

PEAK review

By Paulo Nuno Baptista

The guys at Flysurfer Portugal sent me a PEAK 9m to test and make a few photos, because I already did other brands product photoshoots. Being a single-skin depower kite, I was very curious to see how would be its behaviour.

The kite was delivered ready to fly, with the optional touring bag with integrated harness, and first thing that I noticed was the really small size and weight. This will make those small sessions a lot more easy when it comes to put everything in the car. In fact, its easier to carry than my camera bag and tripod!



A low-angle shot of a person from behind, wearing a grey hoodie and dark pants, holding a red and black kite bar. The person is wearing a white harness with black straps. In the background, a blue and white kite is visible in the clear blue sky.

Kite

First impression when you open the packing bag and unfold the kite, is that the material is high quality and extremely lightweight. After checking its profile design, you can see that it was built to be highly efficient in lightwind conditions, with a bridle distribution that will ensure that the forces applied are distributed evenly thru the whole profile, getting the most response of it.

The Bar

The PEAK bar is light, really compact and comes with bar bag. It features a simple knot trimming option for lightwind or touring mode that can be adjusted in 30 seconds or less, without the need of further adjustments in the kite. The safety system works like it would be expected, activate the quick release, and the kite will flag out immediately with minimum pull.

Test conditions


I had two sessions in the last few days, both below 10kn, in fact, during this last week, there have been days with almost no wind to kite. First session was in a rough grass terrain, with a mountainboard and 6-8 knots wind speeds, with small gusts going up to 10kn. Usually, I wouldn't even bother to try with my previous equipment, but with a stated operational windrange from 3 to 12kn (max 15kn), I was very curious to see what it could do.

After laying down the lines, unfold the kite and check if everything was OK, I got my harness on, hook the bar with trimming option in lightwind settings, take a few steps back and unbelievable, the kite took off without any effort, straight up to the zenith and stayed there, awaiting for bar input.

I started flying the kite across the window, testing its behaviour. Fast turning speed, no stalling, holding itself well in the window edge. Just great, but one of the things that really caught my attention was the speed that it would regain its shape after being collapsed. It's impressive, pull both direction lines to a full collapse, let them go and one second later the kite will recover and will be travelling again!

After changing the trimming option to touring mode, I grabbed the mountainboard and there I went, perfectly powered in 7kn! I did a few slides, travelled back and forward and its nice to see how you will immediately pick up speed with such a low wind. I even tried a few small jumps during the near 10 knots gusts, it seems that you can do a bit of small jumping with this kite, but its a traction oriented kite, so it doesn't has much hangtime. Landing the kite is easy, just collapse it with the direction lines, activate the quick release system or take it to the edge of the window, let it land on its side and it will stay there. If you want to put it in the air again in this situation, just take a few steps back and pull the lines, it will unfold and will be flying in no time.



A person is seen from behind, wearing a red sweater, dark pants, and a black backpack with white accents. They are holding the lines of a kite that is flying in the sky. The kite is blue and black. The background is a grassy field with trees and a clear blue sky.

The second session was with a street carver skate. Again, I was ready to go in less than 5 minutes. In asphalt, you really pick up speed fast while the kite remains stable, even in 5 knots (it was really lightwind that day). Ended up changing to mountainboard to try a new spot in that place, again I was able to ride, and even if you need some extra power, you can always unhook, the kite will stay in the air without the need to adjust trimming, and it will give enough confidence to try a few moves unhooked, even if you are new to kite landboarding.

On the last day, there was almost no wind to ride, but I needed a few more photos, so I placed the kite in the car trunk and went out for a family afternoon at the local city park. The wind was really low, only enough to get the kite in the air, and nothing more, so I convinced my older son try it, because in the last times, he wants to experiment everything that is father does (surf, scuba, skate, kite, you name it, he go along with me in all these activities). He already tried a few fixed bridled kites, so he has some basic knowledge. After I telled him that this is not a "jumpy" kite, and that it would be perfectly safe for him to try, he got the touring backpack on, attached the chicken loop and got the kite in the air (lightwind settings)...you should see the big smile on his face while having the kite in the air from one side to another. It made our day!

Mine because he was happy, his because he was kiting!

Final considerations

The Flysurfer PEAK is a great lightwind kite to add to your quiver, it will give hours and hours of fun, will lead you to explore new spots, and will greatly improve the chance of quick sessions, due to the fact that you will only need to transport a small kite bag and a skate or mountainboard.

Also, it is a great training kite for use in lightwind days. Kiteschools can use it, as it will help new students to master the wind window, without the danger of getting thrown up in the air by the kite.

