



# Denali

## USER MANUAL

Please read this manual carefully and keep its instructions in mind while using your Denali paraglider.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on buying your new hike&fly glider Denali – GRADIENT's latest basic/intermediate lightweight wing. We believe you will be very happy with your new glider in terms of its flight characteristics, exceptional safety and really nice handling.

Denali is a basic/intermediate paraglider (category EN/LTF-A) and therefore it's meant for the widest flying public: from new pilots to time-served pilots – anyone in fact who wants high performance but also exceptional safety from their paraglider.

This manual provides information which will help you fly safely and keep your wing in good condition. If, after reading this booklet, you have any further questions or if you are uncertain about anything, please do not hesitate to contact Gradient or any authorised Gradient dealer. We will gladly answer all your questions.

We would be pleased to receive your feedback when you get to know your Denali.

## 2. YOUR PARAGLIDER

### 2.1. Technical description

The profile of the glider has been specially developed to deliver maximum stability over as wide speed range as possible. The design and camber of the central curve of the glider give maximum resistance to the collapse of the leading edge. The position and size of the cell openings help support this objective.

The leading edge is reinforced using integrated nylon and elastic. This ensures optimal inflation of the canopy and helps to retain the leading edge in a perfectly clean shape at maximum speed.

The well-proven three-and-half-row and three-riser line concept with progressively differing diameters is used – a system Gradient has been using for years.

Careful selection of lines and materials means the wing-loading is optimised in flight in any situation. Progressive line diameters along the span and chord are already standard in Gradient wings.

Denali is supplied with a three-riser speed-system with two pulleys and wide working range, which gives you great acceleration and maximum speed.

The main C-lines are connected to the karabiners with loops, allowing easier adjustment when your glider is serviced by authorised Gradient service centre.

Optimal cell opening sizes and position ensure efficient air intake at a very wide angle of attack.

Denali is ensuing Gradient glider where we have used Everlast, a new double-coated Porcher material. Everlast was developed by Gradient in co-operation with Porcher Sport, and this exclusive material provides gliders with long-term stability and durability.

Small, simple details make this glider complete. Gradient has paid attention to details too, including: clearing holes on the wing tips; split A-risers with special karabiners; and a new rucksack, inner bag and riser bag.

## 2.2. Technical data

Denali	24	26	28
Flat Area	23.88	26.77	29.48
Projected area	20.24	22.7	24.99
Span	10.73	11.36	11.92
Projected span	8.62	9.13	9.58
Aspect ratio	4.82	4.82	4.82
Projected aspect ratio	3.67	3.67	3.67
Maximum chord	2.74	2.9	3.04
Minimum chord	0.69	0.73	0.76
Number of cells	40	40	40
Line consumption	275.5	291.8	306.2
Weight of the glider	3.9	4.2	4.5
Take-off weight range*	68-80	75-100	90-115
Certification EN / LTF	A	A	A

\*Take-off weight is the weight of the pilot including equipment and paraglider - (approx 15-27 kg)

**Fig 1: Length of the Denali risers (mm)**

Denali 24	A1, A2	B	C
non accelerated	460	460	460
accelerated	370	383	460
Denali 26	A1, A2	B	C
non accelerated	480	480	480
accelerated	385	399	480
Denali 28	A1, A2	B	C
non accelerated	500	500	500
accelerated	400	415	500



