

Review Speed2, Size 10m from Kiteschule.com

Testspot: Brasil, Spots from Uruau, Fortaleza to Jericoacoara
Conditions: Water 27C, Air 32C, Sun cream with Factor 25
Wind: Area Fortaleza; constant 3-5Bft, Flat-water
Area Paracuru; constant 4-5Bft, Waves
Area Jeri; gusty 5-7Bft, Flat-water and Waves
Rider: Jens Siegert; 65kg
Holger Vogel; 74kg

So far, so good. As usual I save myself from talking about construction, rigging, accessories etc. As always there is never anything to criticise. That's where Flysurfer is ace.

So first day, wind around 4Bft, kite out of the bag, placed on the sand, harness on. No pre-inflation just straight up with the kite in the middle of the Powerzone. The kite starts quite fast and without any annoying wingtip folding as is common with an under-inflated PS3. Here first pluspoint, **Kite can easily be launched without thorough pre-inflation.**

Next, board on my feet and out through the middle. Holger, with the 10m PS3 and me with the 10m Speed2. HaHa, and straight away I notice, or better say Holger notices that I have an outright high performance kite at the start. One dive and off I go whilst Holger has to work the Psycho3. **Here the next pluspoint. The Speed2 has significantly more low-end grunt than the PS3.**

And another Pluspoint of the kite is for jumping. Here we are talking Hangtime. Whoever said the Speed1 fires you high should first try the Speed2. On some jumps I thought I better depower in midair as I flew very close to the beach.

Back on the beach we changed the kites. I wanted to see what Holger has to say about the kite. So swap bars and on we go. **Here I would like to point out that both kites are incredible stable in the air.** No folding or overflying... Ok, I suppose this now has to be expected from modern kites.

Now we are in the waves of Cumbuco. We swapped the kites every hour to make definite statements. The waves are all over the place and only once in a while you get a good one to ride under your board. So I suppose now its hailing minuspoints. :-) Actually, is a Speedkite built for waves? Well we had great fun with both kites in the waves. **The Psycho3 is the freestyler and thus is superior when it comes to riding waves.** It turns tighter but not actually faster. **The Speed has more basic pull but this isn't always an advantage.** I personally found that the Speed reacted faster to steering input but because of its more elongated shape took longer to go round the corner.

What the Speed doesn't like so much are unhooked jumps in the direction of the kite, or surfing a wave towards the kite. Here it can happen that the kite can all of a sudden loose all pull or relaxes momentarily if you aren't quick enough to tug on the bar and then ends up in the water. Because we had this happen often enough we can now make an accurate assessment of the water-relaunchability. **Here the Kite gets another big pluspoint with extra star.** All who are familiar with the waterstart of the Psycho3 know what I mean. So, if the Speeds in the water, obviously on its nose, pull Both!!!, Both!!! Steering-lines and the kite rises backwards, then let go of one and after the kite turned around let go of the other one, now depower fully and the kite goes up smoothly without dragging the rider 100m through the water. **For a high performance kite I have to give big praise here.**

To really let it rip we went to Jeri where the wind is usually 2Bft stronger than everywhere else. Downwinder from Prea to Jeri, approx. 20km in 5.5-6Bft. Waves up to 2m.

Launched the kite lightly pre-inflated at the edge of the wind window (start-behaviour normal), straight into the waves with a good portion of **gigantic hangtime.** The kite feels very direct and gives good bar feedback. Steering-forces are high but not tiring. As mentioned before, **the kite could turn tighter and faster for waves.** Looping it is no problem and the kite shoots quickly to the edge of the wind window. Here you can use the kites fast acceleration to ride the waves.

Lagunes around Jeri, wind approx. 6Bft, gusty.

Here lies the strength of the Speed2 and everyone will get goosepimpels who flies the kite in its upper windrange. With a fast board you **go really, really, really fast on the water**. In this point the Speed2 has also overtaken its predecessor. Also in regards to its depower-range. With my meagre 65kg I was still jumping relaxed when the windmeter already showed 7Bft. Here you have to make sure to have enough room downwind to avoid landing on the beach!!!. In comparison to a Bowkite (we had a Best Waroo'07) the depower isn't as direct; to only let go of the bar isn't enough, a little bit of board-edging is still necessary. The end result is however the same. **No Flysurfer up to now had such extreme depower and is still stable in the air.**

Subject Unhooked: today even the beginners seem to learn how to waterstart to blind:-). Just pull the trimmer a little, unhook and pop. What the kite does nicely is to **accelerate horizontally**. What it also does, or better say **doesn't do is to backstall**, providing there is wind. So two components which are very important for riding unhooked. Only minuspoint here, when landing towards the kite it can momentarily relax which can result in water-relaunch.

Out of the many weeks here in Brasil **I used the Speed2 10m approx. 90% of the time** together with the small Flyradical 122cm. I could use the kite from 10knt to 33knt. I was never overpowered and in 10knt, ok, not really powered but enough to practice tricks. So, all in all a **Top "One Kite Solution"**.

Here again the main points in overview:

Positive:

- No folding wingtips during launching, extremely stable in the air
- Good bar-feedback, steering forces, fast reaction of the kite
- Lots of depower, significantly more than the Psycho3
- Gigantic hangtime
- Much more basic pull and huge range
- Hardly any backstall, loops well but with large radius
- Fast top-end speed.
- Reasonably easy water-relaunch by pulling both back-lines

Negative:

- Larger turning radius due to the elongated outline
- Fast loss of pull when under swinging the kite during jumps or when riding toward it in waves.
- The usual line-salad when leaving the kite on the beach for any length of time in strong winds.