



VEGA III

PILOT'S MANUAL

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet.



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1. INTRODUCTION

When setting out to design our next-generation cross-country glider we had a clear target: we wanted to create the best paraglider possible for discerning sports and recreational pilots. Pilots who want top performance and sensitive handling, but who rightly demand ever more security.

The Vega III is that glider, keeping the comfortable but precise characteristics of the original Vega while improving on the glider's already high performance and safety margins.

With an internal structure based on the successful Mercury competition glider the Vega III includes our unique differential speed system. This means pilots can achieve a good sink-rate at half or one-third speed bar, and maintain good stability at maximum speed: in short, it gives the glider excellent usable speed.

The Vega III is an intermediate-performance glider (EN-C, corresponding to DHV2 or AFNOR Performance) and is meant for qualified pilots who hold a full paragliding pilot licence. It is designed as an ideal cross-country glider, suitable for experienced pilots who fly regularly and who will enjoy a performance glider with good safety characteristics.

This manual provides information about the glider, which will help you to fly safely and keep your wing in good condition. If after reading this manual you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us or any authorised Axis dealer.

Thank you for choosing the new **Vega III** from **Axis**.

www.axispara.cz

www.axispara.co.uk

SAFETY NOTICE

By the purchase of this equipment, you are responsible for being a certified paraglider pilot and you accept all risks inherent with paragliding activities including injury and death. Improper use or misuse of paragliding equipment greatly increases these risks. Neither Axis nor the seller of Axis equipment shall be held liable for personal or third party injuries or damages under any circumstances. If any aspect of the use of our equipment remains unclear, please contact your local paragliding instructor, Axis dealer or the Axis importer in your country.



2. PRE FLIGHT

Pre-delivery inspection

The Vega III is delivered with a rucksack, inner bag, compression strap and this manual. The dealer or your instructor should have made a test inflation and test flight before delivery to you.

Brake-line length

When you receive your new Vega III, the brake-line length is set the same as the Axis test glider. This length has been finely tuned by Axis test pilots and it should not be necessary to adjust it.

If you feel it is necessary to adjust the brake-line length to suit physical build, height of harness hang points, or style of flying we recommend you test-fly the glider after every 20mm of adjustment.

There should always be free brake travel when the glider is flown hands-up. This means when you look at your brake lines in flight with your hands up, there should be a slight bow, or arc, to the line – the brake lines should not be tight. This is to prevent the brakes being applied when the speed-system is used.

Brake lines that are too short:

- May lead to fatigue from flying with your hands in an unnatural position
- May impede recovery from certain manoeuvres
- Will certainly reduce your glider's speed range.

Brake lines that are too long will:

- Reduce pilot control during launch
- Reduce control in extreme flying situations
- Make it difficult to execute a good flare when landing.

Each break line should be tied securely to its control handle with a suitable knot.

Other adjustments or changes to your Vega III lead to a loss of guarantee, airworthiness and validity of EN certification and may endanger both yourself and others.

If you have any suggestions on improvements let us know and our test pilots will try out your ideas in a controlled situation.



Weight range

The Vega III must only be flown within the certified weight range as shown in this manual. The weight range quoted is the total in-flight weight which includes pilot, glider, harness, clothing and accessories.

Pre-flight safety

Before flying this glider you should:

- Have the appropriate practical and theoretical training
- Have the required licence and insurance
- Be fit to fly and unaffected by stress or drugs
- Wear a suitable helmet
- Use a suitable harness and emergency parachute
- Make a thorough pre-flight check.



3. FLYING THE VEGA III

We recommend you practice inflating your glider before flying it, and make your first flights in gentle conditions on a familiar flying site.

A. Normal flight

Pre-flight check

A proper pre-flight check is essential for safe flying.

Before launch lay the glider out into a slight arc and check that:

- Cell openings are free of obstructions
- Lines are free of tangles or knots
- No twigs, grass or other objects are tangled in the lines
- Risers are correctly connected
- Brake lines run freely through the pulleys
- Knots on brake handles are secure
- Carabiners on risers are closed and/or tightened

Launch

The key to successful launching is to practice ground-handling on flat ground as often as possible. The Vega III inflates easily and steadily using forward or reverse launch techniques. There is no tendency to overshoot the pilot. To forward (alpine) launch in light or nil wind there is no need to pull the risers hard. Allow the glider to stabilise overhead and run positively forward checking the canopy is fully inflated and clear of any knots or tangles. Reverse launching is recommended in strong wind.

