

TIPS AND HINTS

FLYING TIPS

Picking a place to fly

Your choice of flying field is the single most important ingredient for success with your kite, and most trouble beginners have comes from picking a spot where the wind is turbulent and gusty from obstacles in its path. Like whitewater in a river, wind that flows past trees, buildings and hills becomes gusty and choppy and can make controlling your kite difficult to impossible. The best place to fly is a beach or field with wind blowing in from off the water. If you have such a place available, it's worth the extra travel time to get there because you'll learn to fly in literally a fraction of the time. If you have to fly inland, look for wide open fields with no trees, buildings, or hills for at least a half mile upwind.

CAUTION!

Your kite can fly faster than 50 mph in strong winds. NEVER FLY NEAR:



People



Airports



Power lines



Cars



Storms

Flying in light winds

Light wind flying is a special skill and the more you do it the easier it will become. The trick is to keep tension on the lines at all times by constantly moving around on the field. Gain altitude by walking backwards, and regain lost ground by moving forward while the kite glides downwards. You will not be able to keep the kite in the air for long by standing in one place.

Use a shorter, lighter lineset on calm days to decrease the weight and drag on your kite, and to give you the control you'll need to make the most of the wind. Moving the bridle attachment points upward will change the kite's angle of attack and maximize lift (see Tuning and Adjustment).

Flying in strong winds

There are several things you can do to set your kite up for strong winds. One of the first is to make sure you have the right lineset. For most kites, you'll want at least 150# lines; if you have a kite like the Legacy or a Stylus that pulls a lot, 200# or even 250# lines are the minimum for windy days. You'll also want to use longer lines. Longer lines slow the kite down with their drag, and give you more time to react in a bigger wind window.

Slow the kite down and decrease its pull by adjusting the bridle attachment points. Start at the factory setting, and move the bridle attachment points down in 1/4" increments until the kite has the speed and pull you want.

Useful info about your kite and kiting

CARE AND FEEDING

Cleaning

The advanced materials in your kite are durable and designed for a long life with minimal maintenance. Keep your kite out of the sun when not in use to keep the sailcloth from fading. Beach sand is abrasive and will wear on bridles and fittings, so do what you can to dust off the sand after a session at the beach. Compressed air works great for this if it's available, and a freshwater rinse is a good idea if your kite has been swimming in salt water. Keep your kite out of hot car trunks and avoid using solvents to clean the sail as they can dissolve the adhesives in the seams.

Storage

To fold up your kite the way we do at the factory, disconnect the upper and lower leading edges at the joints and fold the lower leading edges up against the upper leading edges. Then fold the leading edges against the spine so all the spars are next to each other. Tuck the standoffs into the sail and roll the sail neatly up to (but not around) the bundle of leading edges and spine. Try to avoid wrinkles as you fold as they break down the coatings in the sail and cause it to stretch out. Use the Velcro strap provided or a rubber band to bundle it all together, and don't forget to include your upper and lower spreaders.

Frame repairs

The carbon spars in your kite will not fatigue over time, but occasionally you may break one learning new tricks or pushing the limits in high winds. Replacing a spar is quick and easy and many pilots carry a couple of extras when traveling just in case. Spare parts for all Prism kites are available direct from our website at www.prismkites.com.

Sail repairs

Your sail will last a long time unless you like to fly near cactus or barbed wire fences. Tears can also happen during assembly or disassembly if a spar slips in your hands. Most tears and punctures can be invisibly repaired using a special transparent adhesive film called Tedlar, which sticks to the back of the sail and is unaffected by moisture or UV from the sun. Tedlar repair tape is available from the spare parts section of our website.

If your repair requires sewing, remove the frame from the kite and send us just the sail so we can get you a quote and take care of it for you. There are very few mishaps that can't be effectively fixed by our talented in-house repair team. To send in a repair, download our repair form from the website and include it with your sail so we know who you are and how we can help.

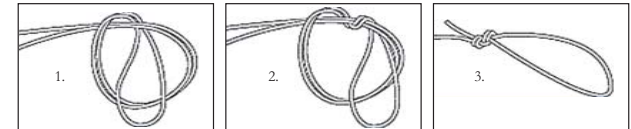
About your flying lines

Your kite can be flown on a wide variety of lengths and strengths of Spectra flying line depending on the wind conditions. Longer, stronger lines slow the kite and reduce pull in strong winds, and shorter lighter lines reduce drag and let you fly in the very lightest winds. Many pilots travel with three or more linesets to get the widest wind range out of their kites. Use only Spectra fiber lines for flying your sport kite; Spectra is extremely low stretch and slippery for maximum performance. Recommended lengths and strengths for our different models are listed on our website at <http://www.prismkites.com/new-site/line-set-selection.htm>.

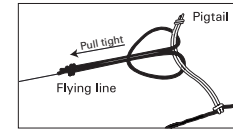
Line maintenance

Lines can also wear and break if you fly regularly in fine sand or strong winds. Retie the two ends using a blood knot if it breaks in the middle, or tie a new loop in the end using a double overhand loop if it breaks at the end. Then stretch both lines out together and tie a new end loop in the longer line so that your two lines are once again equal in length (within 1/2").

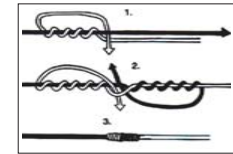
The Double Overhand Loop- for retying end loops:



The Lark's Head Knot- for attaching lines to wrist straps or bridle:



The Blood Knot- for splicing broken Spectra lines:



WARRANTY

At Prism our warranty is simple: If you're not happy, we're not happy. If you have a problem with your kite, contact us directly by phone, fax, or e-mail and we'll do what it takes to make things right.