## 2.3. Materials

Canopy	Fabric code	Finish	Weight	Material	Supplier
Upper sail-leading edge	Porcher Marine 70032 Skytex	E44A	32 g/m <sup>2</sup>	Nylon 6.6	NCV, France
Upper sail-rear part	Porcher Marine 70032 Skytex	E3W	32 g/m <sup>2</sup>	Nylon 6.6	NCV, France
Bottom sail	Porcher Marine 70032 Skytex	E3W	32 g/m <sup>2</sup>	Nylon 6.6	NCV, France
Ribs	Porcher Marine 70032 Skytex	E4D	32 g/m <sup>2</sup>	Nylon 6.6	NCV, France
Reinforcements	Scrimm F02 420	X15A	180 g/m <sup>2</sup>	PES	NCV, France
Reinforcements	Dacron F06 391	E45A	160 g/m <sup>2</sup>	PES	NCV, France
Reinforcements	Hahl Nylon 6, 2/1200	Ø 2 mm		Nylon 6	Hahl Filaments, CZ
Attachment points	137 128 134AJK000000	13 mm	3 g/m <sup>2</sup>	PAD	STUHA a.s., CZ
Thread	Synton 40		75.2 tex	PES	Amann, CZ
Suspension lines	Line code	Finish	Strength	Material	Supplier
Lines-top level	Liros DC 060 Ø 0.6 mm	uncovered	60 daN	Dyneema	LIROS, Germany
Lines-middle level	Edelrid Aramid A-8000/U-070 Ø 0,70 mm	uncovered	70 daN	Aramid	EDELRID, Germany
Lines-middle level	Edelrid Aramid A-8000/U-090 Ø 0,80 mm	uncovered	90 daN	Aramid	EDELRID, Germany
Lines-middle level	Edelrid Aramid A-8000/U-130 Ø 0,90 mm	uncovered	120 daN	Aramid	EDELRID, Germany
Lines-bottom level	Liros PPSL 120, Ø 1.15 mm	covered	120 daN	Dyneema/PES	LIROS, Germany
Lines-bottom level	Liros PPSL 160, Ø 1.40 mm	covered	160 daN	Dyneema/PES	LIROS, Germany
Lines-bottom level	Liros PPSL 200, Ø 1.42 mm	covered	200 daN	Dyneema/PES	LIROS, Germany
Brake lines	Fabric code	Finish	Strength	Material	Supplier
Lines-top level	Liros DC 060 Ø 0.6 mm	uncovered	60 daN	Dyneema/PES	LIROS, Germany
Lines-middle level	Edelrid Dyneema 7850-100, Ø 1.1 mm	covered	100 daN	Dyneema/PES	LIROS, Germany
Lines-bottom level	Edelrid 7343-280, Ø 2 mm	covered	280 daN	Aramid/PES	EDELRID, Germany
Risers	Fabric code	Finish	Strength	Material	Supplier
Webbing	366 043 015 912/01	15 mm, black	850 daN	PAD	Mouka Tišnov, CZ
Pulleys	16 mm Narrow		113 daN	Inox	Harken
Rings	Low friction ring	R07.07			Antal
Karabiners	MRSI03.5 S12 / MRDI03.0 S10	Ø 3,5 / 3 mm	750 / 550 daN	Inox	PEGUET, France

## 3. CERTIFICATION

Denali is EN-A and LTF-A certified in all sizes.

The EN/LTF certificate for each Denali is on the rib in the middle of canopy. Certification is valid for the use with all ABS harnesses. This type of harness allows a certain degree of adjustment to be made to the length of the waist strap. Between 46 cm and 48 cm is the recommended distance between the karabiners.

Equally with all other paragliders, when looser cross-bracing is used while flying Denali, the pilot's weight-shift control is greater. The glider is also more sensitive to movement in the surrounding air. When cross-bracing is tighter, the pilot feels subjectively more stable, however turning by weight-shift is less effective.

**Warning:** *The Denali paraglider is only built for hill or tow launching. It is not built to withstand jumping from a plane, balloon, building or for any jumps where is a belated opening of the canopy. Use of subsidiary motor (e.g. paramotoring) has not been tested by the manufacturer or by any other testing body.*

## 4. ADJUSTING YOUR GLIDER

Before it reaches the customer, every Denali goes through a final check and test-flight to verify that its characteristics and measurements correspond to the manufacturer's specifications. You may only make adjustments to brake-line lengths or to the speed system of your Denali and only then in keeping with the recommendations of this manual.

Other adjustments or changes to your Denali lead to a loss of guarantee, airworthiness and validity of the certification. Do not endanger yourself and other pilots by amateur modification. If you have any suggestions for improvements let us know and our test-pilots will try out your ideas.

### 4.1. Brake line adjustment

When you receive your new Denali, the main brake lines are adjusted to the length set during the certification test. This length should suit most pilots and is indicated on the main control line. It is of course possible to adjust the brake-line length to suit each pilot's physical build, height of harness hang points, or style of flying. We recommend you to act wisely when adjusting brake-line length and change the length in small, successive steps.

If you need to adjust brakes back to the basic position and the marks on the main brake lines are vague, use the following lengths for relevant size: Denali 24: 220 cm; Denali 26: 235 cm; Denali 28: 245 cm

Brake lines that are too short may:

- Lead to fatigue from flying with your hands in an unnatural position.
- Impede recovery from certain unstable manoeuvres.
- Certainly reduce speed range of your glider.

Brakes that are too long may:

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

Each brake line should be tied securely to its control handle. Use knots that guarantee this, for example Double Dragon.

