



**HQ4**

\_PRODUCTS & LIFESTYLE  
WINTER 18/19



# BORN IN THE WIND

When the wind drives your board across the snow or lets you take off and touch the sky, then you become part of the natural forces around you.

To experience this oneness, you need reliable and durable material, allowing for uncomplicated kiting with maximum fun. And HQ4 provides exactly that.

Our main ambition is to design affordable, strong and powerful kites that will satisfy your very needs and expectations to the fullest.

We are different: We do not need expensive advertising media. This is what makes HQ4 kites reasonably priced. We think that everybody should be able to share our passion for kitesurfing. At HQ4, we build our kites for you and with you: Your wishes, expressed at countless test

and development events with many different types of riders, are our challenge – born in the wind.

We live an international philosophy. On our trips we forge strong friendships and together we discover new terrain.

Just like it happened on our great trip into the unknown, to Sweden, in 2018. 30 riders from 5 nations took part in the creation of a kite range that could not be any better.

Luckily, snowkiting is so much more than just the kite. We want to show you where you can still find all those great spots that are definitely worth a trip.

Sometimes it is the special people of a region who shape their sport, and they make any trip an unforgettable experience.

Your **HQ4 TEAM**

\_Photos: Götz Sommer

\_Special thanks to:

**maloja** 





# GRÖVELSJÖN

S W E D E N

Kiting, nothing but kiting – for those people who share our passion, we keep looking all over Europe for exceptional spots. This time we found an insider tip in Sweden,

more precisely around the tiny village of Grövelsjön. The only "luxury" there are a village shop and a ski lift. But the winter landscape is surely something special.





The journey out already puts us in an adventurous mood: On the ferry passage leaving lively Oslo, Marc disappears on the way down to the car deck – and can only be collected again

later, after a detour via the exit for the common foot passengers. This was not the only incident of its kind ...



What follows is the only 50 kilometres of motorway, northwards along the Swedish border, before our six vehicles transfer for the next 200 kilometres to a snow-covered road far away from any civilization. Without winter tires this would mean the end of the journey. Hour after hour we drive as a convoy through lonely, dark forests, past snowy landscapes and frozen lakes.







Only a sign shows that we have just crossed the Norwegian-Swedish border. But insiders can tell by the reindeer gates: These only exist in Sweden, where the animals are bred, while in Norway they roam free.

At the edge of the national park we come across a remote huddle of houses: We have finally reached Grövelsjön.



With about 30 kites from France, Sweden, Germany and the USA we will be testing new material, taking photos

and having a lot of fun here. But first and foremost there is that irresistible urge to discover something new ...







If you choose the "luxury option", Pierre's crew will pull you up on ropes behind a skidoo. Soon you get that wonderful feeling of wakeboarding in the snow.

## PIERRE //////////////////////////////////

Our host Pierre Gerber of "Snowkite Sweden" is already waiting for us. The South African fell in love with this spot 13 years ago and has been offering snowkite safaris here ever since. Pierre reveals why:

„This place is certainly unique. There is no direct access by car. The ascent is on foot. From November to May the spot offers guaranteed snow, wind and a seemingly endless expanse of 500 square kilometers, where the only thing you have to consider are the reindeer herds. I go kiting here at least three times a week – depending on whether we offer courses or guided tours. I like exploring the

backcountry best. In the morning we catch up with the weather forecast, and depending on conditions we choose a spot matching the kitters' skills. Then the snowmobile is charged and off we go.“







The permitted path for skidoos in the National Park is marked by rows of sticks . After ten minutes you reach the spot on the high plateau. On windy and cold days you can take refuge in a wind shelter made of snow or in a tepee.

The base camp serves as a starting point for explorers.





