

SONIC



This is for the 11m GK SONIC

This is by no means gospel but this is my own bar taken straight out of the bag after an epic, well powered 20 knot session.

1st of all...

I would recommend adjusting the stock bar set up as it comes out of the bag to roughly the measurements as shown in the diagram below... if the wind is very light or the kite backstalls... just shorten the front lines a little more... 5-10cm is sufficient as explained. NB: If you end up losing suitable steering response... you have gone too far so trim it back a bit and you are in the ball park... small adjustments are all that is needed.

Between 15-25 knots I use 2 trim settings... one that is comfortable and good for all round riding with easy de-power on tap ... and the other for solid power and a more obvious rip which requires the bar to be pushed a bit further away, past the stopper, to tap into full de-power.

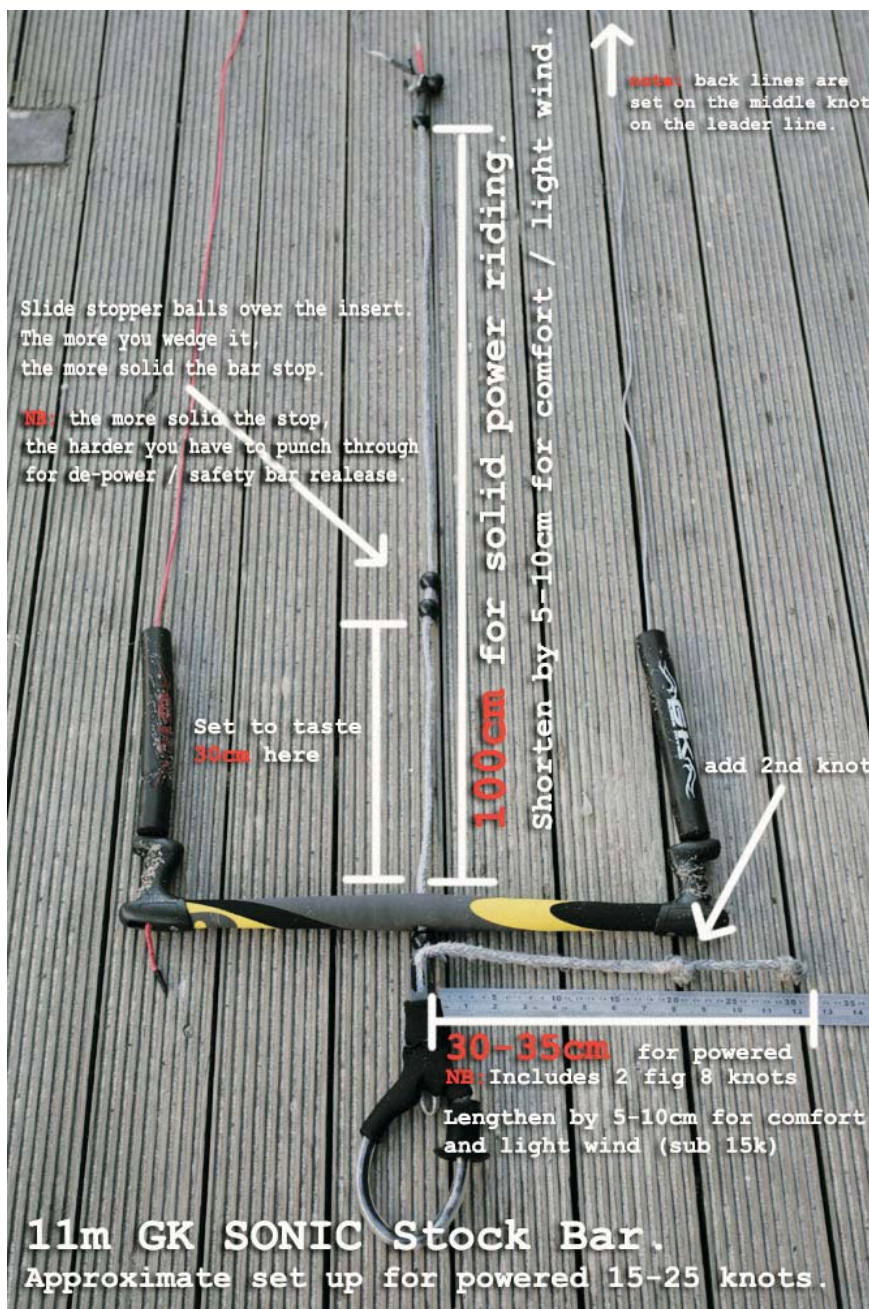
There is only about a 5cm trim range between my two settings... that is enough to make the power / performance difference and it means that I do NOT have to adjust the position of the stopper for 90% of my riding on the 11m Sonic.