### 4.2. Speed system

Denali is equipped with a foot-operated speed system as standard. Pressure on the foot stirrup shortens the A and B risers and by this reduces the angle of attack of the canopy. Make sure you can use the whole range when you attach your speed stirrup. For some pilots this will require the use of a two-step speed stirrup.



## 5. OPERATION IN FLIGHT

**This manual is intended as a guide to the characteristic features of your new Denali paraglider. Under no circumstances should it be used as a 'learn-to-fly' manual for paragliding or as a substitute for a training course.**

### 5.1 Standard flight

#### 5.1.1. Pre-flight check

Pre-flight check is essential part of getting ready to fly and that's why you should pay special attention to it. Check the canopy and lines for damage, clear the lines of any tangles, check the riser maillons, speedbar connectors and don't forget to check your harness and your reserve parachute.

**Before launch spread the canopy out in a slight arc and check that:**

- all cell openings are free
- no lines are looped around or under the canopy
- no lines are tangled or have a knot in them
- any twigs, grass or other objects are not entangled in the lines or in the canopy
- the risers are not twisted
- the brake lines run freely through the pulleys
- the knots on the brake handles are secure
- the karabiners on the risers are tightened

#### 5.1.2. Launching

Launching Denali is straightforward, either by a forward or by a reverse launch. A dynamic pull on the front risers (A, coloured red) will bring the canopy simply and easily above the pilot's head. The canopy inflates from the centre equally and smoothly. Denali has no tendency to outrun the pilot and quickly stabilises above the pilot. Once there, visually check the canopy and the lines before the take off. Take off can be easier by a light pull on the brakes.

#### 5.1.3. Flight

Denali is trimmed to fly at best glide when the brakes are fully up. Best sink rate is achieved when both brake lines are pulled down equally to about 10-15% of their range.

#### Flying in turbulent conditions

When flying through severe turbulence, stabilise the canopy with simultaneously applying a little brake to both sides. Flying with a little brake applied will also help to prevent deflations and give you more feedback about the air and how the glider is reacting. Responding correctly to the paraglider's movement by means of the brakes and weight shift is known as 'active flying'. A pilot demonstrating good active-flying skills will significantly reduce both the number and severity of collapses he or she experiences.

#### Turning

Denali is very comfortable and pleasant in turns. Handling characteristics are responsive and accurate and demand no special habits or non-standard procedures. When developing Denali, special attention was devoted to the brake pressure. The result is that the brake travel and pressure have been optimised. Brake pressure is reassuringly progressive. In flight, brakes are firm but responsive and precise and allow perfect

communication with the canopy. You will find that a harness with fairly loose cross-bracing will help the glider turn. In an emergency (eg a broken brake line) the glider can be steered with the rear risers or by weight shift.

## Using the speed system

Maximum speed is one of the strong points of Gradient paragliders and Denali is no exception. Not only has the glider a very high maximum speed, but unlike some other paragliders the full speed range is useable. Don't forget that any collapse at full speed will be more severe than the same event experienced at normal trim speed. Always keep both hands on the controls when flying fast in turbulence and be ready to release the speed system immediately at the first sign of a collapse. Use the speed system very carefully, or not at all at low altitude.

### 5.1.4. Landing

Landing with Denali is very simple and shouldn't cause any problem. On your first flights you may be surprised at how well it glides. Take account of this when making your landing approach! Into wind, at about one metre above the ground pull the brakes down all the way. In nil-wind conditions, or if forced to make an emergency landing downwind, you may prefer to take a wrap of each control line to enable a more dynamic flare.

## 5.2. Fast descent

***Practise these manoeuvres under the supervision of an instructor and with a reserve parachute. Never compromise your safety.***

Sooner or later every pilot will need to descend quickly. It might be because of a sudden and unexpected change in the weather, reaching cloud base and not wishing to enter cloud, or simply because you need to finish your flight quickly. Additionally, if landing is thermic, it is often very difficult to land without using a rapid descent method. There are three main methods for achieving a rapid descent and they are: Big Ears, B-Line Stall and Spiral Dive.

### 5.2.1. Big Ears

This is the easiest technique for a rapid descent. Depending on how much of the wing tip you deflate, 3 m/s to 6 m/s sink rate can be achieved. While in Big Ears your sink rate and forward speed can be further increased by using the speed system. Denali is equipped with split A-risers for easier Big Ears. The glider can be steered while Big Ears are in by means of weight shift.