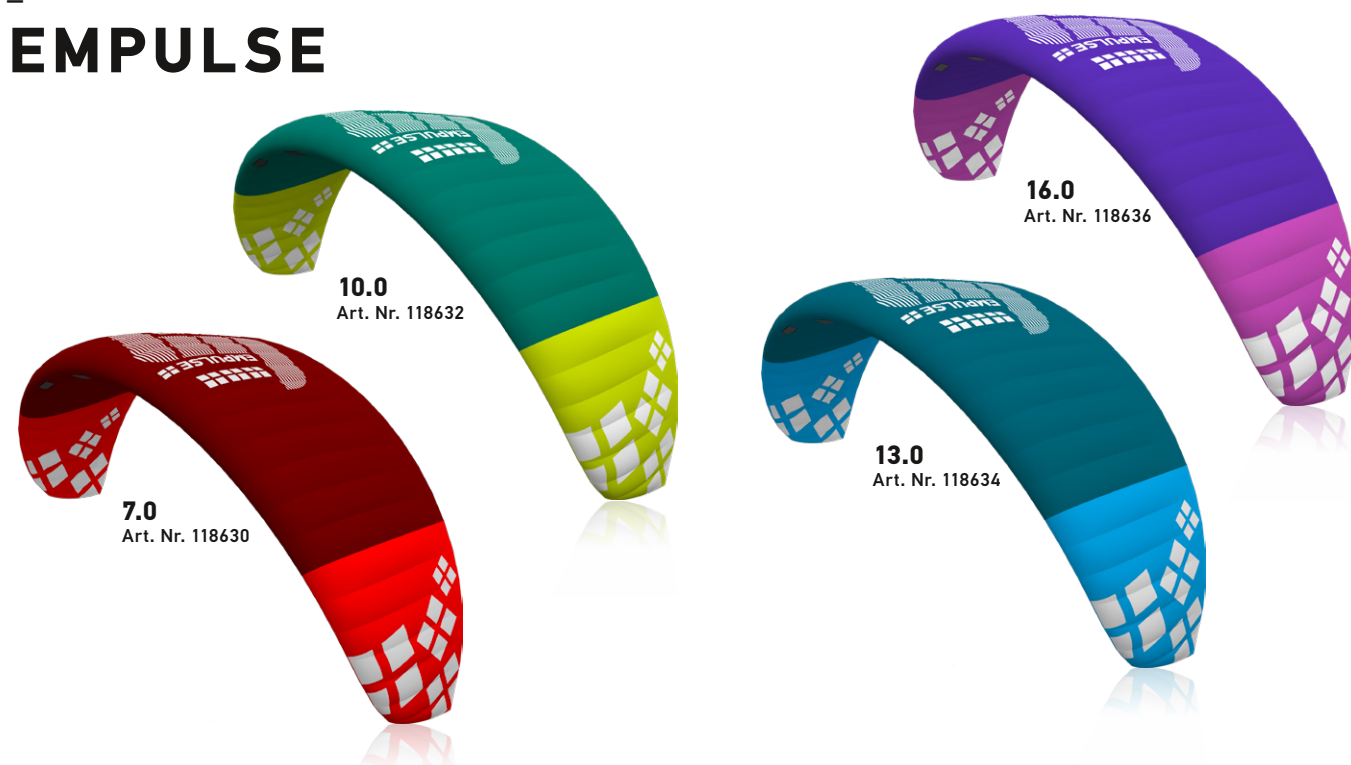
The summit of Jacobs Hayden , four kilometres from the camp, offers a great view of the terrain. This mountain top is easy to climb, but also offers locations that are more challenging.

If you like, you can go on kite tours, getting your bearings by the snowmobile trails running in an east-westerly direction. With their compacted snow cover they are also easy to walk on.



## FACTS

# EMPULSE



With the Empulse, we developed a kite that combines the best of both worlds: whether you prefer the quick inflation and deflation of an open-cell kite on land, or the added security of a closed-cell kite on water – the choice is yours. With the Empulse's adaptive valve system, set up the inlets however you want and enjoy peak performance on any terrain.







This wing is not a just a high-end machine! It was designed from the beginning to do exactly what you want it to do. Whether you're a beginner or advanced rider, everyone will find the Empulse easy to use with a fast learning curve, and performance that continuously improves alongside your own riding level. You set your own limit here!

We have built a kite that will impress from the very first ride. High stability and exceptionally easy handling are at the core of this kite, allowing you to progress rapidly in foiling or any other kite sport. The Empulse is a kite that rides far ahead in the wind window while generating minimal side pull, even at high speeds.

Our design philosophy has always placed great importance on creating efficient and lightweight structures that don't sacrifice durability or performance.

**FACTS** //////////////////////////////////

- ▶ Crease-free design
- ▶ Durable materials
- ▶ Perfect for foiling
- ▶ Suitable for light winds
- ▶ Colored Dyneema bridle
- ▶ Max. upwind performance with minimal lateral pull

