

BOARDSHORTS

NEW PRODUCTS

EXPLAIN YOURSELF

Another month, another piece of windsurfing equipment explained. This time it's the turn of Starboard to tell us just what their latest innovation, the intriguingly named iDO will mean for the future of windsurfing and us in the UK. We grilled Dario Oliviero, inventor extraordinaire, for a full run down...

Can you give us a brief description of the iDO?

Developed over the last two years, the iDO allows anyone to go windsurfing after just one minute of instruction. It is a mast base that prevents the sail from falling in the water, while still allowing the sailor to make free and easy movements while sailing.

Good stuff! So take it down to basics for us: how's it constructed?

The iDO is an assembly of many well-designed parts. A main plate is attached to the board, which spreads the load over a large area. Attached to this is a ball joint, through which the load is generated. This joint is then protected by a cap, so it can't be accessed when the iDO is in use. This overall design (that looks so simple!) was one of the most complicated challenges of

the iDO. Inside the ball joint group there is a massive, 16mm diameter, stainless steel pin, which primarily supports the load generated by the use of the sail. The plate and joint reduce 100% free movement of the sail and in order to reduce stresses that are placed on the central support, a circular surface pushes against the surface of the base. The iDO is attached to the board using two screws that go directly into the mast track; in the case of big sails, the plate is fixed with other supplementary screws that can be screwed into specific inserts. The extension is very strong, in order to support the extra load and can be used separately from the iDO with a standard, double push pin system too.

What sort of force goes through the iDO and how strong does it therefore have to be?

We've done a lot of simulation via the FEM method with a PC and tests on the water before coming up with a final configuration. The stress that goes into the iDO in some places generates an effort that is comparable to a stress of 3000kg. 4-5m masts put a lot of pressure on the system, although centres such as Rene Egli have used the iDO for a year now with amazing results in terms of strength and longevity. However, in case of any damage, the iDO can be disassembled piece by piece in order to change a specific part.

Is the iDO difficult to install? How do you use it?

With the iDO people can windsurf instantly. It's like stabilisers for a bicycle: without them, you need to learn to balance on two wheels



before you can ride, but with stabilisers you can ride instantly and, as you pick up speed, naturally start to balance on two wheels. With its angle limitation, everyone can windsurf instantly too, moving forward and manoeuvring the board with natural feel and without fear of falling. iDO is a complete system, you have to use all the parts for it to work, but once it has been fixed on your board, you can enjoy sailing from the first lesson. ●

BIC GO BACK TO THE BEACH...

In response to Hifly's sad disappearance from the windsurfing market, Bic have introduced a range of boards to fill the gap with their Beach model. Released late 2009, the Beach will be made of polyethylene, with similar technology to the Bic kayak range. Watch out for more on this in the coming months and until then go to www.bicsport.com for the latest.

MOONCODE KEY SAFE

A padlocked, weather resistant, cast steel case to keep valuables in while you're sailing... far safer than leaving your keys hidden under the bumper! Invest for the summer holiday season, when car parks at the beach are more prone to slippery fingers than ever: head to www.shelsports.co.uk.



VANDAL SAILS HIT 4BOARDS!

THIS lovely range of sails, designed to appeal to the youth of today by Gaastra and ex-Naish designer: Dan Kaseler, have hit UK retailer 4Boards... The new range: Enemy Wave, Reverb Freestyle and Addict Freemove/Freeride are available to demo and will be sailed by youth hot shot, Steve SJ Jarvis! Contact info@4boards.co.uk or see www.vandalsails.com for more



PLASMA BOARDRIDING



Set up by Robert Sand – famous for scoring the gnarliest section at Klitmoller, Denmark during the Red Bull Storm Chase, Plasma Boardriding is a new hardcore clothing brand set to take the UK by storm! Robert's teamed up with Phil Horrocks who will be rolling it out throughout the UK. For more on the brand see www.plasmaboardriding.co.uk and to order online go to www.purebluewater.com.