Flight

The best glide speed in calm air is achieved in the hands-up position. The best sink rate is produced with both brake lines drawn down equally to about 20% of their range.

Turning

The handling characteristics of the Vega III require no special or non-standard procedures. Brake pressure is progressive. This gives a responsive and sporty feel to the handling. In an emergency (e.g. a broken brake line) the Vega III can be manoeuvred by steering carefully with the rear risers or by weight shift.

Using the speed system

The speed system on the Vega III comes supplied with Brummel hooks ready to attach to your own speedbar of choice. When you have done this, check the speed system runs smoothly by hanging in your harness before flying. In



particular check that the speed system won't be engaged when in normal flight. Unnecessary knots and loops in a speed system are not recommended.

Maximum useable speed is one of the strong points of Axis paragliders and the Vega III is no exception. However, in spite of this exceptional stability, any collapse at full speed will be more severe than the same event experienced at trim speed. Always keep both hands on the controls when flying fast and be ready to release the speed system immediately at the first sign of a collapse. Use the speed system carefully when flying close to the ground or the terrain.

Landing

On your first flights you may be surprised at how well the Vega III glides. Take account of this when making your landing approach and give yourself the opportunity for S-turns or a longer approach than you might be used to.

For a normal, into-wind landing evenly pull the brakes all the way down when you are about one metre from the ground. Under nil-wind conditions, or if you are forced to make an emergency downwind landing, a wrap on each brake will allow you to make a stronger flare.

B. Losing altitude

Most pilots will, at some time, want to lose height. This may be because of a change in the weather, you are at cloudbase and don't want to go any higher, or simply because you want to finish your flight quickly.

Ideally, the best way to lose height is to find an area of sink and stay in it. This way you can fly normally to the ground. However, if there is no sink, or if you are in strong lift and want to go down, a rapid descent method may be needed.

There are three main rapid descent methods:

- Big ears
- B-line stall
- Spiral dive

Each of these descent methods places extra, different stresses on gliders and should be avoided if you want to extend the life of the glider.

It is important these manoeuvres are initially practiced under qualified supervision and preferably during a safety training course.



Big ears

This is the easiest and safest technique for descent while maintaining forward speed. Depending on how much of the wing-tip you deflate, 3m/s to 6m/s sink rate can be achieved. While in big ears your forward speed can be increased by using the speed system.

The Vega III can be steered with big ears in by weight-shift alone.

Initiation: Reach up as high as possible and take hold of the outer A-line on each side of the glider. Pull one in first, maintain direction, and then pull in the second. Hold them in firmly. Make sure the lines are pulled down equally on each side and your big ears are even.

Recovery: Under normal circumstances the ears will come out on their own when the lines are released. Opening may be accelerated by slightly pumping the brakes.

B-line stall

This is an effective way of making a rapid descent but doesn't allow any forward speed.

Initiation: Take hold of the B-risers just below the maillons and smoothly pull them down, twisting your hands until the canopy shows a span-wise crease at the B-line attachment points. It is difficult to pull at first but becomes easier as the aerofoil creases. Your sink rate will increase while your forward speed will reduce to practically zero. Don't release the lines immediately - the glider should be left to settle before releasing.

Recovery: Let go of the risers smoothly but determinedly and symmetrically. The Vega III automatically returns to normal flight without any deep stall tendencies but may dive slightly forward. If the risers are released slowly and very unevenly the glider could start to spin.

Spiral dive

The spiral dive is the most effective way of making a fast descent. During the spiral dive the pilot and glider will experience strong centrifugal forces which strain the glider. As such it should be considered an extreme manoeuvre.

Initiation: Weight shift and smoothly pull on one brake so the glider goes from a normal 360-degree turn into a steep turn and from there into a spiral dive. Once established in the spiral the descent rate and bank angle can be controlled with weight shift and the outer brake.

Recovery: The Vega III recovers from a spiral spontaneously as soon as the brakes are released and weight shift returns to neutral. To exit allow the spiral to



slow for a turn or two by applying outer brake and weight shift then release smoothly. Always finish a spiral dive at a safe altitude.

C. Flying in turbulent conditions

Deflations can occur when flying in turbulence but in most situations the Vega III will stabilise without pilot input. Flying with a little brake applied equally will help to prevent deflations and allow you to experience more direct feedback.

Active flying will help avoid deflations. The aim is to keep the glider above your head in all situations by responding correctly to the glider's movements by using the brakes and weight shift.

It is important these manoeuvres are initially practiced under qualified supervision and preferably during a safety training course.

