



Introducing

Sitting in the 'accessible to all' category, the Sculp has more beans than Crazy Fly's beginner friendly MooWii but less than the five line Slash. There has been a lot of love for the Crazy Fly boards in the last couple of years, so are the kites keeping up appearances for the brand? **Tested AH**

Basics

Build and construction

The Sculp is a three strut kite and the construction is solid, with chunky EVA anti-suff guards on the struts and reinforcements in all of the right places. You've got 'in' and 'out' in the centre of the leading edge, and what is now a pretty standard one pump system. **Set up and tuning** A couple of attachments on the outside lines which are nicely tuned and ensure that the Sculp has a pretty whopping wind range. The bridle takes hold of pretty much the whole leading edge offering up a lot of depower. There are swim proof pulleys – with the bridle running through the centre of the pulley – ensuring that if a pulley gets

shredded, everything will stay together so that you can get back in. Nice touch. **Bar and trim** Last year we raved about the 'Sick Bar' and this year's has had a few tweaks but essentially just does everything right. Nothing is over-engineered and everything's done well. The clam cleat is simple and effective, the bar super solid and the new QR system works a treat. It's credit to brands without the massive resources of some of the bigger players that they focus on the bar and ensure that there are no compromises in this department. It's worth noting that a lot of these bars are an exercise in simplicity and maybe leaves you wondering whether some of the more expensive bars are perhaps a little over engineered?!

Info Panel

Main Market
Freeride

Sizes 5, 7, 8, 9, 10,
11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17

Line configuration
Four line, bridled

Inflation
One pump

Safety
Push away and
mini fifth.

Performance

Turning speed, handling and feel The Sculp screams 'Delta kite' once in the air, and it has all of the attributes that you would expect of a Delta. It looks big and pretty high aspect in the air, and consequently has plenty of power to get you going – it's a real sheet in and go number and gives a nice smooth power delivery. If you like knowing where you stand with a kite then you'll like the Sculp. The depower is pretty complete, and you can just gently ease on the throttle and head away as calmly or as confidently as you like. There is a certain something that makes it feel less like similar kites, and it takes a few runs to get used to, but once you're dialled in it will turn really nicely for you and deliver plenty of grunt for lofty jumps, but also turns pretty smoothly for snappy turns in the surf. The bridle delivers the depower but you do lose a touch of connectivity if you're steering it through the window at full tilt. **The Triangle** The Sculp sits nicely forward in the window – you really do truck upwind. Shape wise and it put us in mind of a few of the larger race-specific kites, and it would deliver in this department. Off the wind and in the surf and it didn't love being sailed towards so keeping it moving was key. **Unhooking.** As there's a lot of throw and the kite has such a broad wind range, you need to get the trim set 'just so', but once there it's nice and stable and unhooks well. **Trim, depower and range** The delta shape, bridle system and bar setup all combine to offer a very impressive wind range. We had the 11 out when most over people were on 9s, and it wasn't grumbling at all – it's a nicely tuned kite for both top and bottom ends. We also had it out on a lighter day and, with a couple of confident dives, it really did pull nicely and keep you heading nicely upwind.

Icing

We had the blue Sculp which looked super nice in the sky – you know it would fit in well in a tropical beach, but against the UK's standard grey it looks pretty chipper. The bag's solid with a nice separate pocket for your sandy ol' bar. All good.



Verdict

→ The Sculp is a great all round freeride kite – it doesn't drag you around and has a nice predictable feel to it. It would also be well suited to someone just starting out, or someone having a dabble around the race-course. Pretty versatile then: It's aimed as a 'do it all kite', and it does. Plus, if the on-going financial mayhem has left you a little short of dollar, then a two kite quiver would certainly be viable with the Sculp...