

Prism 4D

Kiteworld are the main UK agent for Prism kites and they gave us one of the latest from the American manufacturers. I had one of the original 3d kites once and didn't much like it as I recall - so I was a little skeptical about this one - Wrong again Allan!

I had the kite for weeks waiting for the right conditions before putting it in the bag to take to Crete where we were to do some flying at a place called Analipsi.



Several evenings presented perfect conditions - zero to about three mph. It took me a while to get used to only the extremely gentle movements required but I found that this edition didn't fall out of the sky too readily and was not as fast or twitchy as I was expecting for a kite of this size.

Designers, Prism, claim that you can fly the 4D in a range from 0 to 15mph. I'm not sure about trying to do axels at the top end but I really liked that if a sudden gust did blow through, then the kite did not suddenly pull like crazy and feel that it was about to disintegrate. A lot of thought has obviously gone in to the design and manufacture of the 4D - it looks and even feels at first sight, flimsy, but after the first flights confidence flows - you have to feel it to believe it. Remember though that it is a small, lightweight piece of equipment because, after I went back to flying a full size team light weight kite it felt like driving a lorry after riding a bike! It is a great experience to fly this kite and it will definitely be with us on fun days out. The kite comes beautifully presented with its own, lightweight lines in a magnificent semi rigid carry case - as does the Prism Zephyr and fits easily in to a suit case

although it is a pretty smart piece of kit to carry around on its own for those who like to feel good about the kite they own.



Stowaway Diamond

Prism kites are a hard working bunch, always trying and often succeeding in coming up with new ideas or modern versions of old ones. They have got this little bundle called the Stowaway that unleashes itself in to full sized diamond kite using the same sort of technology that many have been used to with beach tents etc. where a bundle of short rods with a bungee running through them unfold and slot back into themselves to form one long one. The tents were too fiddly for me – we gave ours away

– but I quite enjoy taking this 12inch bundle and watching fascinated onlookers from the corner of my eye as it unfurls to almost a metre in length. You don't even need to read the instructions –



me get the spine together first! If you see one of these on sale and you pick it up to inspect it – guaranteed you will buy it! The makers claim a wind range of 4 to 25 mph. I had to keep working it at the bottom end but with a better wind it stays up nicely. You get everything in the bag – including line and colour coded tail. They tell me that the larger delta version of this one flies even better – I hope to confirm that next time!