Asymmetric collapse

The Vega III will normally re-inflate after an asymmetric collapse without input from the pilot, but the wing will turn towards the collapsed side. You should always maintain course and direction by weight-shifting away from the collapsed side. This can be reinforced by applying a small amount of brake on the opposite side to the deflation. If the collapse stays in, the collapsed side can be re-inflated by pumping the brake on the collapsed side in a firm and smooth manner.

If you experience a big collapse while accelerated the canopy will fall behind you due to the difference in inertia between you and the canopy. You must wait until you pendulum back under the canopy before dealing with the deflation. Reacting too early can risk stalling the glider completely. Release the speed-bar immediately if you have a big collapse during accelerated flight and, while keeping weightshift neutral, apply slight brake to the open side. Let the glider enter a turn if space allows in order to avoid a spin or stall.

Symmetric collapse

A symmetric, or frontal, collapse will normally reopen without any pilot input. The Vega III will regain airspeed with a small surge. Be careful not to brake while the glider is behind you as this could induce a stall.

Deep stall

The Vega III has no tendency to either get into, or stay in, a deep stall. If the glider does enter a deep stall, accelerate the glider out of the deep stall by either pushing on the A-risers or by using the speed bar. Never try to steer out of a deep stall. A wet glider has a higher tendency to deep stall, so if you pass through rain accelerate a little and avoid using big-ears until the glider is dry.



Full stall

This is an extreme manoeuvre that should rarely, if ever, be required. To induce a full stall take one or two wraps of the brake lines and pull both of them down smoothly. Hold them down, locking your arms under your seat until the canopy falls behind you and deforms into a characteristic crescent shape. In a stable full stall the canopy will oscillate back and forth. Be careful not to release the brakes prematurely or asymmetrically.

The Vega III recovers from a full stall automatically after the brakes are released. During correct recovery, where the brakes are let up a little to allow air to enter the glider prior to being released when the glider is in front of you, the Vega III shows no tendency to surge strongly in front of the pilot.

If the brakes are released prematurely or too quickly there is a possible tendency for the glider to surge. This can be corrected by simultaneous equal braking on both sides. Be careful not to release the brakes asymmetrically as this can cause a large asymmetric collapse followed by a tendency to enter a spin.

Negative spin

Should a spin occur the Vega III is capable of recovering automatically when the brakes are released. As the glider surges forward slow it down with the brakes to avoid the possibility of [a front collapse or an asymmetric collapse which could cause a cravate](#). Always wait for the glider to be in front of you or above you - never brake while it is behind you as this can risk a stall.

***Remember:** A wrong manoeuvre at the wrong time may change a straightforward situation into a dangerous problem. Extreme manoeuvres also expose your glider to forces which may damage it. Practice these techniques under adequate supervision preferably during a safety training course.*

[Safety notice: The Vega III glider anyhow it is a safe wing can overshoot strongly when negative spin is released, especially when released quickly or behind pilots head. So be careful about this manoeuvre!](#)



4. CARE, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

The materials used to construct your Vega III have been carefully chosen for maximum durability. If you treat your glider carefully and follow these guidelines it will last you a long time. Excessive wear can occur by bad ground-handling, careless packing, unnecessary exposure to UV light, exposure to chemicals, heat and moisture.

Ground-handling

- Choose a suitable area to launch your glider. Lines caught on roots or rocks lead to unnecessary strain on the attachment tabs during inflation. Snagging lines may rip the canopy fabric or damage lines.
- When landing, never let the canopy fall on its leading edge. The sudden pressure increase can severely damage the air-resistant coating of the canopy as well as weaken the ribs and seams.
- Dragging the glider over grass, soil, sand or rocks, will significantly reduce its lifetime and increase its porosity.
- When preparing for launch or when ground-handling, be sure not to step on any of the lines or the canopy fabric.
- Don't tie any knots in the lines.

UV damage

Protect your canopy and lines from unnecessary exposure to sunlight.

Storage

- Avoid packing your glider when it is wet. If there's no other way, then dry it as soon as possible away from direct sunlight. Be careful to avoid storing your canopy when damp or wet: this is the most common reason for canopy degradation.
- Don't let your glider come into contact with seawater. If it does, rinse the lines, canopy and risers with fresh water and dry it away from direct sunlight before storing.
- After flight or when storing, always use the inner protection sack.
- When storing or during transport make sure your glider isn't exposed to temperatures higher than 50°C.
- Never let the glider come into contact with chemicals. Clean the glider with clean lukewarm water only. Never clean using abrasives.
- For long-term storage don't pack the glider too tightly. Leave the rucksack zip open when possible to allow any moisture to evaporate.



