15 months ago I was confronted with a tough challenge: Legal and economic reasons forced us to come up with a new brand under which to offer kiteboard and windsurf products. In the beginning it felt strange to even consider this after spending 17 years developing North Kiteboarding from scratch to become the market leader. But right behind that dismay I felt a little glow of excitement...

When we started internal discussions about the possibility of creating a new brand, it was obviously a huge shock for the entire Boards & More team. After all, the company had been largely born and raised on the North name for decades. But after letting the idea stew for a few nights, you could feel a new vibe growing through the whole company. Here was our chance to create something new and groundbreaking and completely our own. The opportunities sparked fresh and innovative ideas. Both long-time experienced employees and younger new team members got caught up in the thrill. Everybody was excited at the chance to have a determining influence in creating an entirely new brand. It was a wild, frenetic time. With the power of a new beginning the whole team pushed really hard to get Duotone launched in mid-2018.

But in the end it's not about us, it's about you – our customer. Will you remain loyal to the company you've trusted for years, even now that we're using a different logo? What's in it for you? We care about creativity and setting trends. Innovation and progression are in our DNA, which is how our concepts become legends. Of course, we retained the knowledge base: All the know-how of years of development are still here for us to draw on. And the ‘us’ hasn't changed either: not a single team member has left. We will continue to use the same proven materials, working with the same proven factories in order to guarantee the same high quality as ever. But being the same as before is not what Duotone is about. We are committed to building on that knowledge and history in order to create something new, something better.

It comes down to the essential question of all questions: Why do we kite? Why do you kite? Is it the deep experience to be challenged by wind and water? Is it the travel lifestyle of kite trips? Or is it the relaxing satisfaction after a good session? I guess everybody has his or her own answer to it, but for everyone kiting surely is also a way to break out of the daily life. For us at Duotone, kiting means passion – designing and building the best kiteboarding gear is what we strive for! We want to stoke your passion for kiteboarding even more. Be it with stories that make you dream, with insights that give you inspiration, or with material that makes your next session just that one bit better. Feel the power of a new beginning!
18 YEARS OF TRUE KITEBOARDING
OVERALL SALES IN 18 YEARS

KITES
Using the 4,423,569 m² of cloth we’ve processed over the last 18 years for our kites would cover 260 soccer fields. In the last 18 years we have used a total of 1,105,890 km of Kite Yarn. This is enough to cover the distance from earth to the moon 3 times. The longest running kite in our range is the Vegas – 16 years and counting. With 101,047 total sold pieces, 27% of all the kites we’ve ever sold, the Rebel is the best selling model in our range. The first Rebel was introduced to the market in 2006.

BARS
All the lines of our sold bars, laid end to end, would cover 81% of the earth’s circumference.

BOARDS
Since the first Jaime Pro was introduced to the market in 2002 we have delivered 32,681 Jaime Pro Boards in 16 years. With a percentage share of 19% the Jaime is the leader of all our sold boards in our range.
BE TRUE

What it’s really like to do a shoot on a beautiful remote island

Copy: Laura Alexy
Photos: Toby Bromwich, Carlos Guzman Ortega, Thomas Haber, Chris Müller
EVER BEEN JEALOUS OF A TEAMRIDER’S LIFE? TRAVELING THE WORLD, KITING THE BEST SPOTS, BEAUTIFUL BEACHES, CRYSTAL CLEAR WATERS, PERFECT CONDITIONS ALL DAY LONG... WELL,REWIND! IT MIGHT NOT ALWAYS BE WHAT YOU’RE EXPECTING!

We accompanied part of our Freestyle Team on their very first shooting for our new brand Duotone. Tommy Kaiser, Head of International Marketing, chose Saint Brandon as a destination – an archipelago in the Indian Ocean, about 430 kilometers northeast of Mauritius. Pretty beautiful, pretty remote, pretty promising regarding conditions and set up. But also pretty hard to reach...

In June last year Tommy, together with Matchu Lopes, Reno Romeu, Hannah Whiteley, Tom Hebert, Jérôme Bonieux and a team of photographers and video filmers set out for a trip that would turn out to bring them all to their limits...

A teamrider’s life – here is what it’s (sometimes) really like!

**Remote Boat Trip**

True dedication is when you’re spending 27 hrs on a boat to get from Mauritius to St. Brandon. Not to mention the little storm that made it all even more fun...
No catch no dinner – fish was on the daily menu.

Luckily Tom Hebert showed his skills.

The rider’s accommodation – simple but fulfilling all needs... more or less.

The rest of a 2 weeks chocolate stash on day 2 of the shooting. All gone after day 3. Guess someone loves chocolate.

Between 10 – 15 boards plus countless kite, bars and harnesses had to be carried to and from the beach every day. Not to mention all the photo equipment.

This is what we came here for: Shooting from dawn till dusk.

When you lose the connection to the drone and have to pick it from the sky by hand.
Despite all deprivations – it's been an awesome trip after all.
“Kiters really have an inside line on true happiness”

Dr Lensker, what is happiness?
As a happiness researcher, I have a somewhat ambivalent relationship with the term happiness. The term happiness literally incorporates two very different concepts. First is ‘being lucky’: a lottery win or catching the train just before it leaves. This is a random construct that does not actually increase one’s self-worth. The other aspect of happiness is the one that I focus on. The subject of joy. Experiences. Where you yourself can ‘create your own happiness’ through positive activation. You could also say it’s about managing happiness, and consciously entering into a state of changeability. This is because people experience joy when they experience their own self-worth. The great thing about this is that you can shape your own self-efficacy.

So is there a ‘happiness formula’ for how to be happy?
Yes. Go kitesurfing... (laughs). You have to look at the internal structure of experiences to understand how happiness develops. For a high emotional quality experience, like kitesurfing, you need to consider three aspects. Firstly: people. The question is: Am I feeling human closeness? When you kite, you become part of a community, experiencing the wind, the water, and the beach within this context. It’s a pleasant environment, people greet you warmly, and often offer to help you. We chat and we share experiences. There’s a connection. The group is a soul community. But on the water, kitesurfing is a sport for individuals. That’s the second aspect: individuality. You’re able to enjoy life through this sport, and to grow. You earn recognition and your individuality is accorded value. Each kiter is an individual who authentically represents him/herself. The soul community and individuality are opposites that complement each other and which lead to human closeness.

And what is the third area you use to define emotional quality of an experience?
This is based on the gear/product you are using, but in the way of it being a solution that goes beyond the gear itself. An overall solution which is so great that it inspires you. Again, there are two key aspects: the gear needs to be high quality; the aesthetics, the design, the construction must appeal to all my senses, it must be something extraordinary. But it also must offer simplicity and alleviation – this is becoming increasingly important in the modern day where everything is so complex. Things shouldn’t be intricate. My gear must make it easy for me to experience a great sports adventure. I want to enjoy it, after all, not have to think about a thousand technical things. This is Steve Jobs’ formula from Apple. Simple, with total desirability. A simplicity that can inspire. The Click Bar from Duotone is a great example of that.
What does this quality of experience lead to in the end? Community and simplicity means security. I’m interacting with people who are helping me, and my equipment is easy to use. I’ve got it under control. I feel safe. Individuality and enjoyment means that I feel stronger as a person. Personal development means inspiration. Kiters experience the power of nature, which moves and accelerates you, with every session on the water. Each session is a mini adventure. You become almost like a playing of nature, with the risk of never quite knowing what’s going to happen. You have to be brave. It’s exciting, and you feel the strength you gain when you’re playing with nature. Does this feeling release any particular energy? Nature is unpredictable and powerful. The fact that I’m exposing myself to this risk ultimately leads to development, and to me gaining strength as a person. A special flow develops when my abilities match precisely what I’m doing. I’m taken up in doing it with 100 percent concentration. I mustn’t be over-challenged, but I mustn’t be under-taxed either. Through my activity, I get a little bit better every time, and by doing so I shift the challenge a little bit. When you engage in this type of sport, you find yourself in a constant, positive spiral of development. The continual improvement, the constant development; it creates more than just happiness. You are also able to develop potential that you otherwise might not even be aware you had. This is ultimately experiencing your self-worth. Self-worth creates joy. And associated with joy is the positive activation of the body and mind. It is a positive experience, I’m excited by it. You could also call it stoke, the highest form of joy and excitement. Lots of kiters get off the water and are literally inspired. Does stoke have a particular effect on people, or is it just a feeling of happiness? It goes way beyond that. Of course, the ego is positively activated. The challenge when kiteing is immense – the nature, the wind, the waves. You need total concentration on the moment, and you can’t start thinking about projects to do with your work, arguments with friends, or what you’re planning on doing tonight. Studies show that positively activated people are not only happier, but they also get ill less often and they perform better in their jobs. If someone comes home positively activated, then they infect their family, friends, and surroundings with this positivity. Everyone is familiar with the saying ‘a little bit of what you fancy does you good’. But people who are good also try to do good for their community. Kiters who collect rubbish on beaches, for example, are interested in wider contacts and share this interest beyond their community and take it to the wider public.

Isn’t the search for joy a little selfish? On an everyday basis, you often get discouraged, you get repeated crises of confidence, the feeling that you can’t create anything of value for anyone else. I can’t do what I want to do at work, my work isn’t valued. I might be working for the good of the company, but that doesn’t satisfy me. I can’t enjoy myself there. You need time out from something like that. Whether it’s biking, swimming, or kiteing, the motivation is the same: I need to recharge myself as a person and regroup my strength. In these modern times especially, where the degree of complexity is so great and the number of stress-related conditions is growing, everyone is searching for a place to unwind. When I get the ideal overall experience, then talking to people, then that’s experience, I’m excited by it. You could also call it stoke, the highest form of joy and excitement. And this incredible kick leads to a special feeling of happiness? An ideal experience that leads to a feeling of happiness is more than just this one moment on the water. It’s a process. The anticipation builds: chatting with friends on the beach, planning a trip, which kite do I go for, which board do I choose, looking forward to it all.