**Initiation:** Grab the outer A-lines on both sides as high as possible and pull them down smoothly. Hold them firmly. The effective area of the glider is reduced equally on both sides of the wing. The size of the deflated area depends on how deeply the lines are pulled down (or on the number of lines pulled – one or two outer lines on both sides). Be sure to pull both sides equally.

**Recovery:** Under normal circumstances Denali will open automatically when the A-lines are released. Opening may be accelerated by pumping the brakes gently (repeated symmetrical braking on both sides).

### 5.2.2. B-Line Stall

This is a very effective rapid descent technique. Depending on how far the B-risers are pulled down, the sink rate is between 5 m/s and 8 m/s.



**Initiation:** Grab the B-risers at the top and smoothly pull them down until the canopy shows a span-wise crease where the B-lines attach to the canopy. Your sink rate will increase considerably while your forward speed will practically decrease to zero. Don't be startled when the airflow over the top surface is disrupted and the paraglider enters a parachutal stall without moving forward. It will soon stabilise above your head.

**Recovery:** On releasing the B-risers Denali automatically returns to normal flight without staying in deep stall or surging in front of the pilot. Let go of the risers smoothly and symmetrically.

**Caution:** *Do everything symmetrically and at the same time. If the B-risers are released unevenly the canopy can enter a turn. If the risers are released slowly and very unevenly you could enter a spin.*

### 5.2.3. Spiral Dive

The Spiral Dive is the most effective way of making a fast descent. Every pilot should be able to perform a spiral dive and one day you may need to. In a Spiral Dive always stay aware of your altitude, which decreases very rapidly. The sink rate reached in a Spiral Dive can be more than 11-13 m/s. During the manoeuvre the pilot and the glider will experience strong centrifugal forces. Forces greater than 3G are possible – a great strain on the pilot as well as the glider.

**Initiation:** Smoothly pull on one brake so that the glider goes from a normal 360-degree turn into a steep turn and from there into a spiral dive. The transition into a spiral dive can be made easier by weight shifting to the inner side of the turn. Keep an eye on the tension of the brakes all the time: reduced tension signals an overload of the glider and danger of falling into a negative spin.

**Recovery:** Denali recovers from a Spiral Dive automatically as soon as the brakes are released. Release them smoothly and always finish a Spiral Dive with safe altitude.

**Caution:** *When exiting the Spiral Dive make sure your position in the harness is neutral. Recovery from a Spiral Dive can be delayed if you are weight shifting to the inside of the turn.*

## 5.3. SIV manoeuvres

**Caution:** *As we have used very light materials on the glider we do not recommend practising SIV & Acro manoeuvres very often even Denali had passed official shock and load test without any problems.*

No matter what category of canopy you fly or what level of certification it has, in turbulence or in strong thermals you may experience all kinds of collapses. The Denali behaves comfortably in these situations. Indeed, not only does the glider deal with extreme flight situations automatically, but it also offers an above-average degree of safety. Even so, you must follow all safety rules when practising SIV. Always pay attention to your altitude.

### Before performing any SIV manoeuvre remember:

- Practise throwing your reserve on the ground, in a simulator, so that reserve deployment is efficient and automatic.
- Rapid altitude loss and considerable rotational forces may develop during unstable manoeuvres. Take account of this when throwing your reserve.

#### 5.3.1. Asymmetric Collapse – one side of the canopy collapses

**Initiation:** Take hold of the outer A-lines (outer A-riser) on one side and pull them down smoothly. The wing tip will collapse to form a characteristic Big Ear. The size of the ear depends on the depth to which



the lines are pulled as well as the number of lines pulled down. You can stop any turn tendency by applying the opposite brake and by weight shifting onto the inflated side of the canopy.

**Recovery:** Under normal conditions Denali will re-inflate spontaneously when the pulled lines are released. Inflation time and loss of altitude can be reduced by suitable piloting. To stop any tendency to turn off course pull the brake on the inflated side (be careful not to overreact and stall the inflated side) and weight shift to that side. If the collapse remains then re-inflate the collapsed side by 'pumping' the brake on the collapsed side.

### 5.3.2. Full Frontal Collapse

**Initiation:** Take hold of both A-risers at the top and pull them down until the leading edge collapses.

**Recovery:** In normal conditions Denali will recover normal flight automatically as soon as the front risers are released. **Applying the brakes on both sides simultaneously can help re-open the paraglider.**

### 5.3.3. Deep Stall

**Initiation:** Pull both brakes smoothly until the sink rate increases markedly and the forward speed reaches almost zero. The pull on the brakes should be controlled so that the canopy stays inflated and doesn't fall back into a full stall.