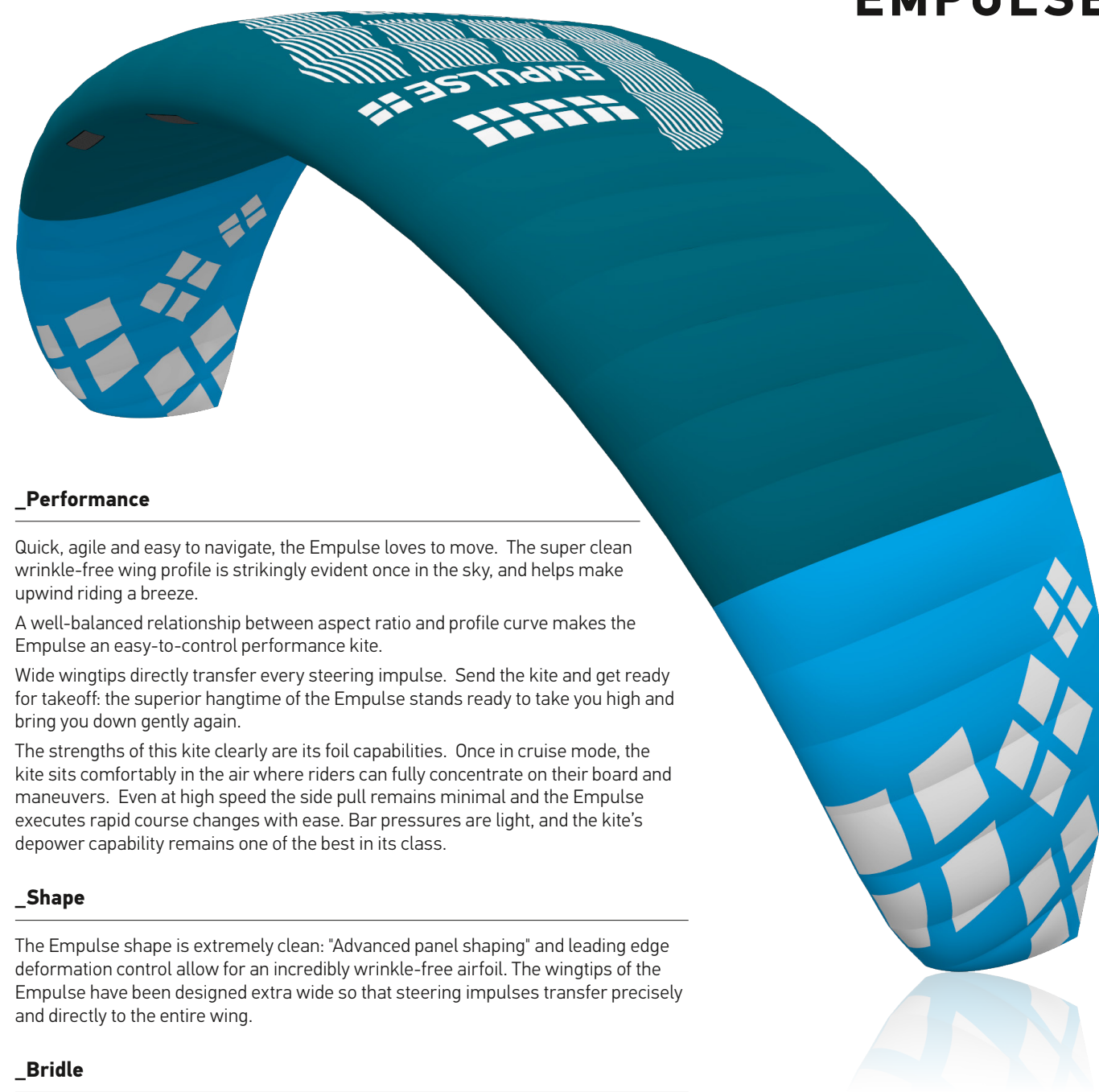
BEGINNER	
INTERMEDIATE	
EXPERT	
HANGTIME	
LIFT	
TURNING SPEED	

**ACCESSORIES (INCL.) //////////////**

- ▶ High-quality backpack
- ▶ Multilingual guide

## KITE DETAILS

# EMPULSE



## Performance

Quick, agile and easy to navigate, the Empulse loves to move. The super clean wrinkle-free wing profile is strikingly evident once in the sky, and helps make upwind riding a breeze.

A well-balanced relationship between aspect ratio and profile curve makes the Empulse an easy-to-control performance kite.

Wide wingtips directly transfer every steering impulse. Send the kite and get ready for takeoff: the superior hangtime of the Empulse stands ready to take you high and bring you down gently again.

The strengths of this kite clearly are its foil capabilities. Once in cruise mode, the kite sits comfortably in the air where riders can fully concentrate on their board and maneuvers. Even at high speed the side pull remains minimal and the Empulse executes rapid course changes with ease. Bar pressures are light, and the kite's depower capability remains one of the best in its class.

### **\_Shape**

The Empulse shape is extremely clean: "Advanced panel shaping" and leading edge deformation control allow for an incredibly wrinkle-free airfoil. The wingtips of the Empulse have been designed extra wide so that steering impulses transfer precisely and directly to the entire wing.

## Bridle

The Empulse bridle incorporates a simple and efficient design to minimize drag.

Color-coded, well-dimensioned bridles make it easy to attach the flying lines. For the Empulse we use lines that are measured and sewn under tension. While this type of process is normally reserved for paragliders, the added quality and attention to detail ensures maximum durability in extreme conditions.