“The Stoke of Kiteboarding”

“With kiteboarding, we’re talking about a level of excitement of 70 or 80, almost the top of the scale, and this is what gives people this really incredible kick.”

The ideal experience involves being active, not relaxing lazily in front of the TV. Physically allows joy and happiness to develop. The body acts on the mind. If you’re physically active and mentally agile, then you’re naturally happier. If you have the courage to try something new, something that goes beyond the everyday small stuff, you strengthen your resolve and shift the perspective from ‘Where do I want to go?’ to ‘Who do I want to be?’?

Are there different degrees of happiness? Do kiters experience happiness in a different way to marathon runners, for example? Definitely. Kiters have a higher experience of self-worth than marathon runners. Marathon runners measure themselves against their race time. For the quality of the experience, however, performance is irrelevant. Marathon running is also relatively simple. You simply run as straight as possible without exchanging experiences within a group. Kiting is much more challenging and complex, you’re part of a community that takes you forward, with adventure and risk. It’s a very different level of excitement. It’s an excitement that you don’t get with normal types of sport, in normal interactions with people. This is the first time in my 20 years of research that I’ve faced this extreme amplitude. In my research, we measure excitement on a scale from 0 to 100. Normally, people are somewhere on the border of satisfaction and the first level of excitement with a touch of joy, between 20 and 40. With kiteboarding, we’re talking about a level of excitement of 70 or 80, almost the top of the scale, and this is what gives people this really incredible kick.

Then comes the joy of the experience that you get when you’re enjoying nature, the fantastic experience you’re having. Part of that is the joy of the element of surprise in what you’re doing. I’m surprised in a good way when things happen that I didn’t anticipate: the sun breaking through the clouds, there’s an unexpected surge of waves, or I successfully perform a trick I’ve been practising for so long. And finally comes the afterglow, the enjoyment you feel after a session, talking within your soul community, and letting the experience slowly subside. Is it a different feeling whether I’m just cruising pleasurably ahead, riding a huge wave, or finally accomplishing a difficult freestyle trick after a long time practising? It doesn’t matter whether I’m an introvert performer type who likes to show off his tricks to others, or an introvert kite who prefers to enjoy the surroundings and gets his enjoyment on the water. Something only becomes important to us if it is associated with a feeling. A feeling of joy and excitement. If everything comes together, if I’m feeling great when I’m riding, if I’m improving, if I’m in a wonderful place experiencing the force of nature and then talking to people, then that’s what I get the ideal overall experience, emotional activation – a feeling of stoke. Kiters are also totally privileged from this point of view: the pure force of the experience means that they don’t generally need the other showy pleasures that many people get from luxury, such as posh hotels or flash cars. Anyone who tries to achieve happiness through consumption will fail. Kiters, on the other hand, have an inside line on true happiness.
“So is there a ‘happiness formula’ for how to be happy? Yes. Go kitesurfing…”
I love sport and enjoy different games. Golf is quite relaxing in some ways but mentally challenging, it allows me to totally shut off from my normal world on the beach and still challenge myself, it is sometimes very frustrating but rewarding when it goes well. Being so focused and driven by competition it is the focus and technical precision involved with golf that relates so well for me. Whilst being similar mentally in these ways to kiteboarding, golfing is in a more relaxed and quiet environment, and is physically far less demanding.

I have to say from the start I am not a great golfer, I got into it more recently and do not have a handicap yet. I probably play once or twice a week when I am home. It is more the experience and progression involved that attracts me to it.

At home in the UK I am lucky to have a few golf courses down the road and there are lots of different courses available close by. It is really quick and easy to be on the course and with the long evenings in the summer I can always make some time to play. I will spend plenty of days at the driving range, short courses and 9 holes, sometimes 18. I like the pressure of performing at a proper English course. Luckily quite a few friends also play enough, Lewis, Tom, Sam Light, James Boulding and friends of theirs too. I guess it is quite normal to have some sort of game if you are from the UK. Also when I go away sometimes we find a local course if there is no wind and in South Africa there are a few that are fun and readily available.

With anything I do there are good and bad days, with kiting sometimes it doesn’t work out but because I have done it so much I am always fully prepared and I can iron out the problems simply because I am so invested. With a new sport it is always hard and golf can go wrong 100% from the start and seem impossible to put right. Even when it clicks it can be hard to know why but that is part of the reason I love learning new things.

“If there is any way to gain mental strength then I think golf is an incredible tool.”

If there is any way to gain mental strength then I think golf is an incredible tool. The focus involved in every single hit is hard to keep. Different swings with different clubs and just the endurance involved to the end is crazy. You really have to reset every time over the duration of hours. Being able to shut off from water sports and disappear for a day can be cleansing; it is nice to reset and focus the mind on something, but in a relaxed and social environment.

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As my job involves a lot of time spent at a computer I seek balance in crafting. Of all the crafts I am interested in, I like brewing beer the most. Born in Belgium I come from a country with a rich culture of beer. There seems to be endless aromas and flavors. One could say I was born with a natural interest in beer. I got passionate about brewing a couple of years ago. Some friends and I created an anniversary beer in cooperation with a micro-brewery in Belgium for the 80th anniversary of our Boy Scout group. We met with the brewmaster a couple of times in order to finalize the recipe and of course to taste our first attempts. Through this experience I learned a lot about the craft of brewing and the raw materials used for it. It kind of stuck with me until one day I couldn’t resist anymore – I had to try it myself. I started with small quantities of around 6 liters of beer, mainly due to a lack of space. Who owns pots that are capable of holding more than 6 liters? Now I make 30 liters per batch which better justifies the effort and amount of time I put in. This results in approximately 21 – 22 liters of beer.

When I decide to do a batch I step out of the usual work – something which is not possible with brewing beer. You can’t interfere in the process or accelerate it. Brewing beer has its own pace, it takes as long as it takes. And good beer needs a lot of time as the aroma develops very slowly. So brewing has something introverted about it. You can’t force it. All you can do is choose the right ingredients in the right proportion and provide the best conditions. Lately I’ve been experimenting a lot with components like sugar and honey to see how it changes the flavor of the beer. But the rest is up to time. When I decide to do a batch I step out of the stressful, often rushed world of my job and fully commit to the slow process of brewing. It thrillsly decelerates me.

That said, brewing is a great balance to work. It satisfies me to have crafted something. This is especially rewarding when the beer tastes great. Above all, it is something you can share with friends. Spending time with people that are important to you is soothing for the soul. Add a good beer and you get pure happiness.

Brewing beer has its own pace, it takes as long as it takes.

“Being in nature is about feeling myself and freeing my mind.”

All the sports I enjoy, kayaking is the most accessible for me, with a launch 10 minutes from my home. Kayaking is my way of being close to nature, to feeling the elements. It also allows me to spend time with friends or my two sons while emptying my head of my day-to-day stresses.

Though my parents taught me to swim at a young age, I started kayaking rather late, after university, when I went with my wife and some of her friends to Soca, a well-known whitewater river in Slovenia. Having people around you practicing the sport on a high level really helps put fears in perspective and quickly jumpstarts your skills. Ever since that first trip we get back to the same river with that same group for a long weekend getaway every year.

One thing I appreciate about kayaking is the diversity the river offers. To paraphrase Heraclitus: You can never paddle the same river twice… Even doing the same runs several times; water levels change, the conditions of the river change, and the lines that you take are never the same. I’ve found parallels to this truism throughout my life, at home and at work.

Kayaking and my daily job actually have quite a few similarities. Once you begin a river section you must commit 100% and remain totally focused until the end. Often there is no way out until you finish the section. At the same time, while you’re in one sense completely on your own, isolated in your own boat, relying only on your skills to navigate, you also need a strong team you can rely on for support.

Unfortunately I don’t have the flexibility to go kayaking as often as I’d like, as you need that team to help manage boat transfers and logistics. Nevertheless, some of the best times are when a friend calls me up unexpectedly to do a quick run. Even if it’s a bit of a stress to squeeze it in right after work, it’s always worth it for the after-paddle glow that always follows.

It’s simply magical, kayaking on a warm day and being able to drink the same water I’m riding on. Being in nature is about feeling myself and freeing my mind. Practicing for a paddle I already have to free my mind from daily distractions and concentrate on the job at-hand to get everything prepared. Therefore my head is clean of all work issues and problems before I even get in the water.

The fact that there are different levels of difficulty on every river means that kayaking is able to give everything from moments of personal challenge to moments of serenity in the surrounding nature to enjoying time with my friends and family. When I finish a run I’m tired in a positive way. My head is empty, yet at the same time I somehow feel completely recharged and ready for the challenges my job brings with it.
I spent the first 8 years of my life in a small mountain town in Northern California. My parents had a big piece of land where they had built a house themselves. My dad has been a builder all his life and I learned a lot from him. From a very young age he would give me small jobs like cleaning up the building site and bringing him tools. When I was a teenager I worked for him after school and actually financed my first trips to PKRA events around the world by earning money working construction. My dad is the type of person who likes to do everything himself and he really instilled in me the importance and value of learning how to do things on your own and not needing to rely on other people to do work for you. Building and learning how to build things has always been part of who I am.

When my wife Kristin and I first stumbled across this overgrown piece of bare land and realized it had a stream running through it, we definitely fell in love with it right away. After a hard day of work in my shop making boards I like to jump in the stream to cool off in the evening. I built almost everything on our property: House, workshop, concrete driveway, outdoor pizza oven, chicken coops, turkey coop, CNC machine, stone walls, etc. Next project is a hydro generator to supplement our off-grid solar system. I love being in the ocean, but I also really enjoy the satisfaction of being able to stand back at the end of the day and seeing what I’ve accomplished. Building things with my hands and working on the land gives me a different sense of achievement than my sports do.

