

Boards

WINDSURFING



THE CRASH TEST DUMMIES AND THEIR OBJECTIVES

Our main aim for this test was to see how relevant today's 75L boards are to the UK market and how they compared with one another. We wanted to do this from the perspective of the average competent UK wavesailor, so we put together a test team comprising people of different weights and wavesailing perspectives. Our lightest member was 70kg wave head Dan Lobato from North Devon. Next up was our highly experienced and extremely skilled regular, Emile Kott (a.k.a. 'Captain Kodak') at 78kg. Then came our freestyle wonder-kid, wave shredder, over-excited experimentalist, Neilson Centre manager, and advanced instructor of instructors, Sam Ross at 81kg. And finally myself, self-confessed South Coast chop botherer, at 86kg. We were also lucky enough to gain some invaluable information from the knowledgeable team at the OTC, which helped us to establish an even more rounded view of the kit we were putting to the test.

SHOULD I STILL BUY A SINGLE-FIN?

Our short answer to this would be a simple and resounding YES. But for a full explanation, read on... Of course twin-fins in general carve a tighter arc and feel much looser and easier to redirect on a wave, tri-fins tend to have more grip, and the quads feel loose and grippy at the same time, but none have that solid directional feeling that you get from a single-fin, or the same sort of versatility. And when the going gets tough, the tough don't go home, they simply reach for their single-fin – and so should you.

BUYING YOUR FIRST 75L BOARD

If you're only just considering buying a board of this size because you're progressing from something slightly bigger or venturing out in stronger winds and waves, then you're starting in the right place. There's not one board in this test that wouldn't give someone out there an awesome time on the water. The only problem comes in choosing which style will suit you.

Firstly, if this is to be your first 75L board we'd recommend that you stick to the single-fin set-up. If you've been reading the forum recently or looking at the magazines then you may have thought twins, thrusters, or quads were the only way to go. Well, they're not. You'd be better off experimenting with those once you're comfortable sailing in waves on your single-fin.

Secondly, we'd recommend that you visit your local retailer and tell them exactly what sort of conditions you're likely to sail in. Armed with this information, they can steer you in the right direction. And, with some personal knowledge from reading this test, and perhaps even attending a demo day or two, you might be able to tell them what you're looking for and why.

Thirdly, read every bit of the individual write-ups and compare them so that you can judge whether the board is likely to work for your ability, weight, and the conditions you're likely to sail in. And finally, read our testers' mini reviews. If you're of a similar weight, sail in similar conditions and are of similar ability, then you may well like a similar board. But remember, the golden rule is that the only way to know for sure is to try the board for yourself.

	Tail (cm)	Nose (cm)	Max (cm)	Planing (cm)	Tail (mm)	2cm (cm)	30cm (cm)	Overall (cm)	Weight (kg)*	Length (cm)	Volume (ltrs.)	Fin (cm)
	width				rocker							
Exocet U-Surf 68	36.4	37.4	56.0	52.5	4	129.9	13.5	26.5	7.0	224	68	20.5 US box
Fanatic NewWave 76	33.2	36.5	54.5	52.0	12	142.5	10.0	21.0	6.4	231	76	21.5 US box
Goya One 77	34.3	36.0	56.0	53.0	3	139.9	13.5	27.0	7.0	236	77	23.0 US box
JP Wave 75	34.5	38.0	55.5	52.5	12	145.0	11.0	21.5	6.3	228	75	22.0 US box
RRD Wave Cult 75	34.4	36.0	55.0	52.0	8	145.4	11.5	24.0	7.5	232	75	22.0 US box
Starboard Kode 74	33.2	36.0	54.0	51.5	8	149.6	11.0	23.0	6.5	232	74	22.0 US box
Tabou Pocket 75	35.3	40.0	55.0	52.5	9	135.6	11.5	23.0	6.5	225	75	23.0 US box