

Light-wind Kite

The Sky Photon by Tim Elverston is going to be one of those 'must have' collectors kites. I say a collector's kite because I think the price will deter those who won't appreciate the finer things this light-wind single line has to offer.

The kite is one of those strong and at the same time fragile constructions, relying on the flex of 3 mm rods pulling against accurately tied bridle and retaining lines and pockets. The lightness is completed by use of Icarex sails and tail. A quick, smooth pull gives a rapid ascent - one which easily took it above the swirling torrents in our back garden - we couldn't wait to take this one down the field - it looked far too interesting to be messing around in a confined area! In a stronger wind the rods flex backward offering less sail area to the wind so the kite self adjusts as it flies.



With the tail attached the Photon remains steady but, remove it, and you have a very steerable kite.

It may be a little smaller than you expect from looking at the photo measuring about 33 inches by 24 without the tail. I wondered if a bigger one could be on the way at some future date? Although thinking about it, there must be some sort of total sail

area to rod flexibility ratio so, probably not then?

There is a choice of two colour schemes and it comes complete with lightweight line in a specially designed case.



It is quick to assemble once you have the knack and I expect we

will all notice a few of these darting about at future events.

Travelling With Kites

I spent over an hour researching a web-site enquiry I had from a guy called Tony about

carrying kites abroad and what to put them in. In the early days we bought a KIS case (KIS is short for keep it safe) which is an adjustable length, hard plastic (I think it's plastic) carrier about six inches square and designed for carrying fishing rods in the hold of an aero plane.

I remember I struggled to find it even then and gave up without success this time.

I Did Try!

We always reply to all of our enquiries so I wrote Tony a long letter of explanation only to have it bounce back after a few days and then fail again on the second attempt - He didn't give me a phone number.

I re-publish these articles on our web-site a couple weeks after "The Kiteflyer" has been sent out so if anyone is screaming at this article and knowing more than me please let me know and I will publish it there along with this piece. If you are already reading this on line - scroll down.

Using the KIS case was not without drawbacks. Despite its limited capacity it is also quite heavy. We exchanged hard shell suitcases for soft in favour of taking more clothes and bringing back more brandy years ago. We decided to go for the risk of putting our kites in an ordinary, canvas type kite bag. After all, rods are very bendy and, packed together they would withstand a lot of weight. The first time we did this we wrapped cardboard around them but then realised that would hardly make any difference so we took it out and put another kite in. We have more time to enjoy our single line kites when we travel so the soft ones help pad things too!

Rising Costs

I am in Cyprus at the moment writing this and, so far, another success in transportation. This is where all us travelling kite flyers can all pool our knowledge. Until now operators like Thompson did not have a category for kites but ended out charging £30.00 return for medium haul destinations for a bag up to about 15Kg. As from this year (luckily we had pre-booked) it will cost £75.00 return for the same thing.

If anyone knows better - please tell...!

www.closecounterskites.co.uk