The Empulse mixer system is made from long lasting and extremely tough AmSteel© leash. Even after many hours of flying, the bridles require no re-trimming and performance is maintained for a long time.

## Material

The choice of material for the Empulse could not be any better.

All wings are made from a proven mixture of 20- and 30D-ripstop material. We've found this to be the perfect compromise between lightweight for calm conditions and strength for high speeds.

To guarantee immediate response to steering impulses and changes in the angle of attack, we use a stiff and durable 70D-fabric for the profile walls.

**Technical Data on page 39.**





After six to seven kilometres you will find a hut, where you can warm up by a fire in the oven – after chopping the wood yourself, that is! Björn, one of the guides, makes sure every day that the hut is not snowed in and remains accessible at all times. A service we really came to appreciate in

this snow-covered wasteland. In this deserted region we were also happy we could always rely on our robust kite equipment and Maloja clothing, even under difficult conditions. All our gear passed the endurance test!





# BJÖRN //////////////////////////////////

Björn, why did you choose Grövelsjön as your home?

**Initially, I did not mean to. I actually just wanted to stay for one summer. But here I can have most of the things I need and enjoy right at my doorstep – so I ended up staying.**

How long have you been here?

**I moved here in summer 2007.**

What is so special about this area?

**The winter season is long – it usually lasts from November to May. In April the reindeer herds come to the mountains. Then we stop kiting so we do not disturb the animals.**

**The wind conditions for kiting are good in all seasons. Here in the mountains we do not need specifically stormy days, and on the other hand we always find a corner with good wind, even on quiet days.**

How often do you go out to kite?

**It depends on when we are booked for back-country tours. I can kite more often in December and January and also later in the season, in March and April – depending on the available daylight.**

What does a typical day look like?

**That also depends on the season. But it would have a mix of cross-country ski school, guided tours into the backcountry and alpine ski tours. My day always starts with the weather forecast, before I make any plans and take the necessary safety precautions.**

Do you prefer to kite alone or in a group?

**I enjoy all activities more in a group.**

Are you a freestyler or a backcountry explorer?

**I prefer to explore the hinterland.**

What can kites learn from you?

**Because I am both a nature guide with knowledge of plants and animals and an experienced mountain rescuer, I can combine my passion for this incredible mountain landscape with my knowledge of the forces of nature.**





But not only the magnificent nature and the fantastic spots convinced us that Grövelsjön truly is an insider tip. Another highlight was the award-winning Swedish Bröd by Maxime Kindlund. His creation of French sourdough baked to perfection by Swedish methods won him the Swedish Craftsmen's Prize in 2017. The village baker, a keen kiter himself, moved from France to Sweden in 2008 and found his ideal home in Grövelsjön:



## ////////////////// MAXIME

„I can tour for days without meeting anyone. Here I can compete with nature. And I do this every day as soon as I have closed up the bakery and taken a nap. I do not have to get into a car first to go kiting or running – my adventure playground is right at my doorstep. Most of the time I am completely alone and I think it is fantastic to be able to move about so completely freely. My wife started snow-kiting two years ago, so now we can go out together.

Sometimes I get on my snowmobile and set off with a couple of different kites.

I love jumping, and thanks to the new Montana kites I can now do really high jumps. I like to mix Freestyle and Backcountry. Wherever I find a good spot, I stop for some fun.

