

Paul Catchpole's 'HotRod' A High Wind Fighter Kite

The following are the key dimensions of a very successful high wind fighter kite Paul designed. He posted this originally on the FKC forum. The photos Paul emailed to me to include with this article. BTW Paul lives in England. BigGrins, bruce

Having a lot of grins with my high wind fighter in its latest form. Its dimensions are:

- A. Spine 13-3/8in bamboo stiffer towards tail and fitted with a tension line.
- B. Wing tip to wing tip 13-3/4in.
- C. Wing tip line crosses the spine 6-3/8in from nose.
- D. Bow is 05 fiberglass which crosses spine 2 1/4in from nose. (NOTE: Paul measured the bow length after it was installed in the kite. It is 16-1/2" long in the white/black kite and 16-3/4" long on the white/red kite.)
- E. Trailing edge (very mildly scalloped) is 9-3/4"
- F. Nose to wing tip is 9-3/8in
- G. The nose leading edge meets the bow 5-1/2in from the nose.
- H. The bow curve extends just slightly outwards from there to the wing tip.
- I. The sail is white orcon and carries four 03 CF battens. They are 4in long and spaced at 3-1/4in. The lower batten is angled straight towards the nose and the upper batten angled slightly across the nose.
- J. The balance point is about 1/4in towards the nose from the wing tip line and the bottom bridle point located according to Bruce's formula.

This kite is a lot of fun when the wind gets up. I have found that it is best controlled if tuned so that the nose is only a little above the horizontal on the table top. I then make slight adjustments to the spine bend when flying.

