



Worthy contender



BIC Techno 148 ACE-TEC

Info: <https://world.bicsport.com/techno-148.html> Price: £960

WORDS & PICS: TEZ PLAVENIEKS

MOVING ON FROM LAST ISSUE'S TEST OF THE BIC TECHNO 133L THE 148L ARRIVES FOR LIGHTER WIND WINDSURFING AND/OR A SLED FOR LATER BEGINNERS/INTERMEDIATES WANTING SOMETHING THAT'S BOTH ENGAGING AND FUN TO SAIL. MANUFACTURED IN BIC'S AC-TEC LAY UP IT'S A LIGHTWEIGHT BOARD (RELATIVE TO OVERALL SIZE) THAT SHOULD BE ON THE RADAR FROM MANY WINDSURFERS LOOKING TO MAXIMISE TIME ON THE BRINE AND/OR PROGRESS RAPIDLY.

The overall shape hasn't changed much from Techno's of old. Relying on volume in the rear, where riders stand, with a bit more length on recent more compact designs the additional cm helps give the 148L better glide for ramping up to planing speed. 'Stubby' designs, whilst being very stable, do tend to push water and require a little more rider input to release and plane. The Techno 148L therefore aids progression but also deliver quicker than you'd think top speeds for more experienced sailors. And the board's glide is improved, which from a newbie carve gybers point of view, is a great trait. Round corners the 148L keeps momentum and allows those planing exit goals to be reached more efficiently.

There's no question at 148L it's a bigger windsurf platform. That said there's still a nimble, playful personality allowing some old school freestyle carving and sail throwing (think downwind 3s and such). Bigger boned individuals with power will be able to pop the Techno for a little air time also.

Lighter riders will discover a windsurf sled that'll plane in a gnat's puff with smaller sails. Effortless release with time allowing footstrap work to be dialled in should also appeal to newbies. Whereas the low wind speed performance, again, will tick advanced sailor boxes for those wanting to get out in the merest sniff of gust – the longer 46cm (top shelf) fin only helping here. There's a lot of hype given over to



early planing speeds of boards. The BIC Techno 148 ACE-TEC really does deliver on this promise though – it's one of the earliest planing windsurf boards (in its category) I've tested.

Conclusion

BIC's Techno 148L ACE-TEC windsurf board continues its stick to the tried and tested Techno formulas. We've said it before with other Techno test write ups but these boards really do still suit what the majority of 'real world' windsurfers get up to. Easy to use, early planing, fast and agile (relative to their size), much more robust than Techno boards of old, fun and applicable to sailors from a wide demographic there's no question if you're in the market for a bigger board, and don't want to go down the slalom route, the Techno's always worth a look. They're also a damn good price!