**Recovery:** Denali cannot stay in deep stall flight, so after the brakes are released the glider automatically returns to a normal flight. If you need to, you can accelerate recovery by pulling hard on both brakes, followed by a fast release. Or you can pull lightly on the A-risers.

**Caution:** *If you pull too hard on the A-risers you may experience a full frontal collapse.*

### 5.3.4 Full Stall

**Initiation:** Wind the control lines once or twice around your hands and pull both of them down smoothly. Hold them down until the canopy falls behind the pilot and deforms into a characteristic crescent shape. Hold your hands firmly (press them underneath the seat) and be careful that you do not release the brakes prematurely or asymmetrically.

**Recovery:** Denali recovers from a full stall automatically after the brakes are smoothly released. During correct recovery from a full stall Denali shows no extreme tendencies such as a diving in front of the pilot. If the brakes are released prematurely or too quickly there is a possible tendency for the glider to dive ahead of the pilot. This can be corrected by adequate simultaneous braking on both-sides.

**Caution:** *When exiting a Full Stall if the brakes are released asymmetrically the glider may suffer a massive asymmetrical collapse followed by a tendency to enter a spin.*

### 5.3.5. Negative Spin

**Initiation:** Slow down by braking to nearly minimum speed. Then pull a brake on one side all the way down while simultaneously releasing the brake on the other side. Because the stalled side falls back, the canopy suffers airflow disruption over one half of the wing which results in a spin and a rapid loss of altitude.

**Recovery:** Under normal circumstances Denali is capable of recovering from a negative spin automatically when the brakes are released.



**Caution:** *In general, when there is a very fast or a long-lasting rotation and when the brakes are released too quickly, the canopy may shoot in front of the pilot followed by a massive asymmetrical collapse.*

**Warning:** *Whenever a paraglider is not in a normal flight and the airflow is disrupted there is always a rapid increase in sink rate and therefore a substantial loss of altitude.*

**Remember:** *When practising SIV the wrong manoeuvre at the wrong time may change a fairly easy situation into a dangerous problem. You are also exposing your glider to forces that may damage it. Practise SIV manoeuvres only under the supervision of an instructor and with a reserve parachute.*

## 6. MAINTAINING YOUR GLIDER

If you handle your glider with care and store it in a suitable place it can last a very long time. On the other hand, neglecting maintenance, bad storage and the use of unsuitable cleaning products can reduce the lifespan of your glider significantly or may even make it dangerous.

### You must observe to these rules:

- Choose a suitable area for your launches. Lines caught on roots or rocks lead to unnecessary strain on the attachment tabs during inflation. Snagging lines may rip the canopy tissue or damage lines.
- When landing, **never let the canopy fall on its leading edge** in front of the pilot. The effect of these forceful collisions and the sudden increase in pressure can severely damage the air-resistant coating of the canopy as well as weaken the ribs and seams.
- Protect the canopy from unnecessary strain. Inconsiderate handling of your glider – pulling it over grass, soil, sand or rocks – will significantly reduce its lifetime.
- When preparing the paraglider for a launch or when ground handling, be sure not to step on any of the lines or the canopy.
- Don't tie any unnecessary knots in the lines. Packing methods where special knots are made in the lines as used on parachutes and reserve parachutes are not suitable for packing the lines used on paragliders.
- Protect your canopy and lines from unnecessary exposure to sunlight. UV-rays can damage many parts of a paraglider.
- Try **not to pack your glider when wet**. If it's unavoidable then dry it as soon as possible but away from direct sunlight. **Be careful to avoid storing your canopy wet** – this is the most common reason for cloth degradation, and is easily preventable.
- Don't let your glider come into contact with seawater. If it does, rinse the lines, canopy and risers with fresh water and dry 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 degrees Celsius.
- Never let the paraglider come into contact with chemicals. Clean the glider with clean lukewarm water only.
- When packing the glider we recommend concertina folding the reinforced leading edge to avoid damaging the plastic reinforcements.
- For long-term storage don't pack the glider too tightly. Store it in a cold, dry and well-ventilated room.
- After tree or water-landing always examine the glider carefully. If you suspect that the flight features of your paraglider have changed, contact an authorised Gradient supplier as soon as possible.

## 7. CHECKING YOUR GLIDER

After 150 flying hours or two years your Denali must be thoroughly checked and tested by the manufacturer or by a Gradient authorised service centre. This check is primarily focused on:

- Measuring porosity
- Measuring tear strength of fabric
- Sewing of panels, attachment points, cell openings, etc.
- Condition of lines and risers
- Line strength
- Geometry of the suspension system

All data are recorded in the test report. On the basis of the real wing's condition, authorized technician will define the next check interval: under normal circumstances it is two years.

