

WINDSURF WARRIORS

KONA ONE

BRINGING ALL
WINDSURFERS
TOGETHER

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Rider: Jakob Müller
Photo: Billy Short



FIN-TASTIC!

BY ARNE GAHMIG

ONE OF THE MOST OVERLOOKED COMPONENTS IN WINDSURFING IS THE FIN. AND WHILE IT PLAYS A BIG ROLE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE BOARD IT IS PROBABLY THE LEAST UNDERSTOOD BY MOST PEOPLE.

DANIEL WINDISCH HAS BEEN MAKING FINS SINCE 2011 AND HAS BUILT UP A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE AROUND THIS KEY ELEMENT OF WINDSURFING PERFORMANCE. TODAY HE SHARES WITH US HOW TO BUY A FIN THAT IS JUST RIGHT FOR US.

WINDSURFWARRIORS

When and where did you start windsurfing?

I started windsurfing in autumn 2007 on Lake Garda, and since that year I have windsurfed every day in summer, whenever it was possible. I also windsurfed the years before 2007, but then only once or twice a year.

When did you start fabricating your own fins?

The first fin I "made" was a 12cm freestyle fin in 2010. I cut that fin with the saw of a swiss knife on Porto Liscia (beach in the north of Sardinia). It didn't work out well... but when I came back home, I decided to shape another fin! I can't remember when I made my first good fin, but I think it was in 2011. After one summer of testing, I told my friends about the fin and my ideas and with their help we were able to start fabricating our own fins in 2012.

For those who are new to the sport and don't know so much about fins, what types of fins are there?

Wave, freestyle, freemove, freestyle-wave, freeride and weed fins. There are also some other types of fins e.g. speed, slalom etc., but these fins aren't interesting for beginners.

“I am really impressed of what we can create together in the team, and being a part of the whole project is fantastic.”

-
Jonathan Willumsen

What should someone who is buying their first fin go for? What should they take into account when buying a fin?

Beginners should use freestyle-wave, freemove or freeride fins. The right size and type of the fin depends on the size of the board, on the riders weight, on the size of the sail, on the windsurf conditions and of course on the wind conditions.

It is important to note that there are fins which work perfectly for pros but not for beginners! The best fin for your friend who is sailing on a much higher level than you are, doesn't have to be the best fin for you!

To have a rough idea of the right fin length with respect to the board volume:

70-100L	20-30cm
100-120L	25-40cm
120<	35+



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What beginners also have to take into consideration is that it is the area of the fin affects the "size" of the fin more than the length!

I would suggest that if you are a beginner, you should test some fins before you buy one if you have the possibility to do so. I made the experience that most of the beginners buy cheap fins (it doesn't necessarily mean that cheap fins have to be worse than expensive fins). They only check the price and think, that the fin doesn't really affect their windsurfing. Maybe it's not the most important part of the gear at the beginning, but as soon as you want to plane it's just as important as the right board and sail.

How will the wrong fin affect your windsurfing?

First of all, "wrong fin" means: wrong size or/and wrong type of fin.

The wrong fin causes spinouts and doesn't offer you the right grip and control. In addition, the board can feel much heavier than it is and you won't gain speed as fast as you would with a good fin. With the wrong fin the upwind ability won't be satisfying and it makes the windsurfing more difficult. The fin can also affect the turning ability of your board, but that's a matter of taste.

I think these are the most important things to know for beginners, but of course there would be many more things to know about acceleration, pop, etc.

You started a company called Gallushi Fins, which builds fins that are now used by pros in the PWA. How has the feedback helped you to improve your knowledge about designing fins?

The feedback helped me to improve the fins, but I've learned a lot of things.

I've learned that the perfect fin doesn't exist, it always depends on the style of the windsurfer and his preferences.

