

## Pothecary Corner—Allan Pothecary

### HQ Flow Tail Open Keel Delta



Here I go on again about the website but you need to go to the photo gallery to see the latest kites we have in for you to try so far from HQ. We got them too late to write about them all so here is what we reckon are the best four of the bunch. I'll report on the others next issue.

Actually a couple of these are probably the best in our bag at the moment – This flow tail, serpent kite is just wonderful – No that's not me just saying that because HQ Invento are declared as one of our sponsors – I dare you to come over and try it and then say otherwise – it flies so

softly, gently and serene ghosting quietly against the sky. Two things surprised me about this kite; (1) how little pull it generated with its large size of 4 meters wide by 10 meters in length and (2) how easy it was to assemble and launch in only a slight breeze. (I suppose that's three really?) We took it down to Stokes Bay the other Sunday to fly with the boys from Solent kite flyers (they are there every week) and it remained aloft whilst we were all sat around waiting for enough wind to fly some impromptu team.

I flew it at Basingstoke and another flyer commented that it was a pity it was only done in white, I think it would lose some of its magic in any other colour. Mags said that she'd heard that these kites were originally designed for night flying and would look fantastic as they were picked out in the lights – Yeah – I could go with that!

The long tails are held on with Velcro so that will give another dimension which I will waffle past because I forgot to try that (donkey!) but this will obviously make it fly in almost zero wind. The stability and extra lift were helped by the open keel. Because of its size this kite should also serve well as a lifter for line laundry in winds over 8mph right up to its maximum of 20 mph.

### HQ Synergetic Zero Wind Kites

Another new kite in the single line collection is the zero wind "Hybrid" range by Swiss kite designer Thomas K Horvath. Again we have not had the time to test this properly yet but it is supposed to be

steerable. Despite its size and low weight, it is a sturdy and uncomplicated high tech kite. The Hybrid is available in three models 130, 200 and the 240 which is a general guide to its width in centimeters.



We didn't try to do any of the flying it like a plane tricks. When I first tried it in low but unstable winds the kite itself was unstable but I noticed that if you jerked rather than release, which is natural if the kite is crashing, it actually turned up again.

As normal I didn't read the instructions so I now wonder if I had it assembled correctly because the next time it stayed as stable as you only ever see other peoples' kites flying. I hear that there is a video somewhere that shows the Hybrid do some pretty clever stuff. Again – More next issue.

### A Pair of Falcons

I asked HQ for two of these kites because Marilyn had already made tails in those colours for some other kites for which we have not yet had the right wind to fly in public. HQ brought out two delta kites, The Scorpion (we don't have one of those yet) which is designed to fly tricks and 'be good enough to let you experiment for more' and then the Falcon. We were interested because we had read that the Falcon was specially designed as a team kite. It should fly slowly and track well helped by the ethe leech line which runs through the trailing edge. This allows the back of the sails to flap in the wind causing a turbulence which holds the kite even straighter.



Well we got them but, on first assembly I was disappointed that because HQ wanted to make this kite an 'economical team kite', it was framed in 6mm pultruded carbon and therefore felt quite heavy. So I resigned myself to the fact that one day I would reframe it in Skyshark and put up with the fact

that, for the moment, I would need a bit of wind to fly this one with and then it would probably pull too much. HOW WRONG I WAS!! If you go to the bottom video on the multimedia page (that web-site again!), you will see us flying a 12 second routine with axles and landings in no more than 3mph – amazing! More amazing – I was expecting it to fly like the HQ Trions we still use which don't do a great deal in the way of tricks – but no, it danced, stalled and turned, spun, twisted and rolled as well as any other trick kite in my bag. I passed it around at Basingstoke kite festival to some of the better flyers and they were much impressed with it too. Well done HQ next time anyone asks me for advice on a good all rounder, this is definitely one of the ones I will point them at to try. If the Scorpion is designed for tricks can you send me one of those too please? – I liked the orange one!

### Lutz Treczoks Geisha

Not new on the market but new for us is the elegant, superb, Geisha, The spiky hair and patchwork patterns make this kite stand out and apart from all the others in the sky. I have been a fan of Mr.Treczoks for some time and he has not let me down yet. The Geisha is best in lower winds and lifts off well despite its weight and sits very steadily in the sky. I managed to break mine in assembly because I had pushed the ferrule right home. A tip when tensioning the sail for stability is to have the bottom fairly tight and certainly tighter than the top two tensioners.

We assembled ours with the spine against the sail all along the length – this worked well considering I didn't read the instructions. Our second attempt was in the school field behind our bungalow, We aren't supposed to be in there so we were quick. Would you believe it a field like this just over the fence – and we are not allowed to use it!



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Neighbour Mickey (seen in the picture) was soon on the scene though. He was only used to seeing the low end kites but was most impressed with the style, large size and finish of this piece of art. I did a launch with him holding the line and I think he was converted immediately.

Well – the new web site is up and running and I have a few bits to say.