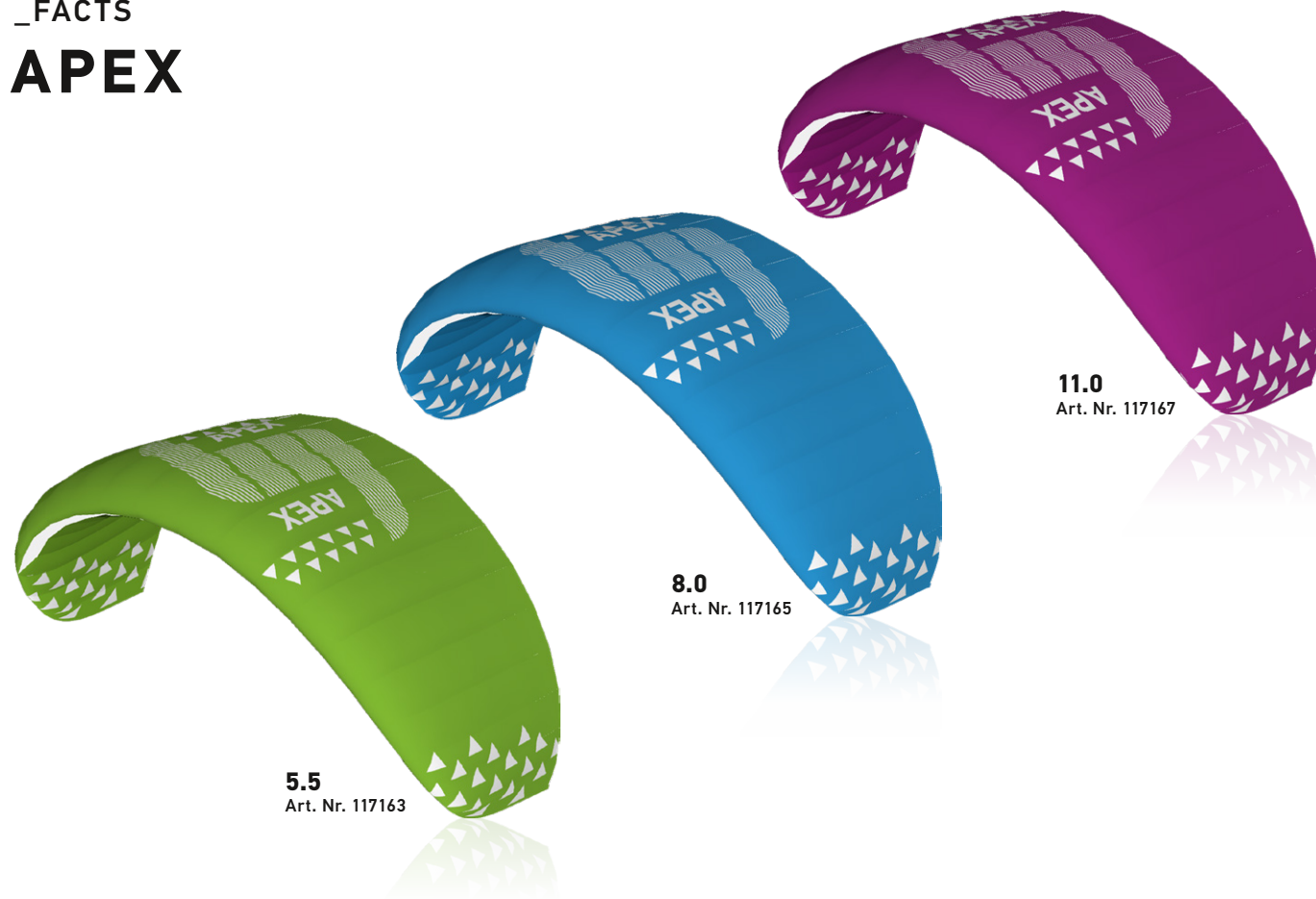
Grövelsjön is really peaceful, there is no stress here and life is quite simple. After working as a mountain guide at first, we moved to Grövelsjön two years ago. Last year I opened the bakery and I cannot imagine ever leaving the village again.“







## \_FACTS APEX



**5.5**  
Art. Nr. 117163

**8.0**  
Art. Nr. 117165

**11.0**  
Art. Nr. 117167

Are you looking for a kite you can trust 100%? One that won't let you down even in extreme backcountry situations? One that lets you safely scale lofty heights?

Especially for you, we have developed the Apex to be one of the best companions you can find for exploring the backcountry. Maximum control, great stability and ample depower performance make this kite your perfect partner while you steadily improve your personal best. No need to fear making mistakes. The Apex is quite forgiving and makes it extremely easy for you to get started with kiting.

### FACTS //////////////////////////////////

- ▶ Excellent control in extreme situations
- ▶ Very stable, great depower performance
- ▶ Ready to fly, with good power always on hand
- ▶ Extremely easy to fly