A fin is only as good as it fits the preferences of the individual rider

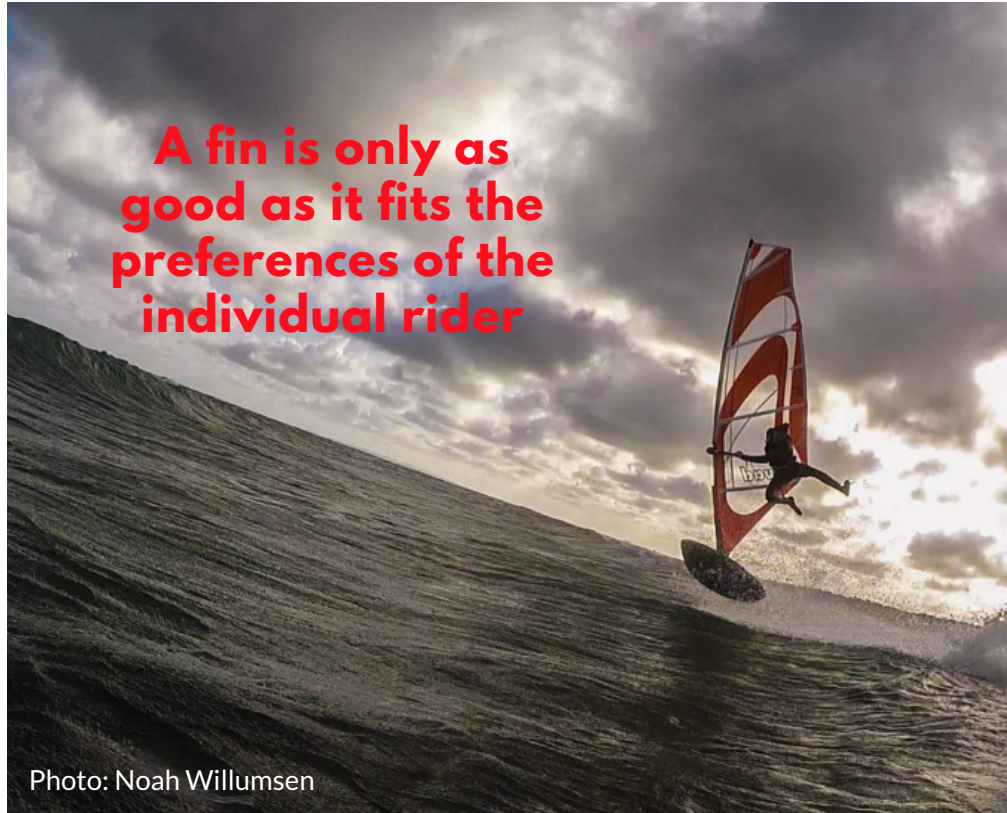


Photo: Noah Willumsen

Maybe it is also important to say that beginners have to be informed about the gear they're buying, because "stronger than last year's version" normally also means "heavier than last year's version". That's one of the things I've recognised during the last years of development.

A fin is only as good as it fits the preferences of the individual rider!

When you are crafting a fin for someone, what are the details you need to know about them and their windsurfing skills in order to make the correct fin for them?

First of all, I need to know what the customer wants. Therefore it's almost impossible to create the right fin for a beginner, because without some knowledge and experiences he doesn't have any preferences.

At the moment I'm only developing freestyle fins, therefore I can make e.g. a fin for a rider on a higher level and one for a beginner, but with that information I only get a rough idea about the final fin.

I take into consideration the riders weight, skills, surfspot, board(s), sail size(s), personal preferences (e.g. upwind ability, grip, speed, control...)



Photo: Giovanni Brambilla



Rider: Rasmus Oegelund
Photo: gallushi-fins.jimdo.com

You are supporting a group of youngsters in your local community through windsurfing. How do you help them?

I'm creating the fins for them and they can get the accessories I've developed. It's not that everyone can get as many fins as he wants but I try to offer them the latest shapes adjusted to their skills and preferences.

But it's not only about supporting them with gear, I think it's more important to connect the young windsurfers all around the world, especially those who are living in the same area. I always felt pretty alone as a windsurfer in the Alps, but now with the team it's much better; we're not only a windsurfing team with the same "sponsor", but we're friends! Gallushi Fins makes it possible for me

to connect young windsurfers and that even more than only through windsurfing. The windsurfers from our team are from Italy, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland...

“The fins are really fast and rotate even faster! Love them!” - Jakob Müller

How can the readers of Windsurf Warriors find out more about Gallushi fins?

They can check our website or find us on Facebook! In the best case they meet someone from our team on the water and then they can get every information they want!

Website
gallushi-fins.jimdo.com

Facebook
facebook.com/GallushiFins

E-Mail
gallushi.fins@gmail.com