Connecting with the land is very important to me. We have a lot of fruit trees, which have now been long enough in the ground to carry fruits — mango, banana, papaya, lilicoi, avocado — all the stuff that grows well in Hawaii. I just harvested the bananas, about 200 pounds. They all get ripe at the same time. We peel them, put them in the freezer, and can use them for making smoothies. We have bees, grow a lot of herbs and also a few vegetables which are easy to cultivate. And we are also harvesting our own chicken and turkeys, and are eating our own animals.

I feel very at peace at home. To Kristin and me this property has a very special value because of all of the blood, sweat, and tears we have put into it and we definitely enjoy the serenity of this place. Home is where the heart is and spending my time here with Kristin and our three dogs, Red, Lily, and Harley is what makes this place really feel home for me and what gives me the inspiration and drive to commit myself to my ‘real job’ of creating new board shapes.

"Connecting with the land is important to me. I feel very at peace at home."
“To me the piano is an opportunity to use the non-analytical part of the mind.”

When I started playing the piano at age 17, it wasn’t clear to me that I was already late to the game. Most of my musical peers started in their early teens or even earlier. I took lessons for a few months, but had no particular aptitude and never fully committed. Then windsurfing took over my life.

Just recently I bought a nice, new 7’6” grand piano and started playing again, but the pressure – the desire to improve every week and the time commitment needed to do so given that I’m not particularly talented – was putting a strain on my marriage, so I don’t have work to do, or chores, and there are frequently people in the house, so I don’t play the piano as much as I would like. That said, I manage an hour or two most days, frequently people in the house, so I don’t usually improve my mood, though sometimes I’m frustrated that I’m not better at it. I used to have melodies in my head being on the water for hours.

To me the piano is a break from the mental work of design. It’s absorbing in a completely different way from designing kites or hydrofoils. It’s an opportunity to use the non-analytical part of the mind. It makes me think of Moravec’s Paradox, which, in a few words, says that the easy stuff is hard and the hard stuff is easy. Reasoning through design issues – my day job – is more logic associated, while piano is more related to motor-skills and auditory discernment. These are completely different types of activities, so doing one is a break from doing the other.

As humans we are always at risk of imbalance in our lives. In this century, one of the paths to imbalance involves spending too much time in the artificial or enhanced reality of the computer world. Whether through Facebook or computer games or just email and text, we can be overly engaged with our smart phones and computers. Going kitesurfing or windsurfing or surf foiling, or sitting down and playing the piano, are all great ways to rebalance with, and be energized by, old-fashioned non-artificial, non-enhanced REAL reality.

During my whole professional career, I’ve always been involved in several projects at the same time. Running three brands simultaneously on top of the already intense and demanding work life as a kite designer, it’s never easy to find the time for distraction. Sitting on a quiet peaceful beach doing nothing but relaxing would make me crazy. My head never stops computing, which is a great advantage to constantly solve problems or just to run the required operations that allow me to develop paragliders, industrial design, sailing equipment and softwares in parallel. However, the downside is that traditional forms of relaxation are not possible for me. But I found a fantastic way of forcing myself to focus on a single all-encompassing event. Driving in circles as fast as possible...
I started yoga in 2015 because I was attracted by the positive and kind vibe which was around the people who were practicing it. The way they thought and lived made me become attracted to this world. Reading a lot of yoga books helped me to choose the type of yoga I wanted to practice. In the beginning I went to a lot of yoga classes to learn how to flow. Today I love practicing yoga every late afternoon because it calms my mind after a super busy day. Even if my day is not a great one, yoga helps me to leave all the stress behind and be in a better mood.

It’s so easy to combine Kiteboarding and yoga. When it’s windy, I kite all day long and once I’m back home, I roll down my mat and I start practicing yoga. The good thing is that you can do it wherever you want because all you need is just a tiny space which I can find even in the smallest rooms on my journeys. Although I love rolling down my mat in front of the sea at sunset time. This is definitely my happiest place.

I feel the benefits of yoga when I’m on the water kiteboarding. My movements are more fluid and it seems to me that rotations get easier. Since I started practicing yoga it has become very rare for me to get out of the water because of a muscle cramp. It helps me be better in both physical and mental ways. Yoga also helps me during competitions. Before doing a trick, I usually take a long breath in and a long one out, I remind myself to enjoy the moment (no matter what happens) and then I focus on the trick I’m going to do.

Yoga is so much more than a bunch of movements connected together, it’s a way of life! Yoga means to be here and now. It makes you realize how beautiful the world is and that you are very lucky to live in it. It teaches you how to live in the moment and to not waste any time of it. It helps you to be strong and to get confidence. We all are beautiful souls, we just have to know how to let it come out and how to spread the light that everyone has inside.

I really love yoga because it changed my mind a lot. I used to stress so much about things that I couldn’t change. What I do now is try to learn from my mistakes, without stressing too much. When I started yoga there were a lot of things that I didn’t like about myself (physical aspects) and this awesome way of life helped me to accept myself the way I am, because there are no better versions that I can be. You are perfect the way you are! One of my dreams is definitely to go to India to discover all the yoga secrets and become a teacher. Yoga is all about being grateful for each moment, kind with everyone, and it means be proud of ourselves. Yoga is less ego and more human!
AIRTON VS AARON

AIRTON

1 x KSP WORLD CHAMPION
3 x GKA KITE-SURF WORLD TOUR CHAMPION

Photos: Toby Bromwich, Craig Kilisky

AARON

5 x PKRA WORLD CHAMPION
2 x KING OF THE AIR
Like a chef using many distinct ingredients to create a signature dish, Duotone’s directional board shaper Sky Solbach combines many aspects of surfboard design to create a delicious range of surfboards to suit various conditions and riding styles. As Sky says: ‘All the parts work together to create a good board’. Nevertheless, we asked him to explain what different effects certain aspects of a board’s shape have on the final characteristics of a surfboard.

A comparison of the modern compact shape of the Pro Whip CSC and the classic shape of the Pro Session.

**OUTLINE**
The outline creates your rail line and determines how you engage in the turn and what radius the board will take.

**TAIL**
The tail shape is inherently connected to the outline. Different tail shapes allow you to carry the outline in different ways to the back of the board.

**ROCKER LINE**
If you had to isolate one feature of a board which has the most effect on the performance it would be the rocker line. The rocker determines how fast the board will be, how it turns, how it handles and how it feels in the water. You have to adapt your rocker line to your outline – you can’t put a Whip rocker on a Session outline.

**SHORTER RAIL LINE**
- Less stability at speed
- Snappy
- Tighter turns

**SQUASH TAIL**
- Effective way to bring lots of width to the tail
- More lift in the tail due to increased surface area
- Good speed generation
- Good light wind performance

**LEAN ROCKER LINE**
- Faster because water doesn’t have to wrap so much over the curve
- Better for flatter faced waves
- Good light wind ability
- Early planing

**ROCKER LINE**
- More drive
- Long, drawn out curves
- More grip

**LONGER RAIL LINE**
- More drive
- Longer, drawn out curves
- More grip

**SQUASH TAIL**
- Effective way to bring lots of width to the tail
- More lift in the tail due to increased surface area
- Good speed generation
- Good light wind performance

**ROUNDER PIN**
- Tail sits low and deep offering good grip
- Creates a long lean outline curve for predictable handling
- Good drive

**CURVY RCKER LINE**
- Less low end planing ability
- More sensitive to foot pressure / placement
- More dynamic carving
- Good for powerful, steep waves

“I spend a lot of time looking at curves, focusing first and foremost on the functionality of each board while also trying to make them look aesthetically pleasing.”

Capt. Sky Solbach  Photo: Toby Bromwich
A wide, square nose is powerful + STRAIGHTER NOSE

Volume is a good indicator of size when choosing a board to match your weight for different conditions. A rider might ride a Whip with 26 liters in small waves and a Session with 24 liters in big waves because he wants more volume for smaller waves. VOLUME

- Big waves + MORE VOLUME
- More control at speed + Early planing
- High speed carves + Good deflection for speed generation
- Better top end + Good light wind performance
- More control + MORE TUCK
- More lively + Buoyant
- Speed generation + FULL RAILS
- Small waves + Small surf
- Speed generation + Speed generation
- Lively + Buoyant

Rails have a huge influence on how a board will handle. Full, boxy rails are common on small wave boards because they give you maximum volume and make the board feel buoyant and lively in small mushy waves and allow you to generate speed. Boards for bigger surf typically have lower rails with less volume that are less sensitive and better for controlling speed. RAILS

- Control at speed + RAILS
- Less sensitive to rider input + Control at speed
- More grip + Low rails
- More lively + More crisp and precise release
- More rigid + More control
- More volume + LESS TUCK

The nose shape is related to the outline and dictates how a board will fit into the curve of a wave when engaged in a turn, which also has a direct relationship to the rocker. All of these design elements need to work in unison. NOSE

- Fits in the pocket of a steep wave + POINTED NOSE
- Creates longer rail line for drawn out carves + More locked in
- Less surface area catches less in critical sections + Tight turns
- More lively + More control
- More pointy feeling, good for small waves + Power drive
- Plus more concave

The bottom shape is responsible for the turning and planing ability and is deeply connected to the rocker. Generally speaking, as you move from flat to concave to channel you get more stabilization. People think about bottom shapes in very different ways. I like to think of it as creating different rockers within one rocker, which means you have a center line rocker and a rail rocker. By adding concave, which is basically pulling the rails down, you create a different curve on the rail than you have in the center. When you engage the turn you are sitting on the more curvy part of this bottom shape. The more concave you put, the more reactive the board will be on the rail. I design my center line rocker first and then start playing with concave to increase or decrease the rail rocker to the desired feel. BOTTOM

- Gives the board more rocker along the rail, which makes the board turn tighter when the rail is engaged + SINGLE CONCAVE
- Creates longer rail line for drawn out carves + Predictable
- More stabilization + Easy to find the release point

The two most popular fin configurations are Thruster (3 fin) and Quad (4 fin). Both offer benefits in certain conditions and I often test our prototype boards with both configurations in various positions. FIN CONFIGURATION

- Direct, connected feel throughout transition + NARROWER
- Predictable + More lively
- Easy to find the release point + More control
- More drivable
- More pointy feeling, good for small waves + Power drive
- Plus more concave
- Tight turns

Positioning of the fins on the board and in relation to each other plays a huge role in how a board reacts and behaves. On a thruster setup, moving the center fin back and the front fins forward allows you to tune the board to a desired feel. FIN SPREAD

- Powerful, wider, more rake + TS-M PRO 1
- Powerfull tip, more grip, drive and control + TS-M PRO 2
- For carving and staying connected to the face in bigger waves + NARROWER

- Powerful, wider, more rake + TS-M PRO 2
- Powerfull tip, more grip, drive and control + For carving and staying connected to the face in bigger waves

- With more release on smaller boards + NARROWER
Twintips are a funny breed. On the one hand they’re extremely versatile; most kiters have one or two in their quiver that they use for many different types of riding, and to a beginner they all look quite similar. On the other hand, a well-designed twintip suited specifically to your particular riding style can significantly raise your game, whether you’re a beginner trying to go upwind for the first time, an advanced freerider focused on jumping to the moon, or a freestyler looking for every ounce of pop. The right board can make all the difference. There are a variety of design elements the Duotone twintip design team uses to create boards that will maximize performance for a particular riding style while still maintaining versatility. The most important factors are outline, rocker, flex and channels.