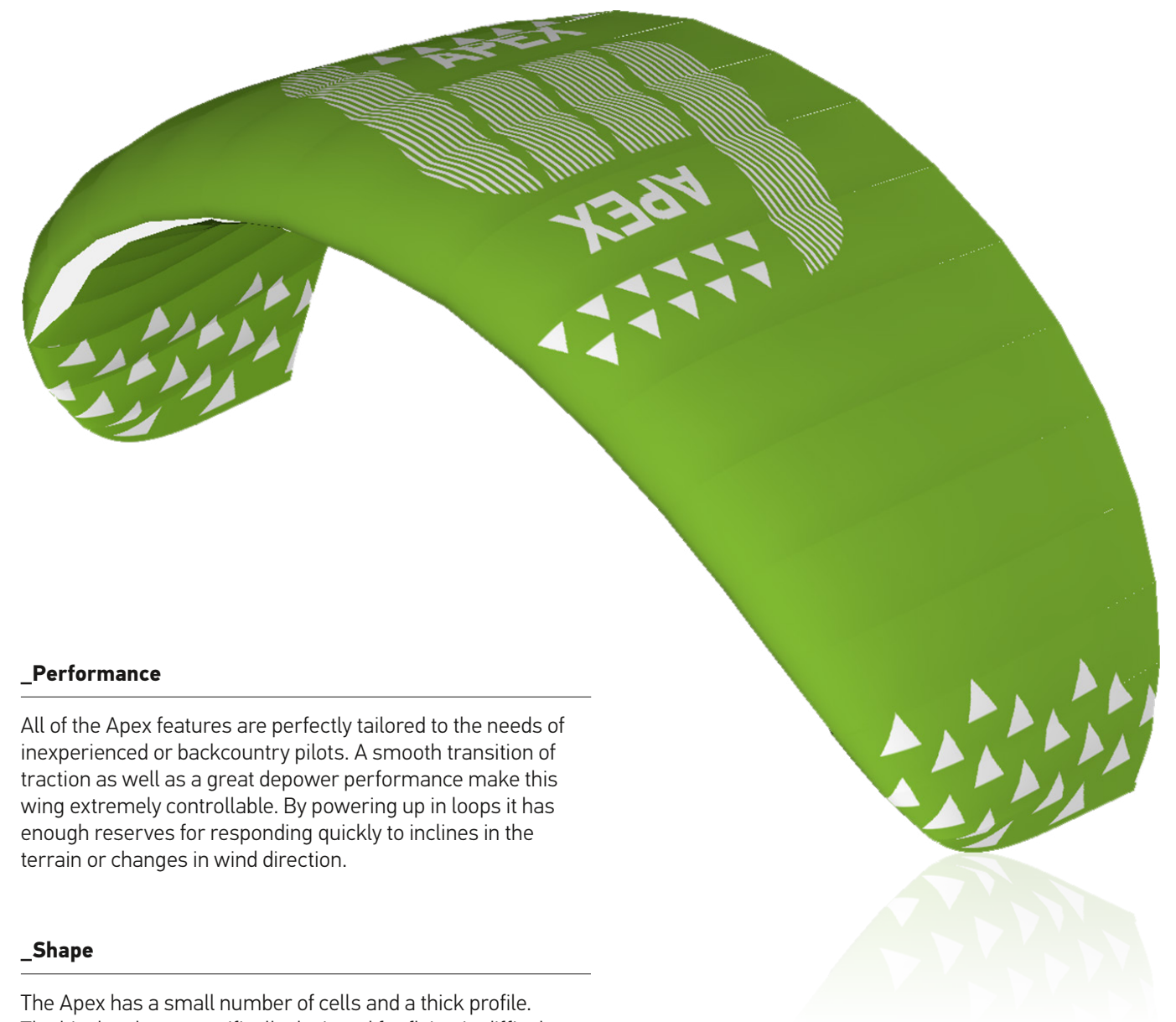
BEGINNER	■■■■■■■■■■
INTERMEDIATE	■■■■■■■■■■
EXPERT	■■■■■■■■■■
HANGTIME	■■■■■■■■■■
LIFT	■■■■■■■■■■
TURNING SPEED	■■■■■■■■■■

### ACCESSORIES (INCL.) //////////

- ▶ High-quality backpack
- ▶ Multilingual guide



## \_KITE DETAILS APEX



### \_Performance

All of the Apex features are perfectly tailored to the needs of inexperienced or backcountry pilots. A smooth transition of traction as well as a great depower performance make this wing extremely controllable. By powering up in loops it has enough reserves for responding quickly to inclines in the terrain or changes in wind direction.

### \_Shape

The Apex has a small number of cells and a thick profile. The kite has been specifically designed for flying in difficult wind conditions with maximum stability. The outer cells remain deliberately unleashed to generate better aerodynamics at the wing tips.

### \_Bridle

The bridle of the Apex is made from robust, sleeved Dyneema, providing long life even in the toughest conditions. Mixer line and pulleys are precisely matched.

### \_Material

The sail is made from durable 40D ripstop nylon with a great track record of reliability over the years. The inner cells are reinforced with additional webbing at the air vents.

Technical Data on page 39.





If you get lost, Pierre and his men will track you down. Pierre has two experienced mountain guides in his team, Björn and Gustav, who always look after things, are medically trained and know the area like the back of their hand. Once again it was Marc who had to take advantage, when after a three-hour ride he was surprised by the wind

unexpectedly freshening up and had to call a shuttle home by mobile. Björn, the very image of an enduring super athlete, went to pick him up. Gustav, on the other hand, became the "good soul" of our company: He always carried a slice of energizing chocolate and "ruled" over the base camp.



