

# TESTED

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## CRAZYFLY CRUISER PRO 145



### INTRODUCING

The Cruiser Pro has been around for a couple of seasons and could be classed in the 'door' brigade of big rectangular light-wind/first-time board options. It was one of the first 'doors' where performance and materials were considered, and built with a premium class approach rather than the bog standard low end entry-level board mentality.

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### BUILD

Like the previous version, the fittings are the same as the high end boards with G10 fins, comfy adjustable straps and soft forgiving pads. I really like the fact that even on this big cruiser they haven't supplied cheap fittings as these make all the difference for beginner and expert alike in comfort terms. It has a lovely wooden deck on show from tip to tip which as a finish I think is divine, again, shouting that as an intermediate you can still have a classy looking board to enjoy the learning bit... which is THE great fun stage to be in kiting. This board also shouts cool colours and vibrance on the water. Wide mid-point to thinner tips is a logical shape for a progression board and reduces the 'doorness' as much as possible. It has softened in its outline and not really lost any get-up-and-go, yet it has definitely gained some future potential. Continuous and sufficient rocker give a stable rear end riding feel with a secure nose position to avoid 'over the handlebar' incidents. Rails are thick centrally, tapering well to the tips

and not too harshly, giving good grip and forgiveness at the same time. The bottom is flat with a tiny concave for a bit of grip to keep that wide midsection in check.

### PERFORMANCE

It's a wide 145 and it goes at the sniff of a breeze; you can feel the length which is adequate but not excessive. The ends are tapered more than the old Cruiser Pro which reduces any tips catching in choppy weather. It likes to go straight, as anything of this size would, but is surprisingly loose compared to many of the door brigade and felt relatively agile for such a behemoth of a twinny. This feels softer than the previous Cruiser Pro and more forgiving with a more curved end-to-end rail and thinner profile, especially into the tips. CrazyFly have moved the footstrap positions to be central relative to the rails which bemused us a little as this offset position was a great feature of the previous model. This has two effects: it reduces the edging capacity on the rider's heelside, making it harder work edging in strong gusts effectively; it does, however, enable toeside riding to be possible, which was a drawback with the previous Cruiser Pro. It's speed handling, tracking and upwind ability are good if pushed, bearing in mind this will generally be ridden up and down at controllable speeds. The edging capacity is reduced through the central strap placement, however, but it goes upwind very efficiently if comfortably powered.

### VERDICT

Being coaches and instructors we all see the huge benefits for these big doors in the beginning and really like this next edition of the Cruiser Pro. With vibrant graphics, wood finish and good solid fittings, this is a really positive evolution from the Cruiser Pro version 1. It looks cooler, takes a beginner/intermediate further and allows toeside riding. I thoroughly believe you will simply go kitesurfing more with one of these in your quiver.