OUTLINE
The outline depends largely on the angle at which the board sits in the water as it is being ridden. This is especially true about the angle of the central axis of the board to the water surface.

NARROW & STRAIGHT
The straight outline and flat rocker generate almost enough grip. The tip channels allow the rider to use smaller fins and thus achieve more maneuverability without sacrificing edge hold.

BROAD & ROUND
The angle when riding is rather steep with most of the pressure on the edge behind the back foot. The tail sits deep in the water to create edge hold even without deep channels or large fins. The steep ride angle prevents the tip from cutting into the chop.

CHANNELS
Channels can be used to influence how water flows under the board. Basically, one can say that the deeper and sharper the channels are, the more drag is generated, which initially has a negative effect on performance and top speed. However, there are many positive aspects of different types of channels, so the trade-off is beneficial in different ways for different bottom shapes.

FEW
The double concave with the center channels in the edge area pull the board at a shallow angle to the water surface and create additional hold. The deep tip channels allow extremely small fins to be used, making it easier to pull off a messy landing without spinning out. In addition, the double concave helps break up the surface tension during a hard landing, damping the harshness and preventing the board from skimming sideways after landing.

MANY
The straight outline and flat rocker generate almost enough grip. The tip channels allow the rider to use smaller fins and thus achieve more maneuverability without sacrificing edge hold.

TIPS
Especially at the tips, flex tuning is crucial. Soft tips are a key element for good freeride boards. Our primary goal with our freeride-oriented boards was to find a technical solution to produce an extremely soft yet stable tip. We were able to take this to a new level with the new Space Flex Tips.

ROCKER / FLEX
The rocker line may have the biggest impact on board comfort and performance. A flat rocker glides quickly and runs well, but can feel hard and cumbersome. A steep rocker generally slows a board down, but is playful and reduces impacts from chop and hard landings.

 flattest option for good freeride boards. Our primary goal with our freeride-oriented boards was to find a technical solution to produce an extremely soft yet stable tip. We were able to take this to a new level with the new Space Flex Tips.

FLAT / SOFT
Flat rocker for a good blend of comfort and performance. Medium to soft flex pattern means the center of the board is soft in both bending and twisting directions. The soft center makes the rocker flat when starting, resulting in increased acceleration and speed. At higher speeds and with a lot of pressure on the edge, the board bends and provides increased edge hold and good cushioning properties. The special geometry on the top of the deck lets the board twist between the feet while remaining stiff in the area between the heel and the respective fin.

STIFF / HARD
Higher rocker to soften the ride and hard landings in spite of the stiffness of the board. The aggressive rocker also keeps the board from ‘reverse flexing’, keeping you from stuffing the tips on a hard landing.

The extremely hard flex ensures a direct, precise ride. Especially stiff between the feet, with particularly high torsional stiffness, allowing a clean power transfer when popping. In addition, the board’s stiff middle section serves as a kind of damper, maintaining the high rocker that absorbs energy during a hard landing and keeps the tips from submerging.

FLEXIBLE
When gliding without loading up the edge, the extremely soft tip stays down and makes the rocker more flat. This ensures a clean water break for a faster, less resistant ride. When powered and edging hard, the tip flexes up and holds more power, essentially increasing the rocker for more edge control. This also helps when sending the kite for huge jumps. The flexible tips allow you to hold tons of power without losing the edge and then pop cleanly off the water.

STIFF
For unhooked pop-based freestyle tricks the tips have to be more rigid and provide much quicker and more explosive feedback when popping.
“... something organic and something manmade are existing in the same space as each other ...”
I interpreted the Duotone prompt as a situation where something organic and something manmade are existing in the same space as each other. I imagine these scenes take place a couple million years ago. Earth is still in the Paleolithic era and someone with technology eons ahead of ours has come to study our planet. To do this, a capsule with Earth plants are being kept alive in their base in an artificial way. Back on Earth, they have left a piece of their machines behind to gather data, but the pod isn't doing so well under the stress of a constantly changing environment. The duality of far away future technology and a primitive past is something that really interests me.
The image and the title are two equal components in my work. When I say: 'I paint', I mean both, as
the language of the title brings as much color into the work as the actual pigment does, creating a
duo-tonality of language and color.
The painting on the wooden plate is titled: I have touched the Night! and the pink towel with
black embroidery is a multiple to my book Titles which I have done together with Edition Taube from
Munich and which contains all the titles to my paintings, but without the painting.

acrylic paint on wood
62 × 50 × 1 cm
towel with embroidery
PROTECTONE
by Nadine Goepfert

‘Protectone’ is a multi-functional vest made out of Duotone kite materials. The vest can be worn in different ways - also as a backpack. Made out of two layers, it reminds of a down vest but instead of down, each of the individual chambers are filled with other pieces of clothing and accessories. To protect you from the elements, the pieces of clothing can be added to each other and can serve as top of your casual outfit.

Photos: Gerhardt Kellermann
TONETONE
by RELVAOKELLERMANN

Part of our job as industrial designers at RELVAOKELLERMANN is to find the materials that better serve a function or better communicate an idea. Thinking about “material” as material jumped into our minds due to its visual characteristics: Dichroic Glass. Dichroic Glass is a type of glass that displays two different colors depending on the way light reflects on it. We wanted to transport the visual qualities of this material into a product and create a signage that changes the way we perceive objects. Once the signage is placed over something, everything becomes Duotone.
Kites have come a long way. Boards & More has developed equipment for the sport since 2001. What do you guys think are some of the landmark moments in our industry?

R: Well, obviously the invention of the tube kite has to be considered a great turning point for the sport. For quite some time we felt that ram air kites were the only real option, but when the Legaignoux brothers introduced the LEI kite it really made the sport accessible for the first time. I would consider the development of the safety systems, in particular the Iron-Heart, as another real milestone, as it added an essential safety aspect to the sport.

T: And speaking of the Legaignoux brothers and making the sport more accessible, I’d say the invention of the bow kite holds a place as one of the most influential moments in our sport’s history. The big depower of the bowkite and the way it revolutionized a new benchmark in riding simplicity.

What about you Ralf? What do you consider the 5th line to be your most important contribution to the design of kites?

R: Well, obviously the invention of the tube kite has to be considered a great turning point for the sport. For quite some time we felt that ram air kites were the only real option, but when the Legaignoux brothers introduced the LEI kite it really made the sport accessible for the first time. I would consider the development of the safety systems, in particular the Iron-Heart, as another real milestone, as it added an essential safety aspect to the sport.

T: In my view Ken is responsible for several other key milestones. For example he introduced the segmented dacron leading edge in the very early 2000s. Before that everyone was using a variety of different materials that were either too weak or could not hold up to the stitching. Also our response to the bow kite concept and making the sport more accessible, I’d say the invention of the bow kite holds a place as one of the most influential moments in our sport’s history. The big depower of the bowkite and the way it revolutionized a new benchmark in riding simplicity.

Let’s move on to the individual achievements of the people here. Ken, would you consider the 5th line to be your most important contribution to the design of kites?

K: No, someone else came up with that. The 5th line has value in three ways – kite structure, safety and relaunch. My main contribution was to move the split point up away from the bar so that the 5th line would not have too much sag – so that it could be effective as a leading edge support element – and so that walking out the lines would not be too much trouble.

T: And speaking of the Legaignoux brothers and making the sport more accessible, I’d say the invention of the bow kite holds a place as one of the most influential moments in our sport’s history. The big depower of the bowkite and the way it revolutionized a new benchmark in riding simplicity.

What about you Ralf? What do you consider the largest contribution you’ve made to the industry?

R: Foiling in really light-wind conditions is a very interesting topic, as it adds new elements and aspects to the sport. From the designer’s point of view, it is quite challenging due to the fact that the water relaunch becomes the most important issue. It requires a different kite shape to relaunch under 8 knots of wind. But it mainly requires a new set of materials to reduce the overall weight. Like other sports, reducing weight becomes an essential part of the design process. The 2019 JuiceFoil has been developed with a new material mix, allowing us to drop the weight by 15 %, which makes this kite one of the lightest LEI kites on the market. Developing new materials and material combinations is going to be a huge part for further developments. Adjusting the kite...
related design parameters to these new materials is then another big challenge, as every little change in material behavior has a significant impact on the overall flight characteristics.

