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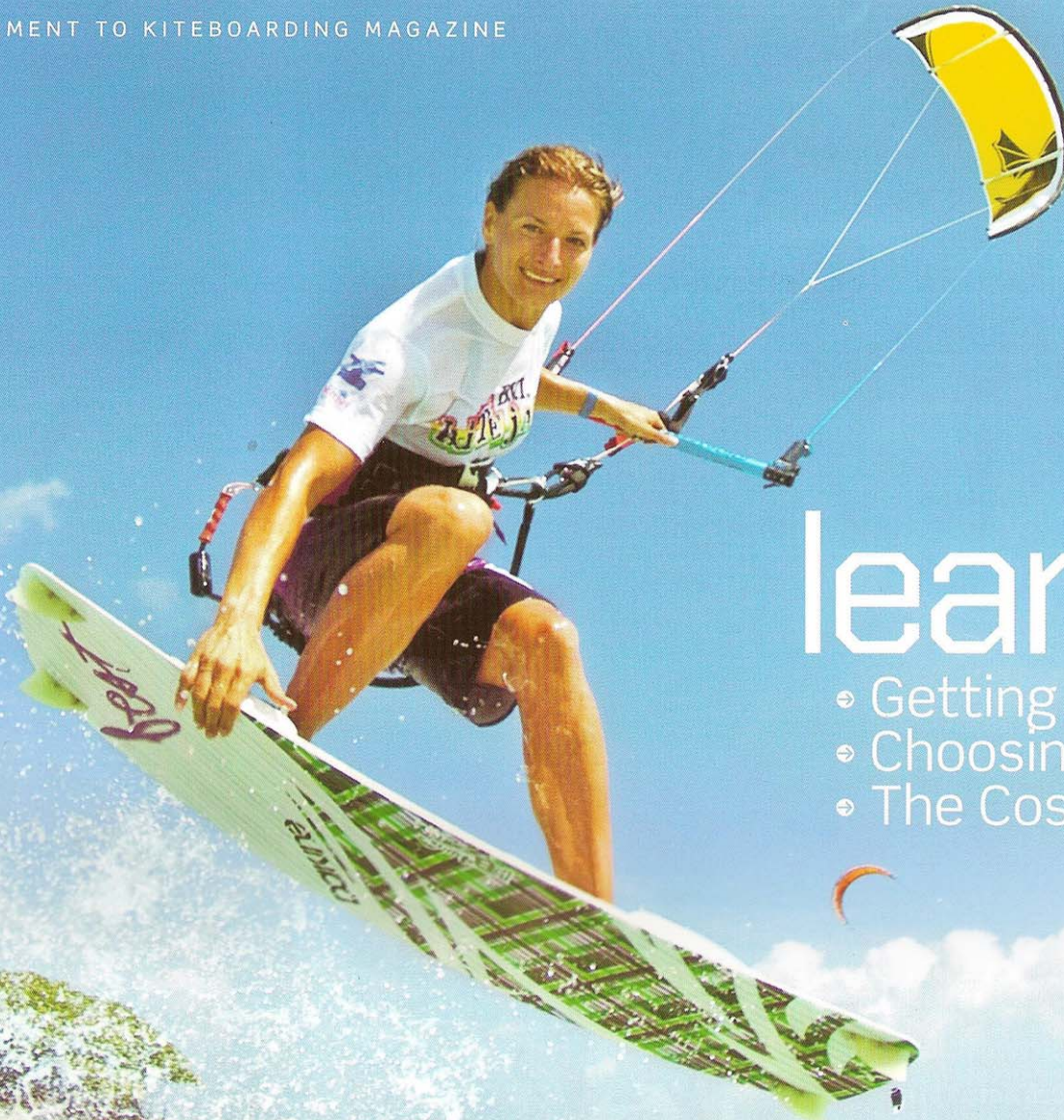
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# kiteboarding

SUPPLEMENT TO KITEBOARDING MAGAZINE



## learn

- Getting Started
- Choosing the Right Gear
- The Cost of Kiting

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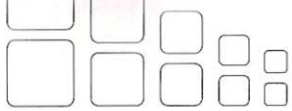
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# beginners guide



Buying gear at a reputable kite shop assures you will get the ideal gear for your skill level.

## LET EXPERIENCED RIDERS PAIR YOUR ATHLETIC BACKGROUND WITH THE PROPER EQUIPMENT.

to evolve, and credible shops only demo gear with experienced kites. Let the experienced riders pair your athletic background with the proper equipment.

**Be careful:** Thinking of buying gear just because it's inexpensive? You'll ride cheaper, but your skills may plateau early if you buy a kite that doesn't best suit your skill level.

**Avoid:** Used gear from unknown sources. You'll be taking huge safety risks.

## What Should I Expect to Pay?

BY ADAM VON INS, CATCHSOMEAIR.US



**Put simply:** You get what you pay for.

Kiteboarding requires some pretty technical gear. A ton of research and development goes into good equipment that's designed to perform, last and keep you safe. And don't forget the super-strong, lightweight ingredients used to make the stuff work well.

When shopping around, you can expect to pay \$2,500 to \$3,000 total for a new kite,

board, harness and professional lessons. It's quite a small investment compared to other sports (no fuel or fees!). To help guarantee you get quality gear, here are a few industry averages you should expect to pay (based on the average 175-pound rider).

### KITES

**Range:** \$1,100 to \$2,000

**Average:** \$1,550

This is based on the most common "first" kite size from top companies: 12 square meters, which includes kite, bag, pump and control system (bar). (Sold separately, control systems average \$375.)

### BOARDS

**Range:** \$450 to \$1,100

**Average:** \$735

"True" twin-tip kiteboards are designed with specific flex points and are reinforced with strong, lightweight materials and include foot straps.

### HARNESSES

**Range:** \$105 to \$260

**Average:** \$165

There's no secret to a harness. It either feels good or it doesn't. Try several on for the best fit.

### LESSONS

**Range:** \$50 to \$900

**Average:** \$400

While you can learn the basics in a short lesson, it takes more time to learn this sport. If you're really serious, expect to spend at least four to six hours and pay \$75 to \$100 per hour for quality lessons.

### SAVING TIPS

**Look for:** Intro package deals. Many schools and shops offer packages that will save you \$200 to \$500 if you purchase gear and lessons together.

**Advice:** Make sure your shop takes you through an in-depth interview. Your gear-evaluation skills may have yet

### WHY YOUR FIRST KITE SHOULD BE NEW

Have you just found that "insane deal"? As a new kiteboarder, your experience in spotting well-performing gear, along with wear, has yet to mature. Many used kites are sold for a good reason: They're not wanted. The gear either lacks performance or it's been well-used. Riders typically don't sell good kites for the heck of it.

Gear priced below market value typically equals risk. Sure, you'll save huge, but chances are you're increasing safety hazards by not having the latest safety systems. We've seen many kiteboarders who've spent more money on repairing their gear (and themselves) after buying cheap equipment. They could have avoided the risks and money frustrations by just getting a new kite.



PHOTOS: VLADO SKLENAR (2)