

£559 CRAZY FLY THUNDER 6'2"

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INTRODUCING

Crazy Fly have a great rep for their twintips right now – giving a few of the big brands a run for their money on build quality and responsiveness. With their surfboards they've got three board in the range, all available in one size only: The 5'8" Taurin, the 6'0 Takii and, the one we got, the big mama of the crew, the 6'2" Thunder – the one that means business in the serious stuff...

BUILD

Crazy fly haven't pulled any punches with the build quality of the Thunder. You get a full bamboo deck and base for your money and then plenty of glass to finish things off. It wasn't the lightest board on the test, but it was probably the sturdiest and you could expect to get a few season's use out of it for sure. It's supplied with a full grip but with none already stuck on – so we slapped on the tail pad and waxed up the front and were good to go. Shape wise and it's all about the point and shoot with the Thunder. It's not a crazy gun shape, but it comes in pretty slowly from the front and then pulls in smoothly to a rounded pin – the kind of shape that works very well going straight and fast! At 19" it's pretty wide, so suited to larger riders, and you've also got a very deep double-concave to really keep you locked in. There is a bit more volume than with other boards of this ilk, but this is probably offset by the fact that you've got a bit more weight going on.

PERFORMANCE

The Thunder has plenty of float so you can pretty much hop on, sheet in, and go. It's fun to cruise around

on and you could probably get away with a size smaller on the kite front than the guys riding shorter boards. It flies upwind, with plenty of rail to get involved, and plenty of space to shuffle forward to if you really want to dig in and get back up to the line-up. On the wave and you need some speed to get going – it's not the kind of board that you can just snap around if you see a cheeky section, you need some planning and to draw out your turns. The Thunder is super-stable and holds its line very nicely and the rounded pin delivers plenty of hold in the tail. It's not the board in the range designed for onshore riding, but if you have enough power in the kite you can power it round if you're light on your feet and let the wave do the work.

KS VERDICT

The Thunder is a solid creation – it's a well thought out shape and nicely put together package. If you want something for down the line riding, or if you're a heavier rider or like riding pretty stacked then it's got plenty to offer. And it'll still be going when a lot of the other boards are falling to bits...