Firstly thanks to my son, Grant Francis, (visit for an interesting look at what he does) for all the hard work and creativity he has given to the masterminding and engineering of this new piece of kite related entertainment. And thanks to people like Arthur Dibble from White Horse who have checked out some of the technical oddities to make sure they were working across the different browsers. Yes – we know we haven't yet done all the typos, but there were more interesting things to deal with – like lots of content and thanks to those like good friends Team Spectrum and others who have already sent us lots of recent event photos to use.

Now this is one of the things where all you guys can help. I have said to lots of people – “Have you been on our Web-site yet?” - “Yes!” -They say “It's much better now - and easy to navigate!” But when I ask what they thought of the videos, I get..... “Oh – I didn't see those?”

So, please take the time to go to the web-site (Check your spelling carefully), then go to the 'Multimedia and Photos' page (It does take a few seconds to download depending on what speed you are on). There is a link to the photos with a clever gallery – the more you play around with it the more different ways you find there are to view – but start off by clicking on 'Main Menu'. There are a couple of blank pages that we have not had the time to fill yet – keep coming back there will be other stuff too! Then, there are lots of videos that, hopefully, will keep you amused – more of these coming along too. Then, there is the tutorials page – sure to raise a few heckles? – More videos here – all in high quality and if you find the icon, bottom right, you can make it full screen. Some of the videos have the almost same introduction – don't be put off by that.

Having gorged yourself (only joking) on the multimedia, there are lots of other good links to try including some rather nice wind and weather forecasting sites, reviews, news and..... Oh go on – give it a try it's just like buying a kite magazine – only it's free!

When you have had a good look around, use the links to visit our sponsors or visit some of the other sites but then *please* use the 'contacts' page let us know what you think (good or bad – but not about the spelling and grammar) and send us some Kitey photos.

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This brings me nicely to the next bit.....

**Win a Kite** I am not going to go on too much about the rules and things but by entering a colourful, kite related photo to our site or, if you don't have access to a computer, send a print to [Kiteworld.co.uk](http://Kiteworld.co.uk), High Street, Clacton-on-Sea, you really could win one of the best sport kites around - a Fury 85 in a colour scheme of your own choosing as made and sponsored by former world champion Carl Robertshaw - I'm sure he'll even sign it for you too if you ask! All the good kite traders will have a stock of this best selling, very highly rated kite if want to buy one now - then if you win one you will be all set up for pairs! Come along to one of our events (look on our 'Diary' page) and if Chris Goff is there too, we'll be working with him to show what this kite can do, and then some.

[www.closeencounterskites.co.uk](http://www.closeencounterskites.co.uk)

### The Zephyr – By Prism



It must have been at least a year ago when I was writing here saying about how this kite had been just released and that I would be reviewing it soon. I can't say what happened but I know Michael from [Kiteworld](http://Kiteworld) has been pulling his hair out (euphemism) waiting to get stock in.

At last I got one just in time to take it on holiday with me to Lanzarote. Big mistake that – windy as hell and this is a light wind kite. However on the day the wind did drop- to almost zero – I discovered that even by using the shorter, 50lb lines they supply along with another set of 90lb - and removing the weight, I still would have preferred a little more than the 1mph minimum they claim. Someone asked me about the long lines on the tow points – well these are useful with light lines to give a some weight so that the lines drop below the kite when doing flat spins and also to protect both the sail and bottom spreaders from wear in roll up maneuvers.

Be sure to read the instructions on this one. It comes with the leach lines undone and should be broken in a little before following the guidelines on how to

tension them to give the optimum performance.

It loves the lower winds and I would say performs at its best from around 4mph to about 18mph with only minor trimming along the way.

You will still find that Prism 'feel' (I don't know how they add that in) and the slight difference from European kites in the way that you have to do things, although after about ten minutes or so and a little patience, you can really start to do things with this kite. I particularly like the precise tracking. I don't mean just doing sharp corners in boxes – if you fly it across the window then curve (ladder) down and fly back the other way, the Zephyr seems to lock in position without you having to think about it then tracks smoothly along waiting for the next command.

If you want demonstration of this, watch Carl Wright of Team Spectrum as he flies three of these at once with the beautiful purple design as supplied by [Kiteworld.co.uk](http://Kiteworld.co.uk). Talking of design, we would like to applaud the guy who thought of that styling and there is this is a great choice of sail colours – oddly enough – we have the one in yellow and black!

The Zephyr sells in a semi hard case as seen in the picture and would make an excellent gift for someone with, perhaps only a couple of down range kites and aspiring for something smart and new.



However there is some debate on whether Prism should have made the recommended sale price lower and done away with the case especially as the kite does take a bit of careful packing away after it has been flown. I've even heard it suggested that it might be better to get a long bag to keep it in and use the case to hold a couple of Revs. I think it is a class piece of equipment though – it's nice to have a bit of product design and its great for keeping the kite safe in the boot of the car (normal English temperatures) or to take with you as "I'll just take the one Dear" for that short trip away.

My opinion, but you can't usually go wrong in buying a Prism kite – this one flies well and performs all the tricks albeit some of them a little slowly. Not a top of the range kite in some technical aspects such as the bits sticking out behind the standoffs but not many look as gorgeous as this one in the sky.