About the spots: During the six days of our stay we only managed to exploit a fraction of the possibilities that the terrain offered. For beginners, the area around the base camp has perfect conditions for training and working one's way into the backcountry.

Accommodation is usually in typical Swedish wood houses, which come of course with a sauna. Again Pierre will be happy to help you find the right place.





\_FACTS

# MONTANA X



Are you looking for a high-performance kite to explore the mountains? A kite with enough power in light wind conditions and ample power in loops so it can pull you up the steepest slopes and still be stable on the downhill ride?

That's exactly what has motivated us to develop the Montana.

Limitless performance, paired with ultimate control. For riding in the mountains, where kites are always on the edge, stability and depower come first, during the design process.

Stable, direct, fast – and simply awesome. Made for all of you freeriders and freestylers out there, so you can really get rocking. Feel the punch when you turn the bar and the kite begins lifting you and it seems like the hang-time will last forever. All of this is combined in the Montana, a snowkite to make every one of your sessions better than before.

## FACTS //////////////////////////////////

- ▶ Increased cell count for higher performance
- ▶ Extremely stable in flight
- ▶ Smooth power delivery in loops
- ▶ Optimized for light winds
- ▶ High-end sail cloth and bridle materials

BEGINNER	■■■■■
INTERMEDIATE	■■■■■■■
EXPERT	■■■■■■■■■
HANGTIME	■■■■■■■■■
LIFT	■■■■■■■■■
TURNING SPEED	■■■■■■■■■

## ACCESSORIES (INCL.) //////////

- ▶ High-quality backpack
- ▶ Multilingual guide



\_KITE DETAILS

# MONTANA X



## \_Performance

Fast, with direct feedback and a strong pull – this is what the Montana is all about. A kite that is always ready to provide you with a lift.

The increased cell count greatly increases hang-time even more. It is this availability of power in all situations that makes the Montana extremely well-balanced and offers ambitious riders exactly what they need.

## \_Shape

The new Montana shape strikes a perfect balance between stability and performance. The open cells are designed for optimal airflow around the leading edge in all flight conditions and maintaining maximum internal pressure. The broad wing tips provide good power transfer, helping the kite to accelerate quickly.

## \_Bridle

To make a bridle low-maintenance, all you need is good quality.

For years we have employed materials from paragliding and used a mix of pre-stretched Dyneema. Line strength and diameter are finely tuned for lower drag. The mixer system comes with extremely durable Ronstan pulleys.

## \_Material

We employ the tried and tested 30D sail cloth. It's robust, lightweight and gives your kite a long life.

To make the Montana crash-resistant we have manufactured the profiles with a slightly thicker cloth. Particularly in loops or higher flight levels the stress on the material increases drastically. Dacron reinforcements on the bridle attachments offer the necessary reserves to withstand even the strongest forces.

Technical Data on page 39.





There is almost always wind and the best kite sizes are from 8 to 12 square metres. If you are brave and able to cover some ground, you will be rewarded. The terrain holds countless slopes, snowdrifts and hills for those pilots ready to explore. From super-easy to extremely challenging: There is something here for everyone at every level.

If you are lucky, you can even find halfpipe-shaped snowdrifts in the middle of the landscape, simply waiting to get rocked.

We can recommend Grövelsjön to all adventurers who are looking for that special spot.



And at the end of the journey we had to ask yet again:  
Where is Marc, actually?



## \_ONE BAR FITS ALL

# ONE BAR 2.0

The new One Bar 2.0 is the result of creative thinking by our development team and valuable input from our customers – many small changes mean a considerable step forward. This latest version of the One Bar is even lighter, more versatile and more straightforward than ever before.

The new bar design means that you can fly all our kites with the same bar.

The new One Bar 2.0 is available in lengths of 49 and 55 cm, and each comes with 24 m pre-stretched Dyneema lines.

In combination with our optionally available safety leash, the new One bar 2.0 is the perfect cockpit for your kite.

### Adjustable Relaunch Balls

For easy and safe relaunch.

### Covered Backlines

To protect the lines from damage and avoid tangles after hard crashes.

### More Depower

The new bar setup results in a wider depower range that can be smoothly trimmed with our adjustable Clamcleat.

### Soft Barends with integrated Line Keepers

For more comfort and secured lines when winded up.

### New Swivel

The new swivel positioned above the chicken loop makes for a far cleaner bar design. The flying lines can now be untwisted by hand at any time.



### Adjustable Stopperball

The adjustable stopper ball helps to limit the bar range after the safety was activated. It is optimally pre-trimmed for use with larger kites.



