

I'M ON IT

DYLAN

VAN DER MEIJ

The Radical 5 is an 'all things to all men/women' kind of a board. Dylan van der Meij has been at the core of the board's development and has been riding and helping to develop it since V2 in 2010...

The Radicals have an asymmetrical outline with the inside outline rounder than the heelside outline. This increases control and comfort while cruising heelside, but you still have great performance for pop and the upwind performance on your heelside: the best of both worlds!

We increased the rocker this year for more control during landings, and for comfortable riding in choppy conditions, but the central part of the rockerline is flat. This helps a lot for lightwind riding and upwind performance. This version is based on a prototype with more rocker which I remember riding the first time and I loved it! Landings were more controlled and softer. I remember launching off a wave with my knee low and I headed for impact, since I thought it was going to be a big landing, but with this prototype it wasn't bad at all.

On the base of the board we have a channel on the heelside for more grip and for setting your edge more effectively before you jump. If you are experienced this channel will help you keep your course to aim for the perfect take off. I've been riding several different boards the last two years with different rockers and stiffness. I believe we have found the perfect combination.

I've been riding for Flysurfer since 2000 and back then we had the Radical 2. That was my first sponsored board and I've been on every Radical since. The board changed a lot between the Radical 1 and 4 when we added the heelside channel. For this we tested several depths of channels - too thick means the board loses its playful character, and too shallow wouldn't be as effective.

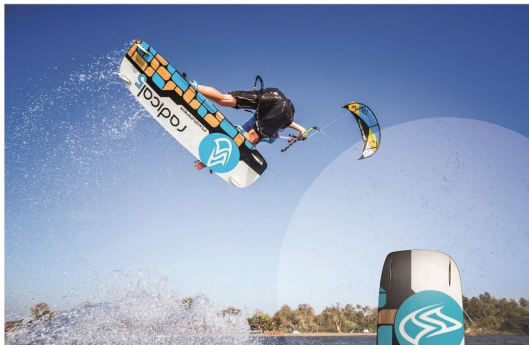
The highest loads on a kiteboard are on the heelside edge, meaning they have to be strong and robust. This is

why the Radical's heelside edge is woodcore. However, a foam core is used on the toeside in the longitudinal direction which is strong enough to hold the loads but results in a big reduction in the board's weight. Boards can get heavy, especially in combination with bindings and I don't like having a heavy board - it makes it much harder to get your board up while you flip. The lighter the board, the easier it is for me to put on my tricks. But - despite the light weight - the durability is amazing and I have never broken one!

The Radical 5 is the real all-rounder in the range. Then we also have the Spillboard in two sizes which is ideal for traveling and - as Flysurfer are known for their low wind performance - we also have the Flydoers which are specifically designed for light wind. The final model is the Razor, this is a freestyle directional board, great for lightwind cruising or a good intro to a formula board.

I like to mix things up in a session so maybe a freestyle session with bindings, then after that some old school rotations and then board offs with straps. Flysurfer's pads and straps have been super comfy for as long as I can remember. For the newest adjusting system of the straps we went 'back to basics'. The Velcro straps will always work and they cover a big part of your feet, which makes you feel secured and not scared to lose the board in mid-air. The new Space pads give you more grip and comfy landings and backs in my feet enough not to lose control during a high speed take off but loose enough to get out of the straps when boosting out a board off.

The Click 'n' Ride fin system allows you to put on your fins in seconds without a screwdriver. Click in the fin and lock it, that's it. To be completely honest, in the beginning I had my doubts about the



durability of this system, but after sliding over the beach, jumping on wooden docks and hitting reefs with it for the past year, I've never broken it.

The best thing about the Radical 5 is its versatility with straps or binding in any kind of conditions! The board has a great overall performance and no matter the riding style or age, everyone I let try it likes it! At my home spot you will see a lot of Radicals - the 'older' generations love the easy upwind ability and its comfort in all conditions, and a lot of my friends are flying with it on the stormy days then landing the unbooked tricks on the calmer days.

