



## Introducing

This is the second version of the Razor and – along with its bright, vibrant colours, set in that familiar O.R. way – the first thing that strikes you about this kite are its wing tips. Ocean Rodeo have developed a Forward Swept Wingtip Technology (FST), which in theory is about increasing leverage and the ‘weighted’ feel of the kite.

## Basics

**Build and construction** The Razor is a four strut kite. It uses Ocean Rodeo’s Venturi Technology, which is a vent located a few inches in front of the trailing edge designed to improve the efficiency of the kite. The purpose of the FST wingtips is ultimately to increase the leverage between the front and back lines, allowing the kite to turn a lot faster and with more power. **Set up and tuning.** As the front lines are now attached further forward you get more depower, more steerage when depowered, and better slack line drift for those OMG moments. The front bridle can be adjusted to make the Razor sit deeper for more continuous

pull, while the rear pigtails have three settings. **Bar and Trim** Ocean Rodeo offers you the choice of three different bars: Freeride, Freestyle and Fusion. For the Freestyle the trim’s above the bar, and for the other two it’s below. The Freeride has a much longer power line and no mini 5th – you leash to the doubled up power line, and it then opens out when the safety is hit. All bars will work for all disciplines but, ultimately, it’s nice to have a bit more choice! The bar itself looks good from a distance, with its distinct orange appearance and ergonomic craft and has a slight kink in the end which gives a nice bit of extra leverage when you yank it.

## Info Panel

**Main Market:** One eye firmly on the freestyle market but also good in the waves.

**Sizes:** 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12

**Line Configuration:** 4 line SLE

**Inflation:** Single point

**Safety:** Push away QR then system varies depending on bar.

My only concern would be that the grip is very course to begin with (which brings back the windsurf calluses for me). Although I’m sure that it will soften with a few uses.

## Performance

We really put the Razor through its paces: we tested it in perfect 10m conditions, then underpowered and then fully overpowered. The first thing to say is that once you’re hooked in and flying it’s clear to see that it’s not all just scientific talk and marketing hype: the funky wingtips work. **Turning speed, handling and feel.** The Razor is an extremely responsive kite and acts on every command. It flies comfortably through the window, giving sufficient amounts of pull and instant de-power when required. Several testers noted the exceptional smoothness and responsiveness. **Upwind** and the Razor flew smoothly with incredibly accelerated turns, which allowed fantastic upwind riding. **Lift, hangtime and landing.** The Razor allows large and extremely long and lofty jumps, ensuring plenty of hang time before a gentle landing. Looping this powered up 10 would be perfect for those looking to gain confidence in loops as it can literally turn on the spot, ensuring you make the loop but controlling the grunt. For the more seasoned looper, the Razor really does have that classic ‘C’ feel and plenty of beans and will keep freestyle purists very happy. Plus, with its quick turning ability, it allows you to control how much or little power you want when downlooping, and it gives you total confidence in a really smooth turn. **Unhooked.** O.R say that you should be able to fly the kite unhooked without trimming, we would have to disagree a bit here – this kite really needs to be trimmed correctly in order to stay flying forward (Venturi Technology or not). It would be interesting to compare it on the freestyle specific bar where the trim is easier as, once correctly tuned, it behaved really nicely (but getting there on the bar we used could be a bit tricky). **Trim, depower and range.** We had the Razor set-up on the large fusion bar, with its below bar trim which was easy to get to and effective.

## Icing

**The Look.** Guaranteed to turn heads on the beach – both for the wingtips and because it looks very slick through the air. **The package.** Nice bag with a zip all the way round for easy access, and a separate sealed in zipped compartment for your bar – so no wet lines on the kite you’ve worked so hard to keep dry all session and no sand in your boot when they dry off. Inspired.

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### Verdict

→ The Razor reveals moments of genius and does feel a bit ‘different’ – but definitely in a good way. It is a lot of fun due to its speed and is a great kite for looping. It’s also great for a powered up wave session, and is solid enough to take a few beatings. It’s nice to see a new ‘looking’ kite and it seems to us that Ocean Rodeo may well be on to something with the Razor... **Tested by AG & AH**