K: For the new Mono we took an approach that is different in some ways. For one, we didn’t have to focus as much on weight because a one-strut design is inherently lighter than a three-strut design. Of course, in keeping with the Mono’s new greater emphasis on foiling performance we did go to some lighter materials and less emphasis on Dacron. The bigger issues with a kite that has few struts, like the Mono, are canopy flutter and wind range. Lack of tip struts can cause problems on both points. We’ve tried higher aspect ratios in the past—— particularly when there was less interest in foiling—— but it turned out that going to a lower aspect ratio gave the results we wanted for foiling. Lower AR helps reduce flutter, makes a kite turn quicker and more easily, improves relaunch, increases drift and, because it reduces flutter, gives better wind range. So, basically, we went to a Mono that has more playful, surf-oriented handling.

T: For me the new Juice and Mono are inspiring kites because in researching how to meet the new demands of the foil market, they’ve unlocked new performance properties which we can adapt to our other models. The next Evo generation will be definitely benchmarked against the new Juice in terms of water relaunch. The way a Mono turns is interesting for wave riding, so I would not be surprised if the next Neo has a lower aspect ratio.

OK, that brings us up to where we are today with a little glimpse to where you guys may be heading next, let’s skip forward five or ten or fifty years into the future. Where do you guys see the industry going? Better yet, what is your dream for where kitesurfing eventually could be?

K: Well the theoretical perfect yacht is one dream. It basically consists of a wing under the water and a wing over the water connected by a rope. Do you follow?

Um...

K: The idea has been around for a long time. I think there are some French guys who have done something like it. You have a wing under the water that’s a hydrofoil, only it’s pulling down rather than lifting up, and you have a wing over the water, up in the air, which is a kite, and it pulls up. The only thing connecting the two is something like a kite line. It’s probably not very practical, but it might be fun. It might be fast. Or it might permit the rider to be 3 meters above the water.

R: I see foiling as a big chance to push the boundaries of the sport further. In combination with the Olympic Games, there will be additional momentum in the market, leading the industry to become more specifically driven by high tech materials and solutions. I personally love the idea of riding in 4 knots of wind on a clear mountain lake, being able to see through the water while riding as there will be barely any disturbance on the surface. A knot of wind is not a lot and it would increase the chance to go on the water during your summer vacations drastically, regardless of the location. This could scale up the kite market by quite a bit.

OK well fine, I would love to see wireless kiting!

K: Funny you mention that. We are already developing wireless kiting of a sort with our hand-held inflatable wing. It has the construction of an inflatable kite, but the rider doesn’t use kite lines to control it. It’s hand-held, which makes it wireless (haha). Of course, the hand-held wing is an old idea. There was a rigid, non-inflatable wing called the Skimbat in Finland some years ago. People used that with skis and skates on the snow and ice. Over the years there have been many variations on the theme. In our case we’re reworking the old concept to fit the new reality that a lot of people have big hydrofoils for surfing and downwind. It started when I had a sore shoulder. I didn’t want to miss out on the downwind foil runs—which we do all summer long here on Maui—but the sore shoulder was keeping me from paddling. So, I designed an inflatable wing that would power me up onto the foil. Riding it turned out to be a lot of fun. I can surf the trade wind swells for miles, just like the downwind foilers do with paddles, but I don’t have to be a super athlete with Iron-Man-level cardio conditioning to do it. It turns out the wing can go crosswind and upwind as well as downwind. It’s easy to jibe, a little less easy to tack, and it’s not very expensive. It’s a good wind- day accessory for anyone with a SUP foil board.

Whoa. So it sounds like Till’s future is much closer than imagined.

T: Unless I can control it with an app on my phone, it’s not MY kind of wireless. But no matter what, progress surely continues to move and often in unexpected ways.

To achieve this goal, several parameters have to be adjusted. We are currently under development to reach this target. I would love to talk about it more in detail, but so far it is still confidential. Another interesting point is kite-parameter validation. Together with the University of Berlin, I have been involved in an automated test bench, which allows us to judge flight characteristics objectively. This is a massive step for me and the industry, as it will professionalize the market in general.
What comes to your mind when you think of high-end foils? Mikeslab, Enata, Levitaz ...? Well, welcome to our mind! When we decided to start our ‘High-End Foil Project’ we knew step one was checking out the state of the art high-end foils on the market. And there were two questions that kept bothering us: Are these products the right benchmarks? Can we take it even further?

We’ve been building foils for years, tinkering with designs since before our first production foil came out in 2014. But our focus has been on creating commercial products for the entry and freeride market. So you could say that though we’ve been working with foils for a while now, we’ve had little experience working on high performance racing foils. On the other hand we’re not sure that focusing solely on making the fastest racing foil is the direction we or the market are interested in heading. We wanted to create a top-notch product, of course, but one for ambitious foilers, not necessarily just professional racers. High performance and maximum quality were the attributes we had in mind.

While we knew what we were looking to do in terms of design, the question of production was another story ... We knew that we wouldn’t be able to compete with all the small carbon foil manufacturers offering semi-custom production. Crazy enough, our answer to this was batch production. It was not only about offering high performance and quality, but about ensuring that every single foil leaving production would be exactly the same – in look and performance. Consistency was one major aspect that semi-custom construction cannot deliver.

To achieve this, teaming up with the right partners was of utmost importance to us. Above all we needed someone skilled, someone who was into racing, but who still had commercial understanding. Jérôme Bonieux was our man. With him we had one of the most dedicated and experienced foil designers on our side, someone who could deliver the technical knowledge we needed. Besides his technical know-how, the fact that Jérôme was running a foil school on Mauritius meant we were sure he’d have a good understanding of what a foil needs to deliver for the average foil rider. He was able to elevate our design and production abilities to a new level.

But that was not enough for us. We were on a mission; we wanted to set new standards and wouldn’t leave anything up to chance. We wanted someone to reconfirm the structural design of our foil. This is where iXent came into play. They are experts in structural analysis and calculation and look back to years of experience in lightweight construction. Their founding partners worked for BMW for years and were part of Team Oracle Racing, implementing the structural design of the boat and especially of the foil for the America’s Cup. And if there’s one thing that can be said with certainty about the America’s Cup it’s this: there is an insane amount of money behind it. Its only purpose is prestige, and the people behind the racing teams spare no effort to make sure they have the best working products for the race. It is truly the bleeding-edge of race technology.

For iXent’s founders one of the key lessons during their time at the America’s Cup was that quality and performance of a foil are highly contingent on vibration. The more a foil vibrates, the thicker it theoretically becomes due to the amplitude, and the less it performs. So stiffness is a crucial factor. Conducting elaborate structural analysis iXent and we aimed at using the right materials in the right applications to ensure that the foil could offer the highest strength and stability at the lowest weight penalty.
At that point we knew we had a solid foil design whose structure was optimized by iXent. Yet without an objective way to test it we couldn’t be sure of how it would actually behave speeding through water. It was important to us to not only test static forces on the foil but also streaming forces.

Thanks to iXent’s still close contacts to the America’s Cup scene we got in touch with the engineering team of Artemis Racing. They had the necessary tools to do an extensive CFD (Computational Fluid Dynamics) analysis on the foil. Using their cutting-edge technology they simulated currents to help optimize the flow angle over particular areas of the foil in order to exclude possible turbulences and minimize drag. In several iterative steps different speeds through water were simulated and possible constructive weaknesses were corrected.

While the ‘theoretical’ part of creating a high performance foil was already in full swing we still needed someone capable of producing this unique product in batch production. And again the connection to the America’s Cup helped us find the right partner: Roding Automobile, which has produced the foils for Team BMW Oracle for the America’s Cup, was our choice. The future-oriented, visionary technology company specializes in lightweight (especially carbon) construction and operates mainly in motorsports, in particular for several Formula One teams. Their top-notch equipment and experience now constitutes the backbone for our small serial production.

With this team we knew that we were working with not only very innovative, experienced partners, but local ones as well — iXent as well as Roding Automobile are based in Germany, which means that our foil is developed and produced locally, which turned out to be very important for the process. Our headquarters are based in Munich and the geographical proximity played a big part in being able to develop an elaborate product like the Daytona Foil in such short time.

Not only that: with the Daytona we proved that it is possible to create an ambitious, high performance product with the latest technologies and development tools, even in a niche sport like kiteboarding. And that makes us really proud.
Modern kites, boards and bars intelligently combine sustainable natural materials with the latest high tech composites. Our raw materials come from both nature and industry, each bringing its own incredible features.

TRINITY TX
Trinity TX is a 3×2 canopy material which is designed with a high density structure. It is made of high tenacity polyester yarn. 3 yarns run horizontally for optimized prevention against damage and tearing. This results in a crisp rigidity which guarantees direct and precise steering due to the stiffness that is created vertically. Only 2 yarns run vertically which results in greater horizontal flexibility. The end result is that you get a reactive canopy profile that also saves weight. In comparison to a 4×4 canopy material Trinity TX has a weight savings of up to 20%.

The unique double coating process ensures that each individual yarn is covered and protected (yarn coating) before being woven into one fabric. With the second coating of the surface of the whole fabric the canopy develops an ultra crisp and direct response to steering. Thanks to the double coating and the 3×2 yarn structure Trinity TX is long lasting, super strong and resilient to potential rips and tears. It is developed in collaboration with Teijin and is exclusively implemented in Duotone kites.

Copy: Laura Alexy, Philipp Becker, Antonio Destino
DYNEEMA FIBRES

Dyneema® Fiber is a synthetic chemical fiber based on polyethylene with an ultrahigh molar mass (Ultra-High Molecular Weight Polyethylene or UHMW-PE). Belonging to the group of HPPE (High Performance Polyethylene) fibers, Dyneema provides extremely high longitudinal strength due to its molecular alignment. Related to its mass, Dyneema is 40% stronger than Aramid, 60% stronger than carbon fiber and glass fiber, almost 5 times stronger than polyamide, polyester or polypropylene fiber and up to 15 times stronger than steel. Due to its high resilience, even a small diameter of Dyneema has an extremely high breaking load. The fiber is extremely light, provides great strength, and is resistant to stretching, abrasion, and UV light. Dyneema is used for the lines at Duotone.

