

Downloop Landings

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Incorporating kite movement into your tricks is one of the most fun aspects of kiteboarding. Not only that, but you can use a downloop with any trick at any time. Looping early will make all your current tricks more intense while looping right before landing is incredibly satisfying. Even adding a downloop after landing makes the transition feel powered, controlled and stylish.

At the end of the day, if you aren't incorporating some form of kitemovements into your riding, you are missing out on half the fun of our sport. Kitemovements can be intimidating and do require a great deal of skill, while downloops are relatively easy and you can apply them to your comfort level.

Try this with some tricks you already know!

Step One: Front hand pull

After your pop and jump, you can pull a downloop at any time. Downloops are always pulled with the front hand on the bar. Simply pull in hard on your front hand and hold it until the kite loops around and is traveling up towards the zenith. The kite will be traveling in the other direction with this kind of loop.

For instance, if you pull in on your front right hand, the kite will loop and be directed towards the left side of the wind window. That is why downloops are typically used for transitional tricks. However, if you want to use a downloop to ride in the same direction, you can hold in the bar in longer to make it rotate in the direction you want to go, essentially doing a full loop and a half.

Tips

- Pull after you land with the kite at the edge of the window for your first attempt.

Step Two: Timing

A downloop can be pulled at any moment during your jump. The key to not getting pulled hard downwind is to make sure that the downloop is pulled at the edge of the wind window. When you pull a downloop before or after you reach the zenith, you just want to make sure that you are looping it to the edge and not deep in the power zone.

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Step Two: Continued

A downloop gets the wing of your kite generating speed and creating lift, as opposed to stalling above your head when parked. Even if the kite is not directly overhead, the movement of the kite as you come down will help catch you; however, always make sure to land with your board pointed downwind.

Step Three: Sheet out

After the kite has completed the loop and made it back up to the zenith, sheet out on the bar so that the kite catches you. Pulling in on the bar gives the kite power; sheeting out is like a parachute. DO NOT sheet out until the kite has made the complete rotation that you want it to. If you sheet out too early and the kite is in the power zone, you will lose total control of the kite.

Think of sheeting out as pulling your parachute before landing. This will open up the canopy to give you more lift rather than downwind pull.

Step Four: Pick your landing

Landing with a downloop gives you options. You can land toeside and let the power of the downloop pull you into a turn. This is a nice feeling because landing toe-side makes it easy for you to point the board downwind. As soon as you land pull in on the bar, which powers up the kite and pulls you into your turn.

Another option is to land heel-side; this requires you to land with your board pointed downwind and to be ready for the kite to pull you in the other direction. If you don't know how to do a jumping transition yet, this is also a good way to practice. The biggest thing to know for landing heel-side is to make sure that you have adjusted your hips to the other direction.

Step Five: Application

Landing with downloops opens up a whole world of possibilities. A few tricks that you can try once you have learned the downloop are board-offs, one-footers, back or front rolls, Jesus walks, back roll hand drags, and much more. First, get your downloops dialed in, but then try taking your back hand off the bar in the air and hold the grab as long as you can, downlooping the kite with your front hand. Having the freedom to land with one hand opens up a lot of tricks. So practice that first- landing one handed downloops



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