Below is my bar set up for the SOLID POWER which gives the most aggressive performance and biggest boost / hangtime etc... when you are lit... expect to have to punch through on occasion to tap into the de-power beyond the stopper... it can get very powered at speed!!!

The only times I need to adjust anything more than this 5cm or so range is for very light winds when I will actually SHORTEN the front line a bit more to fully avoid any backstall which can be caused by pulling on too much backline... If I want to use the stopper a similar 25-30cm away I will simply adjust its position before the session as its obviously a light wind one... at the same time, the stopper isn't gonna be needed anyway for such a light winder ... also, now its out, I would get the 14m out in sub 15k :)

All other rigging is the same as a 'C' kite ... directly attach the back lines etc. (make sure the larkshead connections are on tight)

I wouldn't fess with the F1/F2 ... B1/B2 attachment points... its best left how it comes imho.



11m GK SONIC Stock Bar.
Approximate set up for powered 15-25 knots.



The Stopper System

The stopper system is very simple and works nicely... once you have set your trim set up up as above or there abouts and you have flown the kite some without the stopper to refine the trim etc... you can now re-position the plastic insert to roughly where you like to have the bar stop... you can either take it out and put it back in where you want... or, if its not going far, just shuffle it along inside by scrunching up the rope.

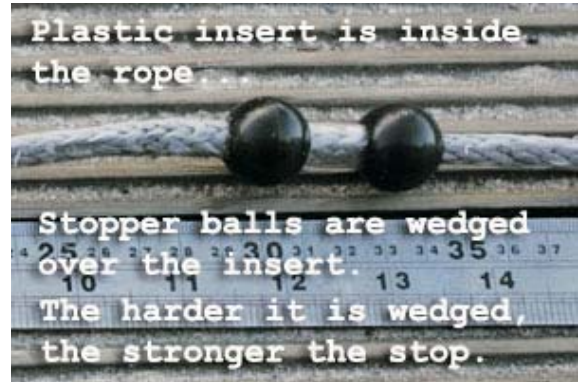
When the insert (bulge in the rope) is where you want it just slide stopper (the 2 plastic balls (with the tube between them)) over the bulge in the rope.

NB: If your plastic stopper insert doesn't look like this or is a tube then you do not have the right one... If you are in the UK, let me know and I will send one out. All UK kites should be up to this spec.

As the insert is wider in the middle and tapers to the tips... the more you wedge the stopper balls over it... the more solid it becomes. You can set this to taste...

EG: a beginner whos priority is quick, full de-power by / when letting go of the bar will only slightly engage the stopper so the bar will simply punch through by itself, or with very minimal effort, easily when let go.

If you want a solid bar stop for riding powered, spinning the bar and tricks etc... you would pull down hard on the stopper to wedge it on more solid... just remember that you will need to physically punch through by pushing the bar away from you in order to fully de-power the kite and let go of the bar.



