Dream On

There are not that many people new to the kiting scene that will be able to tell you much about Dodd Gross because we have not seen much of him in the UK lately. Dodd was one of the pioneers of dual line sport kites, a very advanced trick flyer of his day and absolutely passionate about kites. He still runs Kite Schools where people band together and book his services thus enabling him to tour the world coaching peoples at all levels in the art of kite flying.

I last spoke to him about four years ago, not that he would remember, and there is a photo of that on our web-site, "Kitey People" page. The kite Mr Gross was probably most famous for was "The Jam Session" a kite, just now re-released as part of the Retro Range from HQ Kites. This is still a great fun Kite to fly and I will be doing an article on it soon.

Sky-Dog Kites

Currently Dodd is part of Sky Dog Kites who produce a whole range of kites from a kiddie's single line through to some serious power. One of the sport kites, the Dream On, caught my eye with its stunning graphics. Kiteworld sent us one to try, and we liked it! The kite has low pull and flies in a wide wind range.

The makers claim that it is a full size kite but I have to disagree. It flies like a big kite and it will pull tails as they say but it even at the 87 inches wing span they have on the label the high aspect ratio does not, in my opinion, make it big enough to meet that claim. There are advantages to the size and shape it is. It does not whizz away when the wind gusts and it is easy to power up again if the wind drops suddenly. It looks a bit small on the end of our 125ft lines without tails but if space was restricted we could easily still fly on 100ft lines or maybe even less because it uses most of the available window and it is small and slow enough even to fly in a team of three on 100ft lines.

Tricks Too!

I was performing some basic tricks like axel cascades and Lazy Susans on long lines so there is obviously some versatility there on the shorter line set supplied in the bag.

The instructions are hidden away and fold out on the back of the label but as I have said many times before - us men don't need instructions do we!?

There are two settings on the bridle which can be easily transferred from one to the other. By loosening the knot and sliding it over the other one.

We usually prefer the team setting on bigger kites but the more solid feel given by the offset ('Turbo') position helped towards a 'bigger' feel.

The Dream On lands easily too – another plus in my book! Because of the low pull I was flying on lighter, 100lb lines and would be able to move up to heavier lines to provide the drag I would want in a stronger wind without having to use nappies.

Good Value?

I would still recommend that anyone should try my rubber band across the T-piece tip (not a new idea) to keep the bottom spreaders from falling out in a heavy landing or groundwork.

Framed with 6 mm carbon and, most probably made in China, the Dream On is not in the expensive bracket of kites, retailing at around £80.00 and, appearing to be fairly rugged, it could be a good first or second kite to own or great and fairly inexpensive for anyone wanting to learn the basics of pairs or team flying.