Repairs

- Small holes in the canopy can be repaired using adhesive tape.
- Larger repairs or cell replacement should only be carried out by the manufacturer's authorised agent.
- Damaged lines should be replaced by your Axis dealer. When a new line has been fitted always check its length against its counterpart on the opposite side of the wing. After replacing a line always inflate the glider on flat ground to check that everything is in order before flying.
- After tree or water landings always examine the glider carefully. If you suspect the glider may be damaged in any way contact your nearest authorised Axis supplier.
- After 100 hours of flying or two years, whichever is sooner, your Vega III must be checked and tested by the manufacturer's authorised agent.



5. TECHNICAL DETAILS

Based on the highly successful Vega, the Vega III has a slightly changed profile with improved shaping of the wingtips to reduce drag and give better performance.

The aspect ratio of 5.75, the high number of cells (65), and the reduced total line length gives the Vega III its proven high performance.

The inner structure is a direct development from Axis's Mercury competition glider with every third rib reinforced. The changes in the internal structure mean higher passive safety. The canopy is reinforced by tapes which connect attachment points inside the cells – this prevents distortion and helps the canopy keep its form.

A new line system helps to reduce the length of the main lines. The brake attachments have been moved to the trailing edge to create more precise handling and feedback.

All the stitching is on the inside of the canopy for greater protection.

Testing and certification

The Vega III has passed certification EN-C (Vega III small passed EN-B). The certification of each canopy and its serial number is found on the wingtip label. Certification is valid for all harnesses of ABS type. This type of harness allows a certain degree of adjustment to be made to the length of the waist strap. The recommended distance between the carabiners is 42cm.

In common with all other paragliders, when cross-bracing is looser than the recommended 42cm, weight-shift control increases and the glider feels more sensitive. However, automatic recovery from a collapse when using slack cross-bracing can be slower and more unpredictable. When cross-bracing is tighter, the pilot feels more stable but the effectiveness of weight-shift is less effective.

The Vega III has been designed for hill and/or tow launches. It is not a paramotor wing. The use of a power unit, paramotor or motor with the Vega III has not been tested by the manufacturer or by the testing authority.