TIPS

1. LIGHT WIND: Obviously for very light wind ... don't oversheet by pulling on too much backline. These kites can reverse off the water or land by pulling a backline or both.... so you have to expect them to be sensitive to stalling in very light wind if you are heavy handed in the air, especially whilst you are stationary. Best light wind performance is obtained by working the kite... being subtle on the bar... and getting some board speed up. Power comes with apparent wind and kite skill, not grunt. (The 14m is far more grunty of course)

2. OVER POWERED: When you are very lit and potentially getting overpowered... DO NOT bring the kite down low and edge aggressively like you would do with a 'C' kite ... it will pull like a train and you would have to edge very aggressively ... you can do that... but it is far easier to keep the kite fairly high and just push the bar away to tap into the great de-power it won't lift you off your edge like a 'C' kite so you can kill some speed, get under control ... then bring the bar back into power slowly.

3. BOOSTING: you do not have to 'send' the kite as aggressively or as far back as a 'C' kite. Just send it back sheeted out a little and pull the bar in as you release your edge... up you go. If you have gone really high and you are floating far, which you may well do... you can control descent to a spotted landing by sheeting out a bit in the air... you'll drop much faster but you can pull the bar back in at will on the way down whenever you want to find the float again for a soft landing etc. The 'pop' off flat water is not as obvious or aggressive as a 'C' kite but you get used to the feel and timing ... sending it off a wave or a lip is epic.

4: TRIMMING: If you need to adjust the trim at the cleat whilst riding just grab the centre line just in front of the bar and relieve the tension for a second whilst you adjust the trim with your other hand.... if you are so powered that its too hard... simply drop off downwind a little and then its easy... if all else fails just let the bar go and trim it... with practise, you will have the bar back before the kite is down... if it is down its no big deal as the relaunch is easy and quick. The cleat is working well and slippage is NOT 'an issue' ... only one or two users have mentioned it slipping. I have only had it slip twice in 5 months of use and that has only happened right after I've trimmed it and not likely set it to bite properly ... tip is simply to make sure its biting and maybe push down at the bite point with your thumb before forgetting about it. As seen in main the diagram, you should make an extra knot in the spare rope at the cleat ... this means that if it does ever slip you will always have something to grab easily to re-set it. The spare rope can be half hitched over the de-power rope just in front of the stopper ball at the cleat to keep it out of the way if needs be... it doesn't get in the way if you don't though imo.

5: RE-LAUNCH: the Sonic usually ends up on a tip, de-powered and ready to go when you pull the bar back... do it gently like you would a 'C' kite in this position so the surface tension on the water breaks before the kite stalls and falls back. If its LE down... just pull on a back line to get it to roll over... or both back line to reverse it like a foil whilst turning the bar to make it flip round... sheet right out or even let go if its gonna head straight through the power... get the bar back when its at the zenith and out of the power zone.

6: SELF LAUNCH: Not the strongest point with all the current 'bow' style kites but just needs some adapting to really... you can't fold a wing tip like a 'C' Kite. Best way is of course an assisted launch like any kite. I mostly launch from the normal LE down, sand on the LE 'dead' position by pulling one back line to move the kite around at the edge of the window then pulling the windward line to effect a reverse / roll over ... its easy with practise. Only downside to this method is if the beach / surface is harsh etc. On clean sand its no problem. Drift launching (letting the kite out in the water) is another good option as re-launch on the water is so good. Other methods discussed for Bow kites include attaching the C-loop to something fairly solid like a board that is stuck in the sand (I've done it with the kite bag weighed down with sand) ... you then set the kite up on a tip at the edge of the window and come back to the bar to launch... NB: I'm not personally keen this method and don't recommend it.

7: SELF LAND: Just bring the kite to the edge of the window and let go of the bar... in most wind conditions you can just pull in some de-power rope and grab the top front line... the kite will, at best, roll onto the LE and stay down... at worst it will flag out and maybe drift a bit 'till it settles... much like a 'C' kite... if needs be, especially in stronger wids... you should clip your leash from the c-loop onto the re-ride loop at the front line pigtail... you can then release the bar and the kite will flag out on the re-ride like a normal kite. Best method is to get someone to land it for you, same as with any kite.

So I hope this helps out some... its **NOT** an official Globberider Sonic guide or manual ... just my trim as it was after a great session and some of my thoughts and tips.

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