CORK

Cork is harvested from the bark of cork oak trees grown exclusively in the harsh environs of the Mediterranean Sea. The bark of cork oaks shows a unique warp structure which is built of tiny cells. Each cell has the shape of a 14-sided polyhedron and is filled with a mixture of gas. The characteristics of cork result from its structure and the chemical setting of its extremely strong, flexible cell membrane which is waterproof and airtight. Additionally, cork is super lightweight, has outstanding elasticity and rebounding characteristics, and great durability. Duotone uses cork for the cork shock absorber in the heel area of all our Surfboards. It allows the boards to absorb shock like a PU board with minimal to no heel denting, thanks to the underlying reinforcements and the remarkable memory properties of cork.
BAMBOO

Bamboos are evergreen perennial flowering plants that include some of the fastest-growing plants in the world. Certain species of bamboo grow up to 91 cm (36″) within a day, at a rate of almost 4 cm (1.6″) an hour. Bamboo has a higher specific compressive strength than wood, brick or concrete, and a specific tensile strength that rivals steel. At Duotone we use bamboo reinforcements under the cork in our Pro Surfboards for its resilience. Our Classic Construction surfboards are fully wrapped in bamboo to create a solid outer shell for high impact resistance and good flex properties.

TEXTREME

Carbon, from the Latin carbo – “coal” – is a chemical element which is nonmetallic and tetravalent. Textreme® Carbon is a special type of carbon spread tow reinforcement which is a uniquely adaptable, safe and ultra-light supportive solution for carbon fiber composites. It is a ±45° grid fabric, the typical chess board pattern. Textreme Spread Tow Grid can be highly tailored to meet specific needs such as increasing torsional stiffness with minimum weight increase. It offers excellent stability and a special flex pattern. Duotone uses Textreme Spread Tow Grid for making ultra-light composite Twin Tips like the Jaime Textreme, the Spike Textreme and the all-new Select Textreme and Soleil Textreme.
REVERSE RELEASE PIN AIRPORT
VALVE FOIL ADAPTER  STOPPER
BALL SUICIDE RING  THE TRACK
SPLIT STRAP 5TH ELEMENT FOIL
ADAPTER TOOLLESS BAR WIDTH
ADJUSTMENT CLICK BAR ENTITY
HEAD SNAP-STRAP LADDER BAR
RATCHET FASTENER FOOT STRAP
LATCH MECHANISM SPOOL AXIS
BAR CENTERHOLE WINDOW FOR
CLICK BAR ...

PATENTS
DARE TO DEVELOP

Innovation generally comes at the end of a long chain of processes. And it often starts with something small. With a person who has made it their mission to figure something out, to make it better. With someone who constantly questions the status quo and isn’t content with how things are when they can see the potential for improvement. Any number of different aspirations can be behind the drive for innovation: the desire for more performance, better quality, greater ease of use, reliability or even achieving something that has never been done before – and always in the spirit of enhancing the pleasure to be found in sport.

When Ken Winner developed the segmented Leading Edge in 2005, this area out of one simple need: previously there just hadn’t been the technology available to construct a kite in a way which met his visionary concepts. From this idea, a global industry standard has now developed. This is just one example of the numerous designs and trademarks which have been produced over the last 18 years at Boards & More GmbH. Here is a brief, incomplete overview of the most important milestones among these developments.

BAR (WIDTH ADJUSTMENT)
Small kites respond more quickly and sensitively to control stimuli, whereas larger kites move rather sluggishly. To create more consistent steering behaviour, the width of the bar is adjusted to the size of the kite. To avoid the need for two different bars, a single bar was developed which can be adjusted to two widths. Previously the adjustment process was somewhat laborious because each time the lines had to be detached from the kite, tied round and then reattached to the kite. To solve this problem, Aurélien Mierswa invented the flip-flop floater. The Trust Bar, which is equipped with this feature, lets you adjust the width of the bar with a single click on each side while the kite remains airborne.

AIRPORT VALVE
Inflation and deflation are as much a part of kitesurfing as wind and water. A kite valve must ideally meet several functional requirements: taking in and letting out air, a large airflow to allow the kite to be pumped up swiftly with minimal physical effort, a direct connection for the kite pump without an adapter and, of course, the valve should be one hundred percent impermeable. The valve must also be secure and installed in the Leading Edge so it’s protected from rotating, while simultaneously allowing quick and easy replacement in the event of any damage. It must be possible to operate with minimal force and while wearing gloves. No simple task, but the Airport Valve and the re-engineered Airport Valve II overcome these challenges.

5TH ELEMENT
Kiteboards have long had a reputation as a dangerous sport. Poor power control and inadequate safety concepts were the prime contributors to this. A safety breakthrough for the sport was made with the development of the 5th line. Till Eberle and Ken Winner brought this idea to the mainstream market when they created a production 5-line safety system, the 5th Element. When the safety is engaged on a 5th line the kite remains attached by a single center line. The result is a significant reduction in residual drag on the kite. The 5th line can also be used to support relaunch when there is little wind and it can actively influence the shape of the kite as a ‘loaded 5th line’. This innovation and the invention of the reverse release pin in the Iron Heart IV marked the start of a new era of safety for our sport.

IRON HEART IV
Along with residual drag on the kite after the safety system was triggered, so-called ‘pin-impact’ was also a significant safety problem. Previous safety systems could result in hand injuries due to the powerful impact of the release pin. These systems were also prone to getting soiled, which then increased the amount of strength required to trigger the release system. The Iron Heart IV reverse release pin solved these issues. By changing the pin’s impact direction from outwards to inwards, the danger of injury when activating the system was avoided. In addition, the new system was better equipped to cope with contamination which meant the strength required for release was significantly reduced. Today many manufacturers are using the reverse release pin concept under licence.

THE TRACK
The development of kiteboards using snowboard construction enabled an associated leap in performance that opened up the sport to an increasingly wide audience. This in turn created a need for universal, adaptable footpad systems. In contrast to previous bindings, which were very simple constructions, the newly developed NTT binding allowed a whole range of adjustment options and thus completely revolutionised kiteboard binding design. Width adjustment, height adjustment, a versatile contact area on the strap, positioning of the strap on the footpad and especially the precise positioning of the footpad on the board thanks to The Track system: all of these features completely transformed the possibilities for adapting the product to the specific requirements of each individual athlete.

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Imagine if you could compare kite models against each other based on figures, similar to a car magazine test. Parameters such as steering pressure, lift, drag, depower-ability, turning speed and more could be compared by looking at objective data. This would revolutionize the development process and the way we judge kites in general. A designer’s dream come true!” says Ralf Grösel, Duotone kite designer. Back in 2013 Jan Hummel approached Ralf with exactly that idea – project TETA (Test and Evaluation of Tethered Airfoils), operated by the University of Berlin. It was the primary subject for Jan’s PhD thesis to figure out how to create valid, testable, repeatable data to establish various performance attributes of a kite.

I would wish to see that this test bench becomes a standard within the kite industry. Magazines could take this opportunity into consideration to validate different kite models as separation will be more obvious from the first development steps onwards. As kitersurfing is becoming an Olympic discipline soon, the carpet has been rolled out for this field of wings also."

Jan mentions another aspect. “In the long run there are implications for computer assisted design... If you don’t have valid data, you are not able to feed complex simulations like FEM (Finite Element Method) and CFD (Computational Fluid Dynamic). Only with correct information of how the flexible wing will react to different windspeeds and rider input will a simulation software be able to provide realistic results. It might still be years away, but the information we are gathering from the test bench will lead to great leaps in our ability to model flight characteristics of a kite on a computer before we even build the first prototype.”

The test bench allows me to dive into aspects of kite design which haven’t been accessible before. This will automatically lead to new innovations or more specific kite models as separation will be more obvious from the first development steps onwards. As kitersurfing is becoming an Olympic discipline soon, the carpet has been rolled out for this field of wings also.

The solution to this problem is the world’s first test bench, TETA, which was specifically developed for validating flexible wings. It is essentially a trailer towed behind a van, bristling with scientific apparatus, from which a kite can be flown automatically or manually.

Jan explains, “we drive the test bench behind a van on a military runway in calm wind conditions to reduce the influence of gusts. This allows us to simulate different windspeeds. Downscaling is not appropriate for flexible wings; and since lines and control bars must be taken into effect, unscaled wind-tunnel tests are not suitable because of their size.” Driving under cruise control with a full-length lineset creates ‘reproducible, controlled conditions which allow us to develop a systematic understanding of how kites perform under realistic conditions. This enables us to compare various designs.”

Inside the test bench there is a pilot and a generic bar attached to wires which are fed into winches and servos. Attached to the test bench there are cameras and a weather station. The kite flies from the bench at the end of a standard kite bar which is controlled and monitored by separate servos. Says Jan, “to perform repeatable automated maneuvers, repeatable steering inputs are of course necessary, the steering inputs are implemented by two servo motors and can be controlled by the pilot via fly-by-wire or from the control unit itself or from both in combination.”

“The entire setup leads to an objective validation of kite-related parameters; for example, depower-ability, steering pressure, flight angle (upwind-ability), turning speed, turning radius, backstall behaviors, power to front lines, power to back lines, and more... From a designer’s point of view, all aspects which are relevant to kite design are captured with this unique test bench.” says Ralf. “The opportunities are great for future developments. Kite design has reached a point where tiny changes in geometry have a huge impact on the overall flight parameters. The test bench allows me to dive into aspects of kite design which haven’t been accessible before. This will automatically lead to new innovations or more specific kite models as separation will be more obvious from the first development steps onwards. As kitersurfing is becoming an Olympic discipline soon, the carpet has been rolled out for this field of wings also.”