Please bear in mind that your kite can travel as fast as 60mph and experience over 400g's in a crash. Breaking a spar occasionally if you push the limits is a normal part of sport kiting, especially with the more fragile, higher performance designs. Replacing a spar only takes a minute and many pilots keep a spare or two in their flight bag. Spares for all our kites are available from our website at www.prismkites.com.

TUNING AND ADJUSTMENT

While it's not necessary to adjust your bridle, small adjustments will help you fly your kite more easily in a wider wind range. The more you fly the more you will be able to feel the differences that tuning makes. Detailed tuning information is available in the Kite Tuning section at www.prismkites.com

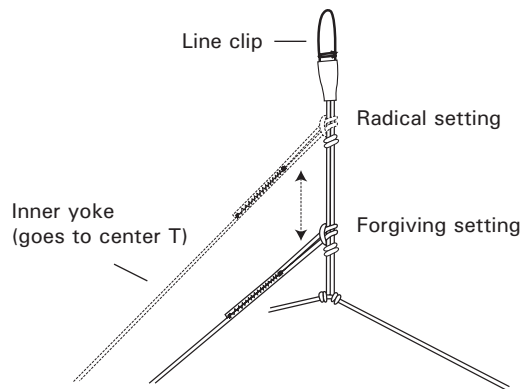
On sport kites kites, the bridle determines the exact angle the kite holds to the wind as it flies (the "angle of attack"). Tipping the nose slightly further forward or further back affects the speed, pull, and turn radius of the kite.

Angle of attack adjustments can be made by moving the pigtails you connect your flying lines to along the bridle legs. Your kite will come with the pigtails on the factory setting, which is indicated by a silver or black mark on the outer yoke of the bridle, or the midpoint between two knots spaced about 1" apart. The factory setting works best in the light to moderate side of your kite's wind range.

Once you've gotten to know your kite, try moving the pigtails slightly above or below the factory setting, moving them only 1/4" at a time. You'll find that the kite flies easier in light winds with the pigtails slightly above the marks (nose tipped forward), and in strong winds you'll find it turns easier and pulls harder with the pigtails below the marks (nose tipped back). **AT NO TIME SHOULD YOU MOVE THE PIGTAILS MORE THAN 3/4" FROM THE FACTORY MARK.**

SPECIAL TUNING FEATURE (Quantum and Mirage only):

Switch between the forgiving setting (for easy control) and the radical setting (for tighter turns) by loosening and moving the inner bridle loops above the upper knot on each side of the kite.



MOVING UP

Learning tricks

Once you can keep your kite in the air and land it without mishap, the fun begins and you're ready to start learning tricks. Many of the basic tricks can be learned with a quality beginner kite, but once you get hooked you may want to upgrade to a freestyle kite designed for the full range of acrobatic maneuvers such as the Mirage, E2, Elixir, or Quantum Pro. We strongly recommend our instructional DVD, Freestyle Pilot (available from our website and packaged with certain models), for a complete course on trick flying. It will teach you the moves in the right order so you don't get frustrated and will take you all the way to the most advanced moves in the repertoire. On our comprehensive website we also offer a video clip library and training animations to teach you the basics of trick flying.

Accessories

High performance linesets, kite bags, repair materials, spare parts, T-shirts, hats, and instructional videos are available direct from the factory at our online store in the "Accessories" section. We do not sell our production kites direct; consult your local retailer to order any of our production models

Your next kite

If you're having fun in the wind, you'll eventually want to add to your collection. The world's leading sport kite manufacturer, Prism builds a wide range of designs for novices to world-ranked competition pilots. Our equipment is recognized for exceptional craftsmanship and unbeatable flight performance, and each design has a stunningly unique appearance in the sky. Choose from our great All-around models as well as specialized designs for Power, Freestyle, Ultralight, Competition, High Wind, and Team flying. Check out our complete line at www.prismkites.com.

CONTACT US

Feel free to contact us as you discover sport kiting. We love to hear about your adventures and we're always happy to help if you need technical support of any kind. Our hours are 9am to 5pm Pacific Time Monday through Friday.

Smooth winds and happy flying!

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THE PRISM '05 ALL-AROUND SERIES

See our complete product line at www.prismkites.com

CATALYST

Skill: Novice
Speed: Very fast
Pull: Light
Wind: 5-20 mph
Size: 55" wingspan

Tough and affordable for the first-time flier.



NEXUS

Skill: Novice
Speed: Fast
Pull: Medium
Wind: 4-22 mph
Size: 5-foot wingspan

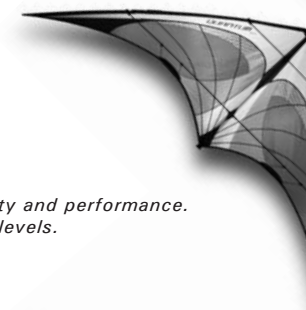
Agile and responsive, packs up tiny for travel.



QUANTUM

Skill: Novice-Intermediate
Speed: Moderate-Fast
Pull: Medium-Strong
Wind: 3-25 mph
Size: 7-foot wingspan

Solid pull, full-sized stability and performance. Amazing value for all skill levels.



MIRAGE

Skill: Novice-Advanced
Speed: Moderate
Pull: Medium
Wind: 3-25 mph
Size: 8-foot wingspan

Precise and balanced, perfect for learning freestyle tricks. Includes instructional DVD.



STYLUS P-SERIES

Skill: Novice-Intermediate
Speed: Moderate-Very fast
Pull: Medium-Strong
Wind: 5-25 mph
Sizes: P1 - 5' wingspan
P2 - 6' wingspan
P3 - 9' wingspan

Our ram-air parafoil designs are fast, hard pulling, and have no frames to break. 3 sizes to choose from.

