

VERTICAL SUITS: TUNNEL PRO



A NEW ERA of tunnel flying has brought with it a race of productivity from the industry's major suit manufacturers. For the uninitiated, skydiving and tunnel flying may look to be the same thing, with the skills required to succeed easily transferable between the two environments. At the beginning, this is not so far from the truth; however, the more time you spend plying your trade in both contexts, the more apparent the differences become. If you get involved and do lots of both, you'll soon learn to fully appreciate the myriad fabric options for cut and type and fit that are available, and how best to apply these to your body type and style.

Through many years of providing togs to some of the world's best freefly teams (and, crucially, as the company of choice to supply a great many tunnel staff with their instructor suits), Vertical has learned its lessons well. Now, it presents the Tunnel Pro. If you are serious about the tube, you will likely appreciate this addition to the new breed of indoor-specific jumpsuits, designed from the ground up for tunnel flying.


Vertical designed the Tunnel Pro to be flexible where needed, but to avoid the heat-generating shift and flap that can come from an overabundance of Spandex. To this end, the suit is constructed primarily from lightweight Cordura 160, modern fabric technology's best offering for our purposes. Also key: a new cut across the back that has a single piece of windproof Spandex running up the flanks and over the shoulders, keeping the Cordura 160 across much of the back to provide that all important lift and power in a vital area. It is a great suit to fly in. The Cordura 160 is powerful without feeling unruly, the panel design across the back provides freedom and strength while keeping the Spandex under control and the straightforward articulation of the limbs feels natural and unrestricted.

THE PANEL DESIGN ACROSS THE BACK PROVIDES FREEDOM AND STRENGTH WHILE KEEPING THE SPANDEX UNDER CONTROL

The tube has no pity for any ill-fitting suit, and thankfully the Spandex on the Tunnel Pro is well thought out. There is much less of it than, for example, Vertical's bells-and-whistles skydiving suit the Viper, whose additional points of stretchiness – comfortable and advantageous while flying with a rig on – are surplus to the tube's specific requirements.

It is a joy to fly in a suit that fits perfectly without restricting movement, so pay extra care when measuring yourself up for a Tunnel Pro, and follow the video guide on the Vertical website.

If you understand why this suit exists and what it is for, you probably need to get one.

 verticalsuits.com

ADAM DARE is a member of Varial Freefly, the team that won the Dynamic category at World Challenge 2014

