



Photo: David Casartelli / Niviuk



NIVIUK ARTIK

MANUFACTURER'S BRIEF

"A glider born to glide. The Artik is a real source of happiness. It will go where you want it to go to. Thanks to the latest technological developments and Niviuk expertise, offer yourself the best in performance paragliding."

THE DETAILS

Like it or not, Niviuk have gone for a very eye-catching colour scheme for their range of wings. The first third of the leading edge of the glider is white, leaving only the centre of the wing in the chosen colour, which makes for a unique-looking glider that is instantly recognisable even from the front and from a long way off. The designers have gone to great length to give their products a very high-class look. The sail is very clean and taut with a completely open leading edge and just a slightly thinner opening on the centre cell. There are some lovely little features like the fabric covers for the speedbar pulleys, and the swivel attachments for the brake handles; we're seeing these used more and more nowadays as a way of preventing the brake lines twisting and kinking.

The Niviuk range looks to be almost complete

with the NK One (DHV 1) and the Hook (DHV 1-2) sitting below the Artik, above is the N-Gravity, a dedicated acro wing, and now the Ice Peak, an out and out comp wing.

REVIEWERS' COMMENTS

BOB

Having been disappointed by Olivier Nef's creations as Advance's designer, the Sigma 5 and the Omega 5 (two of the dullest paragliders ever made in my opinion), I was intrigued to find out what influence Raul Rodriguez would bring to Olivier's designs. It seemed inconceivable that anything Raul has a hand in would be anything less than a very acrobatic sports wing, and the moment I took off I knew I was right. This wing speaks my language. It's the first Niviuk I've flown and it is outstanding. Similar to the Ozone Addict, but with even more roll, this is an incredibly agile glider that wants flinging around the sky like a go-kart around a track. If I had to liken it to a car, this is your Lotus Elise, sexy and exciting to drive. Flown at the top of the weight range it was the most nimble wing in the test with similar brake pressure to the Ozone and the UP, and

personally if I was looking for a freestyle wing, or an XC glider with attitude, I'd have to toss a coin to choose between the Artik and the Addict R.

NOBBY

A fantastic wing, this was the one glider that my mind kept getting drawn back to and when it came for the second round of XC flights it was in my bag before Bob was even out of bed. It rolls like crazy which, if you love acro, or even just wanging it around, makes this an amazing glider. It's another highly-loaded wing that feels charged in turbulence and cuts through the air in a really understandable way. Like the Ozone Addict R this is a glider that I would love to own.

MARCUS

I love the Artik. It's a little rally car with competent XC performance that stood its ground well in the Chabre Open. It's not got the wicked sink rate of the Aspen II, but what do you expect from a wing with such agility? I raced it against Addicts and Aspen II's and they all seemed the same glide, the only difference is the fun you can have burning off height over the goal field.