

# FUSE VS. REBEL



## AN INTERVIEW WITH KEN WINNER THE KITEDESIGNER OF FUSE AND REBEL

**NKB:**

Hi Ken, what was your intention when you first thought about the Fuse?

**KEN WINNER:**

When we started working on the 2010 Fuse our goal was to make it as much like the Rebel as possible, but optimized for 4-line use. The first thing we did, of course, was try some Rebels on bridles, and, of course, they worked ok but not great.

**NKB:**

What were the main differences?

**KEN WINNER:**

The main tasks were:

- The 2009-style bridle that we started with wasn't permitting the bar feel to be as crisp as we wanted,
- In sizes 9 to 14 the turning wasn't quite right,
- In sizes 5 and 7 turning was ok, but the bar feel was too hard, too aggressive.

From that point our development focused on:

- Refining the bridle to get a crisper feel,
- Refining overall geometry in larger sizes to improve the turning ability,
- Refining geometry in sizes 5 & 7 to get the crisp-but-not-harsh bar feel that we were looking for.

After months of testing, the Fuse ended up more like the Rebel than any other bridled kite we have ever tested. However, even as close as it is, there are still differences that the discerning rider can detect.

**NKB:**

What are these differences exactly?

**KEN WINNER:**

For example, the Fuse has slightly softer bar feel and turns with less force on the bar. Some riders prefer more pressure and feedback while others prefer less. It's a highly subjective matter.

The Rebel, on the other hand, has a shorter bar stroke. This means that the Rebel depowers slightly more as the bar is moved away from the rider -- an advantage for riders with short arms. But ultimately, both kites have similar depower ability.

A minor point of difference between the Fuse and the Rebel is the thickness of the centre ribs in some sizes and the thickness of the leading edge tubes in the tips. The Fuse is thicker in those areas so as to ensure total stability even when not inflated to a full 6 psi.

All together, the Fuse is the perfect, easy freeride kite on four lines, the Rebel might be a little bit more sporty with the loaded 5th line and the 100% safety solution.

**NKB:** Thank you Ken!