

TESTED

£545 | FLYBOARDS RADICAL4
FLYSURFER.COM



Introducing

All stand for the German national anthem, the bratwurst, the schnitzel and now the Flyboard's Radical4. Created by Flysurfer's sister company and built within Europe to German quality, their kites might not be to everybody's taste but this comfortable freestyle board will put a smile on even the most diehard LEI flyer's face. (Even if you try and resist!) **Tested NT**

Build

Up top Nice looking pads and straps with really soft and squidgy knee friendly pads, the straps are good with the lace style top make it very easy to adjust as well, and opens up really big to allow plenty of room for them to be used by bigfoot or with wetsuit boots.

Construction The board uses an interesting construction technique where the heelside of the board is full wood and designed to take a lot of load, whereas the toe edge is foam to reduce the overall weight – which is really noticeable when you pick up the board.

Design A fairly basic flat rocker line with no real surprises except for one deep channel on the centre of the heelside rail, which maximises the grip when ridden on an edge.

Performance

Get up and Go At 40cm wide, the board gets you up and riding really quickly, and it gains speed well. It likes to be ridden very flat on the water, which is a weird feeling when you first ride it, but you soon get used to it and it feels as if you could ride it with no fins and it would

still perform due to the heelside channel creating so much grip. **Ride comfort and Tracking** A really nice board to be ridden in a mixture of conditions, the tips of the board are very thin and flex well, which helps the board to glide over that annoying short chop, also the tips give the board an unreal amount of snap when you give it a big carving turn so I can see this board being fun to smack the lip with on smaller waves. **Flex and Pop** With the stiffer thicker centre of the board leading onto the thinner tips, the board loads up nicely by getting the power from the stiffness of the centre of the board and getting the smooth release from the flexi tips: it pops well.

Icing

You can tell straightaway when you look at the board that it's a Flyboard, the graphics are very similar to previous models. It does look smart though, and is really well finished with little peep shop clear patches that let you see the wood and foam construction technique which adds a bit of geek chic.

kitesurf Verdict

→ Whether or not you ever think you could fall in love with one of their kites, the Radical4 is a massive step in the right direction board wise. It handles really nicely, particularly in chop, and has the kind of all round characteristics and appeal where it does pretty much everything very well. Flyboards really did get it right with the Radical!