

# FREEDOM

## From North Wing ~ The glider everyone wants

I have not been this excited about a new glider design in 30 years

No need to spend much time telling you how it gets unpacked, just that it's shipped short-packed with the aft LE's removed to save on shipping costs. It took all of 5 min to re-install the aft leading edges, and you can't install them wrong; good job Kamron.

Why was I so excited about receiving a single-surface glider? Since I have to hike up to the launch, having a light glider is a plus. I have been flying the Easy and the Horizon all season because of their light weight and reasonable performance, both have unmatched sink rates in their class. High performance gliders are just too heavy, take way too long to set up and are not fun to fly, forget about landing the things.

Another reason I stopped flying high performance gliders -- my LZ ! I land in my Flight Park which is 7 acres, but within this 7 acres is a 50 ft high training hill shaped like half a bowl. On one end of the bowl is a pond, the other end is a large metal building, (my shop), plus an old school bus, a 70ft motor home used for glider storage and various mowing machines. If that isn't enough, my safety-conscious neighbor planted a row of very tall trees in front of and across my landing area creating nasty rotors.

So, what does all this mean? It means I have a tight place to land. The North East is known for windy, turbulent LZ's. Thus, I fly lower performance gliders so I can land safely in my little LZ. I was always one to fly the hottest high performance gliders and ridged wings. I am now older and wiser so I was really enjoying the Horizon; it was light, it performed great, handled like a dream and could be landed with my eyes closed. The Freedom is something different. It's lighter, and very easy to fly, and no one else had one yet. So yes! This glider was getting me real wet!

Setting up the Freedom is like any other glider, but you will notice there are a lot of pads and bags. Some pilots don't like a lot of these "things" as they are just more things to lose and to forget where they go. I want all these pads and bags as I know my glider will last a long time because of them. The important ones are attached to the glider bag so you can't forget them.

Once you are past the hundreds of pads and spread the wings you notice the absence of a lower surface. This is a high aspect ratio single-surface glider. Then you will notice the clean, simple, efficient hardware similar to the Airwave gliders used by many other manufacturers -- strong and beautiful stuff. Then, there they are, the curved tips, yes!. This beauty has curved tips just like a high

performance glider but it is a single surface glider. Way cool.

The Freedom sets up easy and quickly and you can not help but notice the flat look of this glider -- none of the billowy twist of other single surface gliders, this baby looks tight, flat and fast! The Freedom also has the highest aspect ratio of any single surface glider.

So, who is this glider made for? Any hang II, III, IV, or V pilots, and certainly any "older" pilots like me, looking for a second glider that's easy, light, and inexpensive. All my students are buying the Freedom and all my old time flying buddies are flying them as well.

I just had to fly this baby! Lucky for me the wind was North West two days in a row here in NY and I had this cool new toy to flail around the sky in. I hiked up to my launch and really enjoyed it's light weight. Set up was quick, easy, and straight forward; what a beautiful glider to look at!

When I picked up the Freedom I noticed how perfectly balanced it is. You can let go of the DT's and it just sits there on your shoulders, waiting for your next move. I walked it up to the launch ramp and the wind was NNW at 15, perfect! Two steps and I was in the air for the first time in a brand new glider and feeling like I had 100 hours in it, like it was made just for me; it read my mind and knew how I wanted a glider to fly and handle. It was sweet, and light, turns were crisp and RIGHT NOW like a glider should react. The air was a mix of broken up thermals and edges of the now routine wave that sets up so there was turbulence, sink and broken up lift. In other words, a regular day at Ellenville.

Well, Without sounding like I'm some kind of great pilot, because I'm not -- this glider got me to the top of the stack. This is easy for some single surface gliders on light marginal days, but this was not one of those days as it was kind of strong at times with a lot of sink. The Freedom handled it with grace I flew for two hours and decided it was time to land in my tiny little LZ on a strong, thermally, turbulent day. Yee haa! Well, This was a non-eventful, perfect, landing . The flair window is large, it gives you so much feedback that I think you could learn on this baby-- it's sweet, forgiving and gentle.

Does it perform? I had the chance to dog a few pilots in their double surface gliders and was impressed at how easy it was to stay with them when going down the ridge or cruising out to the valley. I had to keep looking up to remind myself that this glider had no double surface.

Ok, How good can this glider perform you ask, Well, it's a single surface glider after all, but with a high aspect ratio wing, a tight as a drum sail, curved tips, faired DT's, faired king post and just the right airfoil -- this baby performs! The amazing thing is how it slows down, the light bar pressures at speeds, the quick handling; you just have to try this baby out!

Here's a few things to note about the Freedom that are new to this type of glider. Kamron came up with a no tools, quick, ground adjustable VG to fine tune your glider for the conditions and your personal requirements. Cool.

Now there is a VG option for the Freedom.

The other cool thing on the Freedom is the way you can tighten the curved tips by simply rotating a bearing in the tip cam mechanism, as the hole is off set so when you turn it around it either lengthens or shortens the fiberglass tip wand. Way cool!

Freedom, I can't imagine flying anything else, it just does everything I want.  
I love it! So, what color Freedom will you be ordering?



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