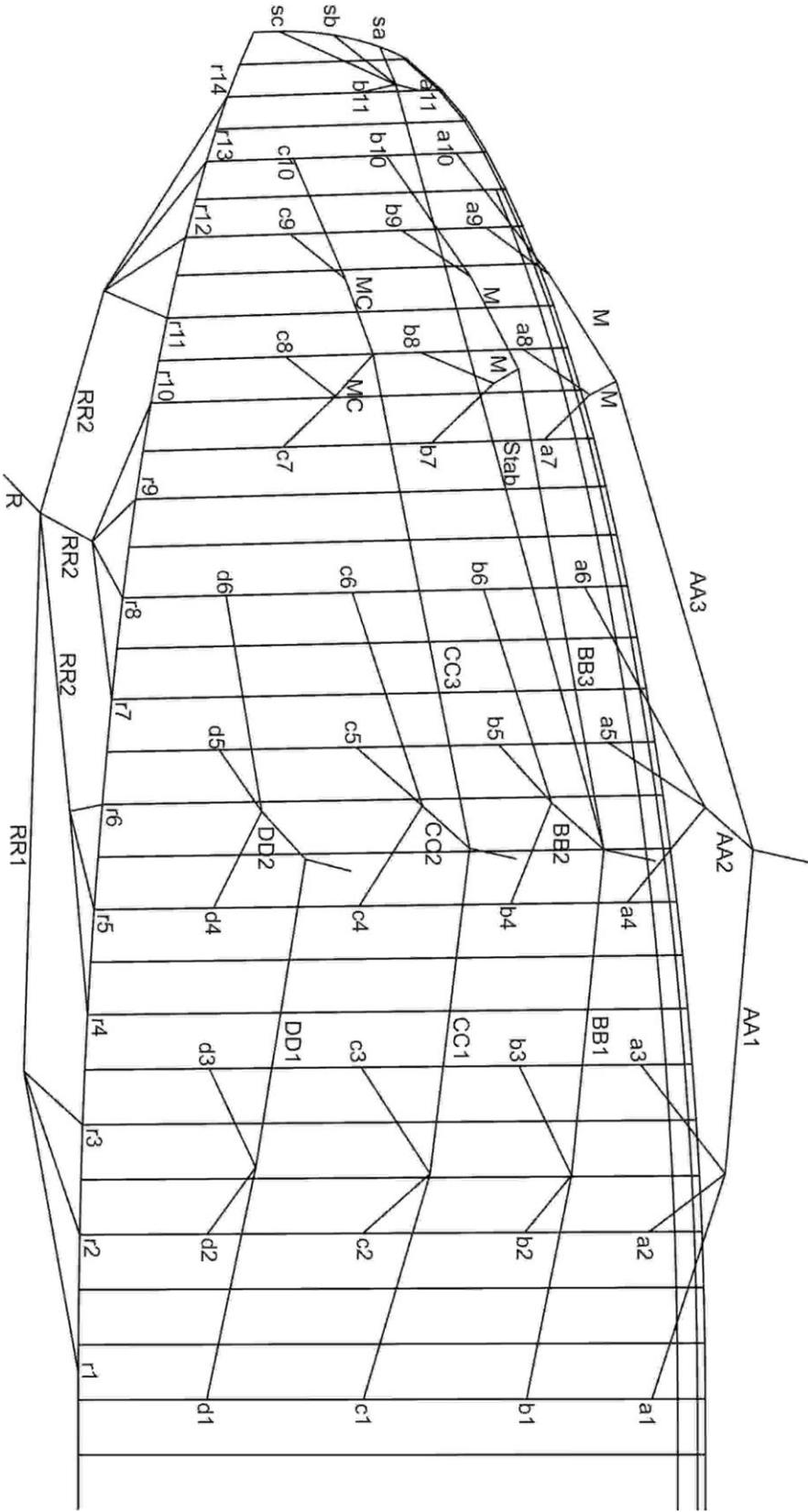
Technical specification

Line plan

AXIS VEGA III NAME/COLLOUR	Material	QUANTITY	(Line length after sewing under 5 daN)			
			XS	S	M	L
			0,92	0,96	1	1,04
A1	DC120	2	2123	2216	2308	2400
A2	DC120	2	2035	2124	2212	2300
A3	DC120	2	2086	2176	2267	2358
A4	DC120	2	2051	2140	2229	2318
A5	DC120	2	1966	2052	2137	2222
A6	DC120	2	1984	2071	2157	2243
A7	Vectraline 12100	2	749	781	814	847
A8	Vectraline 12100	2	644	672	700	728
A9	Vectraline 12100	2	523	546	569	592
A10	Vectraline 12100	2	504	526	548	570
M	Vectraline 16330	4	1104	1152	1200	1248
AA1	PPSL 200	2	4692	4896	5100	5304
AA2	PPSL 200	2	4692	4896	5100	5304
AA3	PPSL 160	2	4692	4896	5100	5304
B1	DC120	2	2041	2129	2218	2307
B2	DC120	2	1951	2036	2121	2206
B3	DC120	2	2007	2095	2182	2269
B4	DC120	2	1977	2063	2149	2235
B5	DC120	2	1900	1982	2065	2148
B6	DC120	2	1929	2013	2097	2181
B7	Vectraline 12100	2	721	753	784	815
B8	Vectraline 12100	2	626	653	680	707
B9	Vectraline 12100	2	515	538	560	582
B10	Vectraline 12100	2	496	517	539	561
M	Vectraline 16330	4	1104	1152	1200	1248
BB1	PPSL 200	2	4692	4896	5100	5304
BB2	PPSL 200	2	4692	4896	5100	5304
BB3	PPSL 160	2	4692	4896	5100	5304
Stab	PPSL120	2	5244	5472	5700	5928
C1	Vectraline 12240	2	2068	2158	2248	2338
C2	Vectraline 12240	2	1980	2066	2152	2238
C3	Vectraline 12240	2	2035	2124	2212	2300
C4	Vectraline 12240	2	2005	2092	2179	2266
C5	Vectraline 12240	2	1930	2014	2098	2182
C6	Vectraline 12240	2	1961	2047	2132	2217
C7	Vectraline 12100	2	793	828	862	896
C8	Vectraline 12100	2	694	724	754	784
C9	Vectraline 12100	2	575	600	625	650



