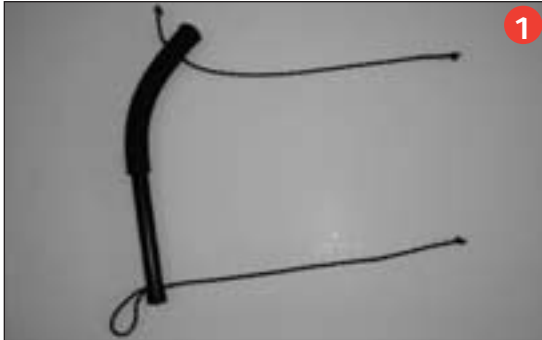


Connect the two remaining flying lines to the brake bridle toggles, again using larks-head knots.

(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 19)



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



FLYING YOUR SKYTIGER:

GENERAL POINTS:

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

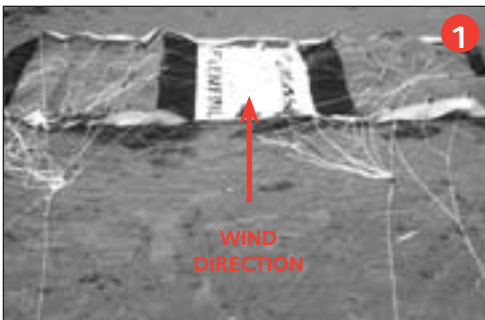
We strongly recommend that you make your first flights in light and steady winds to get used to the power and flying characteristics of the kite.



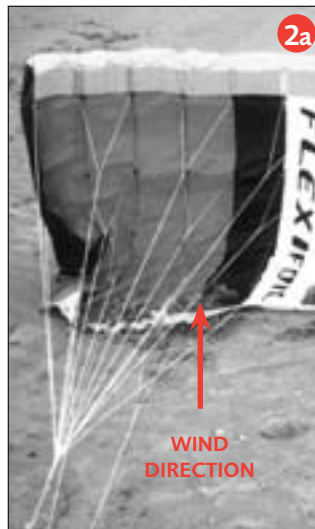
Hold your handles as shown, with the main flying line between your first and second finger and your hand firmly gripped around the top part of the handle. Place your thumb on the top of the handle. Make sure that your lines are not twisted and that your left handle is connected to the left side of the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

LAUNCHING: (Self launch in light winds)

You can launch your Skytiger 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.

