

## A Review and Some Thoughts—Allan Pothecary

### The Over – by Eolo Sports

There's been a lot of conversations going about another of Eolo's new releases – "The Over".

The most obvious comment is the similarity in graphic design to the Nirvana by R-Sky, but I found it very different in flight – I thought that it was slower and easier to hold in a snapped stall. I liked the precision on long lines but on short lines and, after flying the Benson Deep space, it felt somehow, not quite as solid, or balanced.

One of our top boys agreed when he tested it saying that it didn't always do exactly the same thing from the same set up – but hey! – us middle of the road guys would be pleased to be able to do some of his stuff just once!



There is a great video on the Eolo web-site, with a Spanish guy showing just what the kite can do and he doesn't seem to have a problem.

I always ask for comments when I pass kites around – no one really disliked it and nearly all of the novice to intermediate flyers commented - "I could really get used to that kite"

I pointed out to Eolo sales manager Alex where the union of the top spreaders and the leading edge had no glides or covers to stop the line from catching when putting the kite in to a wrap to perform Jo Jo's but he quite rightly pointed out this was not necessary.

The bridle mysteriously splits in to two at the top spreader in the same fashion as does the L'Atelier Transfer (on the bottom spreaders). This comes into action without spoiling the general dynamics of the bridle when the Over is on its back, giving contact point further away from the spine and further down the leading edge giving a better 'pull' to begin a spin or "Lazy Susan" manoeuvre (A trick where the kite spins all the way around on its back – as does a lazy Susan in the middle of a 'Dim Sum' table setting in a good class Chinese restaurant).

The Over will retail at around £115.00 and, if your budget or your conscience doesn't stretch to the higher end kites, I really don't think that you will be disappointed with this one.

One major tip though, make sure that your friendly trader can get spares for you. Both the Tango 2 and the Over are framed in "Dynamic" – it's not the same as Skyshark (and I wouldn't say as strong) and I am

not sure how available it is.

Once again you are welcome to come and try one before you look in your wallet but please try not to break it – Marilyn likes it too!

### One to Tango 2

About 18 months ago I reviewed the Tango from Eolo Gayla. A quick recap was that it loved the centre of the window, was very quick through the tricks and controllable too, especially with the trick it did best which was the nose to nose axle cascade. Why bother to mention this now? Well we now have the "Tango 2". I asked Alex Prieto, the sales manager of Eola why they kept the same name when the "2" is a completely different animal, not, perhaps, in size - but certainly in appearance and quality of build.

Alex said that they wanted to grow the identity of the kite rather than bringing out what would just seem like another - "any old kite" with another - "any old name".

With the acquisition of the American half of their business, opening an office in Hong Kong and having bought the prestigious French rival company, Paimpol Voiles the Spanish manufacturers, now trading under the name of Eolo Sport Industrias, SA, are now a force to be reckoned with.

Making a comparison to car manufacturers - "We don't want to be the Rolls Royce of our industry" Alex continued "We see our selves becoming more perhaps the BMW of the kite world. Eola Gayla will make good quality products that perform as well as the high end kites, look great and will be coming off the shelves at an affordable price."

The Tango 2 is certainly an upgrade on the Tango. This time an increase to two standoffs and a deep sail helps slow the kite down a little with greater stability and the modern style, angular, shape and graphics give it a similar appearance to some of the better British kites we see so many of these days.

Criticism was heard about the bottom spreaders being bowed and under some tension but a straighter line would have meant lowering the centre "T" and changing the aspect or meeting the leading edges higher up thus making the lower part more "whippy". Kite building is all about compromise – what you gain one way you lose in another (see my article in the previous edition of this magazine).

The Tango 2 was passed around at the Southampton Winter league back in November and some of the top flyers there commented that it was a little too quick for the way they liked to fly – but that is probably because it was a step down for them and not what the intermediate flyers (who liked it) were used to. True it is the sort of kite that you would buy on your way up – you would have a lot of fun with it and learn a great deal.

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Or if all you had was big kites in your bag and you wanted something small, classy and more affordable – this would be a good choice at around £90.00

It needs about four miles an hour to get going well (unless you are pretty good already) and has a good, wide window. Pull is light, trick style precision is good and all the tricks that you would want to do are there – you just have to give the right input and the kite will do it!

The Tango 2 is comparable in flight to the similarly priced Nighthawk which has been doing well for Premier Kites in the states - but don't be surprised if this one does better.



### Learning to fly

Over the winter Marilyn and I have enjoyed doing a fair bit of teaching with various people of differing levels. Although we have had some great successes none equalled my triumph at teaching a young Danish lad on holiday with his family who were watching us on a beach in Fuerteventura. They had a small delta with them which he could keep in the air fairly comfortably but they had never seen four lines and a Revolution before.

I had one given to us by Kiteworld to use for teaching as it seems to fly in lower winds than ours and, believe it or not, we were actually becalmed out there on a couple of occasions!

Neither could speak a word of the other's language but a Swiss lady (who also got involved in the kiting) could speak some German and bits of English and so could one of their party, so at least we all found out where the other was from!

That was three nations brought together by a fourth language – perhaps we ought to take some kites to the troubled regions of the middle-east and give them to their leaders? Youngsters always pick up flying either very quickly or not at all in my experience and I love to see the determination to get it right in their faces. This young lad – I couldn't pronounce his name let alone spell it! – was holding the kite still on its side and starting to get the hang of

flying it backwards in about twenty minutes and all done with sign language – amazing! I am always trying to think of simple ways to explain how to do different things in kiting and recently came up with one to help with many moves.

If you have ever played golf or even if you haven't you probably know how the good golfer is standing at the end of his swing, with his club in the air, his weight on the front foot and his back foot up with the heel raised and pointing away from the direction the ball went. The bad golfer usually ends up leaning back with all his weight on his back foot.

So, when I have been teaching I often ask my pupil to aim to have their hands and feet in a certain position AFTER the maneuver is finished. This is demonstrated in the hand position after a simple stall with a two line delta.

Fly the kite across the window. If the kite going from left to right then your leading hand will be your right hand. It's best to start to learn this move near the edge of the wind window so as the pull begins to decrease (don't go right to the edge or you'll lose it) quickly push your lead hand forward followed immediately by the other to finish by the side by side. You will probably have to lean or step forward at the same time to decrease the effect of the wind still further. Now that's what I will be looking for at the end – both hands together and arms out nearly straight – it doesn't matter if the kite has not stalled yet - you can work on the timing next!

I often get my pupils to practice this movement first without a kite. True is does look a bit silly (like you see golfers always thinking about and practicing their swing without a club) but it's all about muscle memory here – if you can't do it without a kite then how do you expect to do it with one? I look around the web sites sometimes for help and advice to pass on and thought I had struck lucky when I found a tips and tricks section from Jon Trennepohl on the Skyburner site, but Hey – come on Jon - people have to know how to do a "pop" or a "turtle" before they can do whatever it is you are trying to tell them.

Answers on a post card please if you know the trick talked about below but my guess is if you have worked it out, then you can do it anyway!

"The ????? starts with a half axle leaving the kite stalled on it's belly. After that do the standard pop turtle movements to flip the kite on its back, nose towards you. Another way is to pancake the kite from a dive and pop both lines".

What's that about turtle pancakes? Do they come with sour cream and chives? Sounds pretty awful to me!

Allan Pothecary - Close Encounters – sponsored by [www.kiteworld.co.uk](http://www.kiteworld.co.uk) and TKC of Bristol