



→ Introducing

The Sculp is a bold, bright lightwind entry to crazy he market from those crazy guys over at CrazyFly. It is bold, brash, striking and comes with a 'sick' bar by its own admission. The 17m is the biggest in the range, which extends all the way from 5-17m for all your wind strength needs. This one is the big mama of the crew.

→ Basics

Build and construction

This 3 strut 17m is a bold move for such a sizable canopy. But there is no mistaking the size as it's stamped on in huge font. The leading edge is a big tube in circumference, which fortunately give the kite much of its integrity although this reduces as the wingtip tapers to the low profile tip. Reinforcements are reasonable and in all the correct places to protect the canopy from obvious wear spots.

Set up and tuning

The one pump is simple but effective. The front bridle is very long which allows it to reach over the wingtip – something to watch when launching/relaunching. There

are multiple attachment points so you can tweak the tuning to your needs.

Bar and trim

The Sick bar is a new and really quite a stark improvement. The bar itself incorporates some carbon, which everyone loves. The clam cleat is small but very effective and there is a nice easy to grab toggle on the end of it. The grip is very 'grippy' but softens after a few uses. Colour coding indicates the left red side, while a simple push release the red plastic chickenloop. Reloading this is reasonably straightforward. The only downer on the bar is the line stowage is pretty minimal and requires precise technique to prevent all the lines falling off.

Safety

The option for standard line or suicide line similar to that on the North system is a nice feature of the Sick bar. Once released the safety flags onto one of the front power lines and stops a suitable distance up allowing safe self rescue and packing up of the kite if the need arises... Good work CrazyFly.



→ Performance

Turning speed, handling and feel

This is a big lump for three tapered struts to support, which it struggles on occasion to do. The size of the leading edge represents a lot of compressed air, which makes the kite struggle in the lightest of airs. Once the wind fills in it cruises across the wind very nicely though. You do have to pre-empt your turns a little and keep plenty of tension in the lines otherwise it will struggle. When locked in though it delivers a nice smooth pull and will sit nicely forward in the window.

The Triangle

It will go upwind if persuaded and, when powered, does this well. Off the wind is possible but not the easiest with such swept wingtips and width in the kite, which prevents any looping potential in reality.

Lift, hangtime and landing

Jumping is possible but more realistic to pop than to send as the steering delay makes it a challenge to land with the kite in front of you. Popping is far better as, once in position, the Sculp cruises at a steady speed and has a good amount of residual power, which you can load and release against.

Unhooking

It's unfair to judge a 17m lightwind kite on its unhooking potential in reality, but the bar would make this safe both suicide and conventionally if you were to attempt it!

Trim, depower and range

We really grew to like the bar, which not only looks a bit flash, and works brilliantly from a safety perspective, but it also allows on the go trimming and has plenty of throw to allow effective sheeting in and out.

→ Icing

The look

It's bold, brash, bright and there's no mistaking it from anything else. It has the now very recognisable CrazyFly logo, combined with some suitably Caribbean colour. The bag looks cool and allows the kite to be stashed semi-inflated inside the bag. There is a pocket for belongings on the front and bar and pump stowage on the side.



→ Verdict

Crazyfly have a complete range of Sculps for everything from nuking to super lightwinds. They are well built kites and the 'Sick' bar system is safe, works well, looks good and is made entirely in Europe which is unique at the moment. Once you're up and running it delivers a nice smooth amount of power and will get you off the beach when all those 'no bigger than a 12' guys are still making sandcastles.