C10	Vectraline 12100	2	543	566	590	614
MC	Vectraline 12240	4	1104	1152	1200	1248
CC1	PPSL 160	2	4692	4896	5100	5304
CC2	PPSL 160	2	4692	4896	5100	5304
CC3	PPSL 120	2	4692	4896	5100	5304
D1	Vectraline 12240	2	2170	2265	2359	2453
D2	Vectraline 12240	2	2085	2175	2266	2357
D3	Vectraline 12240	2	2133	2226	2319	2412
D4	Vectraline 12240	2	2099	2191	2282	2373
D5	Vectraline 12240	2	2023	2111	2199	2287
D6	Vectraline 12240	2	2045	2134	2223	2312
DD1	PPSL 160	2	4692	4896	5100	5304
DD2	PPSL 160	2	4692	4896	5100	5304
A11	Vectraline 12100	2	841	877	914	951
B11	Vectraline 12100	2	842	878	915	952
SA	Vectraline 12100	2	772	805	839	873
SB	Vectraline 12100	2	782	816	850	884
SC	Vectraline 12100	2	860	898	935	972
R1	Vectraline 12100	2	1861	1942	2023	2104
R2	Vectraline 12100	2	2613	2726	2840	2954
R3	Vectraline 12100	2	1644	1716	1787	1858
R4	Vectraline 12100	2	1709	1784	1858	1932
R5	Vectraline 12100	2	1610	1680	1750	1820
R6	Vectraline 12100	2	1588	1657	1726	1795
R7	Vectraline 12100	2	1562	1630	1698	1766
R8	Vectraline 12100	2	1470	1534	1598	1662
R9	Vectraline 12100	2	1443	1505	1568	1631
R10	Vectraline 12100	2	1472	1536	1600	1664
R11	Vectraline 12100	2	1370	1429	1489	1549
R12	Vectraline 12100	2	1299	1356	1412	1468
R13	Vectraline 12100	2	1265	1320	1375	1430
R14	Vectraline 12100	2	1251	1306	1360	1414
RR1	Vectraline 12240	2	2760	2880	3000	3120
RR2	Vectraline 12240	6	2576	2688	2800	2912
R	DFLS 200	2	2944	3072	3200	3328





Specification of materials

Canopy

Upper surface: Porcher Sport: Skytex 9017 E77A, water-repellent, 40 g/m²

Upper surf. leading edge: Porcher Sport: Skytex 9092 E85A, Evolution, 45 g/m²

Lower surface: Porcher Sport: Skytex 9017 E77A, water-repellent, 40 g/m²

Lower surf. leading edge: Porcher Sport: Skytex 9092 E85A, Evolution, 45 g/m²

Ribs: Porcher Sport: Skytex 9017 E29A, hard finish, 40 g/m²

Reinforcement: Porcher Sport: SR Scrim-2420

Thread: Bonded nylon D60, D40

Suspension system

Lines

LIROS: Dyneema DC 120/ comp line, 0.85mm, minimum strength 120 daN

LIROS: Dyneema PPSL 120/ PES cover, 1.15mm, minimum strength 120 daN

LIROS: Dyneema PPSL 160/ PES cover, 1.40mm, minimum strength 160 daN

LIROS: Dyneema PPSL 200/ PES cover, 1.42mm, minimum strength 200 daN

LIROS: Dyneema DFLS 200/ PES cover, 1.42mm, minimum strength 200 daN

Cousin Trestec: Vectraline 12100/ comp line, 0.6mm, minimum strength 50 daN

Cousin Trestec: Vectraline 12240/ comp line, 0.9mm, minimum strength 115 daN

Cousin Trestec: Vectraline 16330/ comp line, 1.0mm, minimum strength 145 daN

Risers:

Guth & Wolf: PES Pre-stretched polyester, minimum strength 2000 daN

Maillons:

Elair Servis: Niro triangle 4/200, minimum strength 200 daN

Speedsystem pulleys:

Riley Fittings Australia, RM 302

Harken USA, Ball Bearing Pulley 467



6. ABOUT AXIS

Axis started to design and make paragliders in 2001. Success swiftly followed and now many of the world's best competition pilots choose to fly Axis. They have won podium places at competitions around the world, including at recent World Cup events and the World Championships.

The lessons learned from these thousands of hours of competition success have been used to develop the Vega III, a new generation of glider.

We welcome feedback from you about your new Vega III. Send it to us at *info@axispara.cz* or *info@axispara.co.uk* (UK pilots).

Please note

We have made every effort to ensure that the information in this manual is correct but please remember it is for guidance only. It is not a training manual. It must not be used as a substitute for proper training under the direction of an approved body.

The manual is subject to change without prior notice. Check the websites for updates and the latest information regarding Axis products.

Enjoy your Vega III !

www.axispara.cz
www.axispara.co.uk