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I would wish to see that this test bench becomes a standard within the kite industry. Magazines could take this opportunity into consideration to validate different kite designs from different brands,” says Ralf. “For me this project showcases the capabilities of advanced testing technology, and future developments will surely benefit from it. Especially with the next generation of fully automated tests, which are currently under development. These tests will be precise and accurate as nothing else ever before.”

“... We can measure various performance attributes of a kite...”

‘... I would wish to see that this test bench becomes a standard within the kite industry...’
COINCIDENCES OFTEN CREATE THE MOST INTERESTING ENCOUNTERS. DURING A PAST PHOTO SHOOT, THE DUOTONE TEAM MET TWO PASSIONATE KITEBOARDERS FROM NEW ZEALAND: SHANE MCAULAY AND HIS DAD, RON. THE TWO NATIVES INVITED THE TEAM TO COME VISIT THEM. WHENEVER THEY WANTED TO DISCOVER THE MOST REMOTE SPOTS OF THE COUNTRY, WHICH CAN ONLY BE REACHED BY BUSH PLANE, SO WHEN THE WIND FORECAST WAS PROMISING, THE DUOTONE CREW TOOK THEIR CHANCE. IN SIGHTS OF PHOTOGRAPHER TOBY BROMWICH FROM AN EXTRAORDINARY TRIP TO SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL KITE SPOTS THERE ARE.
Log 1

Did a recon flight with our host Shane today before everyone arrived. We flew to the different spots and stopped at each one. We even kited one for 30 mins. That night I drove over the mountain to collect Tom Hebert from Queenstown.
LOG 2
Saturday morning Tom and myself got everything ready for the arrival of Chris and Reno. We took five shots of the boys arrival from Queenstown and Wanaka as they landed into Shane’s garden. In the afternoon we flew out and shot the first location on the west coast, the wind was fairly light but we got some good pictures. Came back and had dinner with Shane and his family at their hangar/house.

LOG 3
We started early today, rigging GoPros on the plane before flying to a braided river location—epic scenery and background. It was very cold with rain showers but the boys kept at it and we also did some downwind shots through the river. That evening we flew 5 mins more up the river and stayed at the overnight hut. Shane flew home to get us supplies and sleeping bags for the night.

LOG 4
More rain. Too much to fly actually, so we drove one hour with the boat to check locations. It was really cold, rainy and light wind but we got a nice short session in overcast conditions. Then went home and afterwards I drove Tom to get his flight. We found out 2 hours after I had dropped him that the weather was too bad for him to fly home.
LOG 5
We woke up to blue skies so we left at 6.30 am to do tracking shots of the plane – epic skies and backdrops. When we landed Tom had arrived back from his missed flight so we packed up and flew over to the west coast to a beautiful spot. The west coast is more tropical feel with green background and less snow. That day we had perfect conditions with the sun out most of the time and good strong wind.

LOG 6
Today we checked out and drove all together to the airport. Chris and myself both have shot a lot of footage – I shot almost a card on just the way to the spots each day. It’s been an amazing trip. Shane and his dad were so generous with everything – best hosts we could have wished for.
She has this smile – slightly mischievous, carefree, lend – that radiates from deep within. The natural laughter of a teenager who has the world at her feet. There seems to be barely a photograph of Mikaili Sol in which she is not laughing. No wonder then that in the survey for her sponsor’s team introduction, her response to the question ‘What else would you really like to tell us’ was the title of a song by the Grateful Dead from 1972: ‘Nothing left to do but smile, smile, smile!’

And Mikaili Sol has every reason to smile. In 2018 the 14 year old won everything there was to win in the competitive kiteboarding arena. She is the GKA Airgames world champion and she won every single event in Tarifa, Cabarete and Fehmarn. She is also the WKC Freestyle Tour world kiteboarding champion, likewise winning every single individual event in Turkey, Morocco and Brazil. Her form showed incredible improvements as the year went on: at the WKC tour stop in Turkey she was consistently hitting high scores in the nines, such as marks of 9.73 for a KGB with grab or 9.77 for a Slim Chance 5, but at the subsequent event in Morocco she achieved an incredible score of 10.00 for her Double Heart Attack – the first time this was landed by a woman in competition.

A look back. Tarifa, June 2018. The official brand launch for Duotone, which by chance coincided with the first GKA Airgames stop with sufficient wind. Mikaili whirls through the crowds, pursued by her brother Kaiki, who is two years her junior. ‘Stop, could you just answer a couple of quick questions?’ And she does – first of all smiling in a way that is genuine and uncontrived. Her responses come shyly, as you would expect from a 13 year old (which she still was at that point). ‘Pretty cool’ is how she feels about being on the international Duotone team with other women such as Francesca, Paula, Hannah, and Colleen; she feels a ‘connection with them’. What is it like travelling so much, does she miss her home, her family? ‘I don’t really like being in one place for too long. Being on the road is normal for me, and my family comes to join me regularly for a couple of weeks or so. I haven’t been home to Brazil for six months.’

She travels the world with her coach Fabio Ingrosso, who has been looking after her for two years. Her schedule over recent months: Italy, Sri Lanka, South Africa, France and now finally Tarifa.

Later her mother Jodi will relate how she got a phone call from Mikaili in Sri Lanka, where her daughter spent four weeks training with Fabio: ‘Hey Mom, you don’t need to travel with me anymore, I’m totally on it now.’ Jodi’s response: ‘What do you mean? You’re only just 13.’ Her father Marcio was slightly indignant, but her mother has a more relaxed outlook: ‘We’ve got to let her go, she can handle it because she’s got both feet firmly on the ground.’

So who is this young talent, who has been part of the Duotone team since March 2018? Mikaili Sol, born on 30 October 2004 in Jericoacoara, Brazil. When Mikaili was eight, the family moved to Preá and they now live in Taiba. In brief: Mikaili grew up in one of the best places for kiteboarding in the world. Warm temperatures and constant wind throughout the year. Her mother Jodi is
“Mika has an incredible talent for movement, an instinctive understanding of her body, exceptional coordination ...”
American and a teacher. 20 years ago she drove across South America on a dirt bike. She met Mikaili’s father Marcio, a Brazilian, and stayed. Together they run several hotels – and both are enthusiastic kiteurs. Jodi: ‘Ever since she was tiny, Mikaili was very, very sporty. She grew up on the beach and in the water, and she’s not afraid of anything. She surfed and rode the sand dunes on a motocross bike. By the age of four she was already galloping without a saddle on horseback, climbing the palm trees. Since Mika was five she’s been nagging us to let her go kiteboarding. But the sport we were familiar with used 2 line kites and we felt that was too dangerous. We said we would reconsider. An essential part of her preparation for this competitive career at the highest level has been the fact that Mikaili has been taught at home from a very young age, by teachers from the USA – specifically not by her mother, as Jodi is keen to emphasise. The family’s motivation to home-school had nothing to do with a potential sporting career, but was driven by a belief that the schools in the sand dunes of North East Brazil couldn’t offer the kind of education the parents wanted for their child. And now Mikaili is reaping the rewards from this freedom from the normal school day. At the age of twelve she received a grant from the Kiteboard World Class Academy, an approved private high school, where pupils travel the world during the competitive season, but this January she re-joined the current semester. Mikaili is reaping the rewards from this freedom from the normal school day. At the age of twelve she received a grant from the Kiteboard World Class Academy, an approved private high school, where pupils travel the world during the competitive season, but this January she re-joined the current semester.

At the age of eight, Mikaili learned to use a small 2.5 square metre kite with short lines in Preá. It’s worth mentioning that Preá is extremely windy, usually 30 knots, big waves, a challenging environment. But none of that bothered her. She learned so quickly and easily, it was incredible.’

Mum Jodi confirms this: ‘Mikaili is a special talent, she stands out with her mentality – she can implement it straight away. It’s fantastic.’

Her coach Fabio confirms this: ‘Mikaili is a special talent, she stands out with her mentality – she can be really pushy on the water – and her physical attributes, she has a natural strength. Mikai understands immediately how she can make tricks happen and how to correct mistakes. And she loves to win.’ This is evident in the fact that Mikaili doesn’t just enjoy success in her preferred freestyle discipline, but also in Arganiers, where boardloops and kiteloops contribute to the scoring. Tricks she specifically practised with Fabio for the event, because it’s another genre of kiting and requires a different repertoire. Not without some pride, her trainer Fabio declares: ‘She is better than ten-time world champion Gisela Pulido. Mikaili will dominate this sport for the next decade, she will be untouchable. And she can open the door as a role model for a whole new generation who will come to kite in the next 5 to 10 years.’

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At Duotone we take #TRUEKITEBOARDING to heart. For us this means pushing the sport in every direction and discipline as hard as possible. For this reason we organized the first ever Duotone Grom Search on December 8th. We picked Caiupe, Brazil for the event because a lot of talent has come from this area over the years. The province of Ceará and specifically the town of Cumbuco has produced some of the best freestylers to ever pump a kite and is the home of the current world champion. In a place where most of the locals are struggling to eat daily meals or even have a roof over their heads kiteboarding is a way out!

For the Grom Search we went to the beach with an open mind. No list of reasoning on why we are selecting the kids. No heats, no competition. Just get out there and do your thing … It could be because of pure talent, power, style, personality, potential or a combination of these characteristics. But we were also looking to develop the local scene. We wanted to show that at Duotone we’re not only interested in the riding level but also academic potential. We don’t want to sponsor a kid who can do all tricks but can’t properly read or write. That’s why the winners not only got supported with Duotone gear (quiver of choice + board of choice + boots + small Click Bar and a harness) but English lessons as well! We will stay in contact with their English tutor and if they complete their monthly schooling and keep progressing their riding they’ll get new gear the following year. Then they’ll have the opportunity to give their old kit (that we gave them this year) to a local shredder of their choice … And the cycle starts!

Among 50 entrants we picked two kids in the end, João Lucas Bandeira da Silva and João Pedro dos Santos, and we will be following them throughout their year.