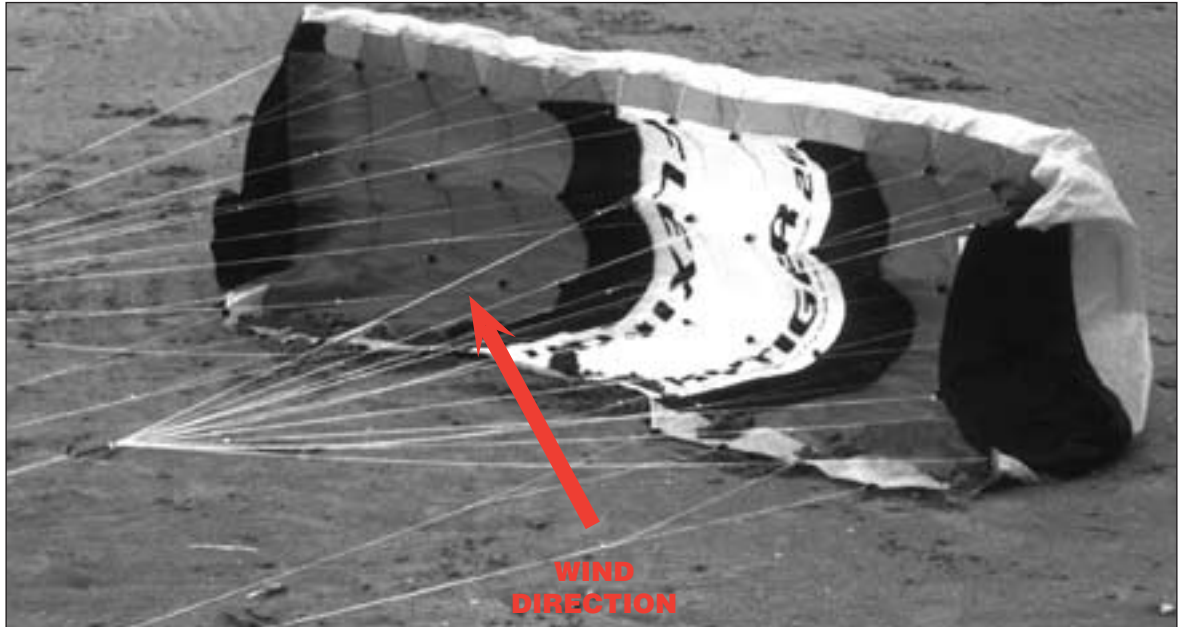


Pull back gently on both handles until the Leading Edge of the kite starts to lift off the ground and the kite begins to inflate. The kite will now stand up on its trailing edge in preparation for take-off.

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 as shown. Secure the kite with sand or similar along the trailing edge.

Pull back gently on the downwind handle and allow the kite to 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.



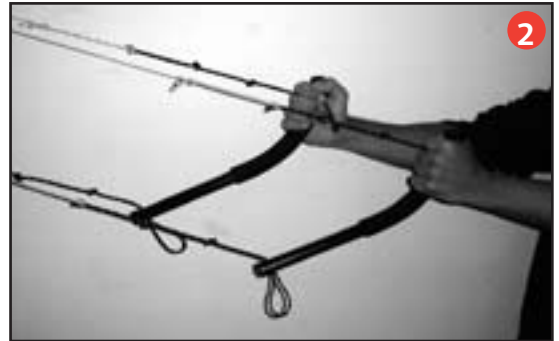
Steer the kite up the edge of the wind window to the top of the window (above your head), where it will stay in a stable minimum power position.

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.

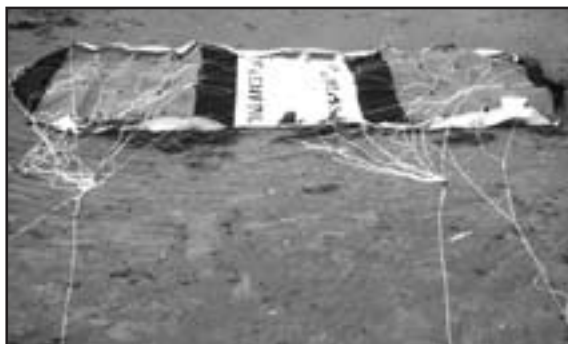


LANDING: (cont.)

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!

LINE LENGTH ADJUSTMENT:

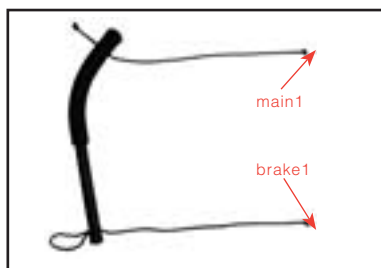
Flexifoil flying lines are made from low stretch Dyneema and should not stretch significantly during use. Any stretch is most likely to happen when you stretch the lines in or during your first few flights. Any difference in line length can easily be adjusted as follows:

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.

HANDLE TUNING TIPS:

Flexifoil Skytigers 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.

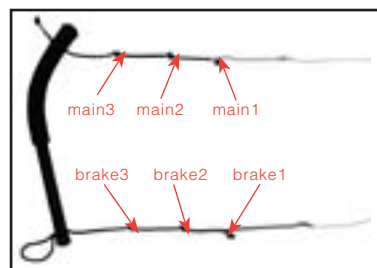
The ideal flying set up is: Main lines taut in flight, controlling the kite - Brake lines tight enough to pull in the trailing edge flaps but not so tight that the sail deforms.



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 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 too 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.

**CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

Taking good care of your Skytiger will prolong its life. If your Skytiger 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 Skytiger to us through your dealer or direct. 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.



SKYTIGER INSTRUCTIONS





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