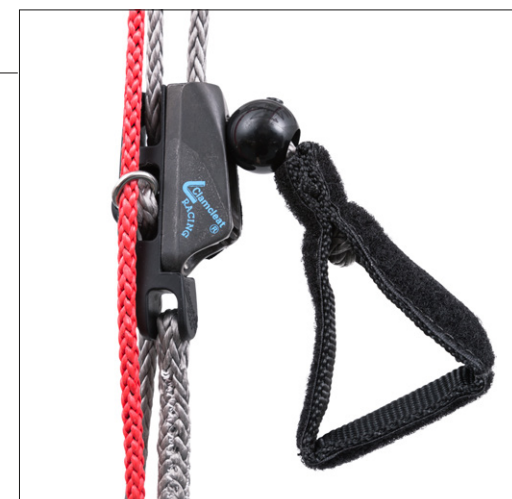
### Light-weight Line Splitter

The light-weight line splitter significantly reduces the weight in the center of the bar, resulting in less movement especially in light-wind conditions. The low-friction polish of the splitter makes a pulley unnecessary.



### Low-friction Stainless Steel Ring

Low-friction stainless steel ring for better guidance of the safety line.



### Dyneema Lines

High quality pre-stretched Dyneema lines with almost no elongation for a super direct feel. Sleeved and stitched ends with a maximum load of 300 kg.





\_TECHNICAL DATA




















KITE COMPARISON (FULL RANGE)

KITE		SIZES (M²)	FLAT SPAN (CM/FT.)	WIND RANGE (KNOTS)	LINE SET (INCL.)	CONTROL OPTION (INCL.)
FLUXX		1.3	130 / 4.27	5 - 26	Dyneema 50 kp (110 lb.) 2 x 20 m (65 ft.)	Control Bar 47 cm
		1.8	180 / 5.91	4 - 26	Dyneema 100 kp (220 lb.) 2 x 25 m (82 ft.)	
		2.2	220 / 7.22	3 - 26		
RUSH PRO		250	250 / 8.20	5 - 24	Dyneema 160 / 120 kp (353 / 265 lb.) 3 x 20 m (65 ft.)	3-Line Control Bar 50 cm
		300	300 / 9.84	4 - 24		
		350	355 / 11.65	4 - 21	Dyneema 200 / 120 kp (441 / 265 lb.) 3 x 20 m (65 ft.)	
RUSH PRO SCHOOL		300	300 / 9.84	4 - 24	Dyneema 200 kp (441 lb.) 4 x 20 m (65 ft.)	De-Power Control Bar 50 cm
HYDRA		300	307 / 10.07	3 - 25	Dyneema 200 kp (441 lb.) 3 x 20 m (65 ft.)	3-Line Control Bar 50 cm
		350	354 / 11.61	3 - 18		
		420	420 / 13.78	3 - 18		
ALPHA		1.5	232 / 7.61	5 - 33	Dyneema 200 / 120 kp (441 / 265 lb.) 4 x 20 m (65 ft.)	Quad Handles
		2.5	300 / 9.84	3 - 26		
		3.5	355 / 11.65	3 - 24		
BEAMER		2.0	265 / 8.68	5 - 33	Dyneema 200 / 120 kp (441 / 265 lb.) 4 x 20 m (65 ft.)	Quad Handles
		3.0	324 / 10.63	3 - 26		
		4.0	374 / 12.27	3 - 24		
		5.0	419 / 13.73	3 - 21		



\_TECHNICAL DATA

KITE COMPARISON (FULL RANGE)

KITE		SIZES (M²)	FLAT SPAN (CM/FT.)	WIND RANGE (KNOTS)	CONTROL OPTION (OPTIONAL)
APEX		5.5	460 / 15.09	8 - 30	ONE Bar 55 cm
		8.0	540 / 17.72	3 - 26	
		11.0	640 / 21.00	3 - 21	
MONTANA X		8.0	645 / 21.16	10 - 30	ONE Bar 55 cm
		10.0	725 / 23.79	8 - 25	
		12.0	805 / 26.41	6 - 20	
		14.0	874 / 28.67	4 - 15	
EMPULSE		7.0	612 / 20.07	15 - 33	ONE Bar 55 cm
		10.0	730 / 23.95	11 - 29	
		13.0	825 / 27.06	8 - 24	
		16.0	912 / 29.92	5 - 18	
ONYX		5.0	580 / 19.02	26 - 40	ONE Bar 49 cm
		7.0	660 / 21.65	20 - 35	
		9.0	760 / 24.93	16 - 32	ONE Bar 55 cm
		12.0	820 / 26.90	12 - 19	
TOPAZ		7.0	770 / 25.26	17 - 30	ONE Bar 49 cm
		9.0	900 / 29.53	15 - 24	
		12.0	1010 / 33.14	12 - 19	ONE Bar 55 cm
		14.0	1100 / 36.09	10 - 17	