As the Grom Search 2018 was such a big success we’re already planning the next events! Stay tuned for more info and additional events worldwide at duotonesports.com!
PROGRESSION IS KEY! NO MATTER IF YOU’RE A ROOKIE OR ALREADY RIPPING FOR SOME TIME. FOR THAT REASON DUOTONE OFFERS ‘THE ACADEMY’ – OVER 100 INDIVIDUAL VIDEOS FEATURING ALL THE CORE TECHNIQUES AND TRICKS FOR BEGINNERS THROUGH TO EXPERTS. WHETHER YOU’RE WANTING TO LEARN TO WATERSTART, BOOSTING YOUR FIRST JUMPS, SPINNING ROUND A BACKROLL, OR LEARNING A GYBE ON THE SURFBOARD, DUOTONE HAS YOU COVERED. IT’S TIME TO REDEFINE YOUR LIMITS!

TRICK: FOILING UPWIND 360
DISCIPLINE: FOIL
LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

+ While carving upwind carefully pull with your back hand to steer the kite up similar to any transition. In general let go of the bar slightly as you want little power while carving upwind. Look under your armpit into the direction you want to go
+ Before your board passes the wind start to rotate your upper body forward
+ Your front foot helps to direct the board into the desired direction while you pull your back hand to initiate the kite loop
+ Finally bend your front knee to shift your body weight forward and follow the kite with your board
TRICK: S-BEND
DISCIPLINE: UNHOOKED / FREESTYLE
LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE / ADVANCED

- Pop into a Railey pulling your front knee up to your chest
- Initiate the front rotation with your head and shoulders
- Absorb the landing by bending your knees
TRICK: WATERSTART
LEVEL: BEGINNER

- Fly the kite at 12 o’clock with the flat of your back facing into the wind
- Get your feet into the straps and point your toes up
- Get your body close to the board, try and touch your elbows with your knees
- Step on the board with your back leg and extend the front leg while flying down the kite

TRICK: JUMP
DISCIPLINE: HOOKED
LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

- Edge hard and steer the kite up and behind you
- As the kite hits 12 o’clock pop the board upwind and pull on the bar for extra height
- Steer the kite back down and land on a slight downwind course
TRICK: TIC TAC KITELOOP
DISCIPLINE: STRAPLESS
LEVEL: ADVANCED

- Steer the kite up and pop the board out powerfully
- When airborne grab the rail with your front hand behind the center of the board
- Use your front hand to throw the tail of your board up and to rotate the nose down
- Catch the board at the other rail, your kite should now be above you and you should reach the highest point of your jump
- Initiate the kite loop by pulling your back hand on the bar
- Bend your knees and hips to bring the board forward and under your feet while descending
For the full package download the Duotone Academy App in the App Store for free. The free of charge videos are also playing on YouTube, additionally you’ll find them on the Duotone webpage and Facebook!

**App features:**

+ Free of charge
+ Offline mode (download the videos and be able to watch them anywhere, even offline)
+ Comment on tricks
+ User chat
+ Upload your own videos to get analysis and help how to improve from users and teamriders
+ All videos shot in 4K
+ Subtitles available (German, English, French, Italian, Spanish)

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**TRICK: BOTTOM TURN**
**DISCIPLINE:** WAVE
**LEVEL:** INTERMEDIATE

- Grab the middle of the bar with your front hand and let go your back hand for better balance
- When riding down the wave shift your body weight slightly to the front foot to increase speed
- For the turn, shift your weight to the toes and back foot
- Rotate your shoulder forward into the turn and bend your knees and hips to get your center of gravity lower
- The more weight you shift to your back foot the tighter your turn will be and the better for vertical top turns

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**TRICK: DARK SLIDE**
**DISCIPLINE:** HOOKED / FREESTYLE
**LEVEL:** ADVANCED

- Start with good speed and slowly steer the kite up
- Let your body fall forward and pull down on the bar
- Bend your front and extend your back knee
- To get back upright, generate extra lift with a loop or powerful kite steering
- Bend your hips and pull your knees up
“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.”

ROBERT SWAN, BRITISH POLAR RESEARCHER
The ocean is our playground, our race track and relaxation zone, our source of inspiration and thrill. We love it. Not only for the endless opportunities it offers in regard to kiting but also for the power, strength, and beauty it exudes. Without it kiteboarding wouldn’t be the same. Yet this essential part of our lives is seriously threatened.

Huge amounts of garbage, especially plastic, are endangering our oceans and the wildlife living in it. By now, plastic makes up most of the marine litter worldwide. Experts estimate it at millions of tons. And those numbers are growing. According to the UN more than 8 million tons of plastic leak into the ocean each year – equal to dumping a garbage truck of plastic every minute. It is so much that you can see it from outer space. In some places the garbage builds up to ‘islands of trash’ which cover huge areas of the sea, some of them bigger than the entire country of Germany. If we continue dumping items such as plastic bottles, bags, and cups after a single use for example, a PET bottle for example takes up to 450 years to completely decompose. All this waste ends up in the ocean, while rivers that in turn empty into oceans. In this way, plastic from far inland can travel hundreds of kilometers to the coastline. In short, polluted rivers are pumping the world’s plastic into the oceans.

As kiteboarding is our passion and our life we have an elemental responsibility to the ocean. We strive to preserve it, not just to keep our natural playground but also to maintain the environment and the wildlife living in it – to keep the beauty, the stoke, and the thrill in our lives.

Erik Solheim, head of the UN Environment Programme, said, ‘It is past time that we tackle the plastic problem that blights our oceans. Plastic pollution is surfing onto Indonesian beaches, settling onto the ocean floor at the North Pole, and rising through the food chain onto our dinner tables. We’ve stood by too long as the problem has gotten worse. It must stop.’

Let’s stop it now. Let’s take action and not be the ones to wait for someone else to do it. If we don’t work together, we’ll be the ones to suffer. Let’s make sure it’ll be there in the future as well.

The ocean is ours. We need it. It is our life. Let’s make sure it’ll be there in the future as well.

Clean Beach Day
May 1st

Be a part of it and stay tuned on
Duotonesports.com/cleanbeachday
#Cleanbeachday

- AUSTRALIA
  Long Reef Beach, NSW
  St Kilda, VIC
  Main Beach, QLD
  Scarborough Beach, WA
- AUSTRIA
  Neusiedlersee
- BELGIUM
  Blankenberge, Zwevezele
- CAPE VERDE
  St. Maria (ION Club)
- CANADA
  Long Reef Beach, NS
  St Kilda, VIC
  Main Beach, QLD
  Scarborough Beach, WA
- CZECH REPUBLIC
  Cesky Krumlov, Parazitky
- DENMARK
  Hvide Sande, Lyngvig
- ESTONIA
  Parnawa
- FRANCE
  Marseille
  Leucate
  Marseille
- GERMANY
  Flensburg, Ostseebad
- ITALY
  Italy, Puntaagudo Beach
- MOROCCO
  Dakhla (ION Club)
  Essaouira (ION Club)
- NETHERLANDS
  Castricum aan Zee
- SPAIN
  Tarifa, Valleverques
  Morro, La Manga
  Tenerife, El Medano
  Fuerteventura, Costa Calma (ION Club)
  Fuerteventura, Risco del Paso (ION Club)
- UNITED KINGDOM
  Camber Sands Beach
- USA
  Oregon, The Gorge, Hood River
Sri Lanka – the “Teardrop of India”, home of tea and cinnamon. In 1960 Sri Lanka elected the world’s first female Prime Minister. A country attaching such an emphasis on education as to make it a fundamental right in the Constitution, thus Sri Lanka now boasts a literacy rate of 92%, the highest in South Asia. A majority of its electricity (over 50% in 2014) is generated by Hydropower. This is where we’ve chosen to build our kites, at our factory Global Sports Lanka. But Sri Lanka first and foremost is one thing: its people. Just as Duotone, above all, is defined by the people behind the brand. Kumari is one of them. She has been working at Global Sports Lanka for 14 years now. This is one day in her life, this is Sri Lanka.
WAY TO WORK
Kumari's day starts at 6 am. She gets her daughter Sadisha (8 years) ready for school, cooks breakfast. Kumari loves Rice and Curry in the morning. The bus ride to work takes around 30 minutes. For the last meters she gets picked up by a GSL shuttle bus.

AT WORK
Kumari started working at GSL in 2004 as a Helper. After some time she advanced to Senior Machine Operator and today is Assistant Supervisor. Her department is Canopy 1 / Canopy printing preparation. Before that she was Assistant Supervisor for Strut Preparation.
AT HOME
Kumari, together with her husband, daughter and her mother, lives in Urapola, about 9 km away from the GSL Factory. They bought land there and built a house – mostly with their own hands.

LUNCH
After Tea Time in the morning it is time for Lunch at 12 pm. Typical Sri Lankan dishes are served. This is the time to chat and meet up with friends that also work for GSL, Kumari tells us.

Kumari tells us that her mother worked in Kuwait as a nurse for 11 years. After her husband, Kumari’s dad, passed away she moved in with Kumari and her family. She cooks for the family and takes care of daughter Sadisha when Kumari is not at home.
In 2010 Kumari got married. One year later, Sadisha, her daughter was born. You can tell that family means everything to her.

Flipping through a photo album, Kumari reminisces about her childhood and long gone days. Her granddad was a carpenter – she keeps little treasures that remind her of him, like his yard stick.

Like for most people in Sri Lanka, Buddhism plays a vital role in Kumari’s life. The temple Atthanagalla is one of the most important places for her. She visits it regularly, usually riding there with her scooter.
In August 2018, we launched Duotone and we have been producing our Kite and Windsurf gear under this brand name ever since. But before this date, we have been producing our gear under the brand name North Kiteboarding. As with true quality comes true responsibility, we promise to service all our products no matter what brand name is printed on it, North or Duotone.

If you register your product for a +6 extended warranty, you benefit from an extra 6 months of warranty – in addition to the legal warranty period of your country.