## 8. REPAIRING YOUR GLIDER

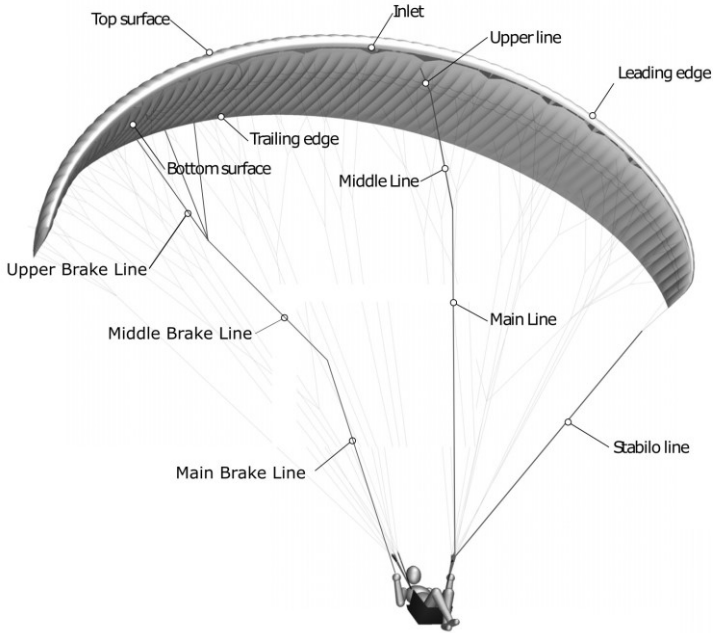
Only small repairs, that don't change the airworthiness of the paraglider, may be done by the user. These include: fixing small tears (but not seams) up to 10 cm; changing damaged lines; and changing rubber line-fixation rings on the small karabiners.

**When repairing your paraglider on your own follow these rules:**

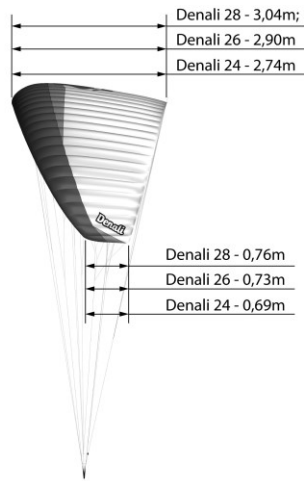
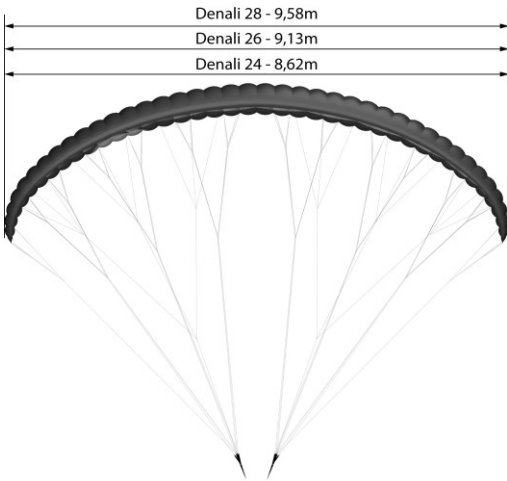
- When repairing the sail use a self-adhesive patch specified for this purpose. Every Denali comes with a small amount of self-adhesive material, which is enough for small repairs.
- The only admissible repairs done on lines are those where the damaged lines are changed for new ones. Lines must be exclusively supplied by Gradient, an authorised dealer or authorised service centre. When ordering new lines use the codes in the attached line diagram. Use the code "DE" (Denali) and tell us the size your glider, followed by the line code. For example, the outside long line in row A for a Denali 28 is: 'DE 28 A 1.3.'
- An exception to this is an emergency repair while out flying. For this purpose Gradient encloses a spare line with every Denali with a prepared loop on one end. To get the right length adjust it accordingly to the same line on the opposite side of the canopy and then, if necessary, attach your brake handle. As soon as you can, change the line for an original one from your authorised Gradient service centre.
- After changing any lines a thorough pre-flight check must be done. Don't hesitate to ask your instructor or an experienced colleague for help. If you're not sure, entrust the job to either the manufacturer or an authorised Gradient dealer.



### 9. DIAGRAM AND DIMENSIONS

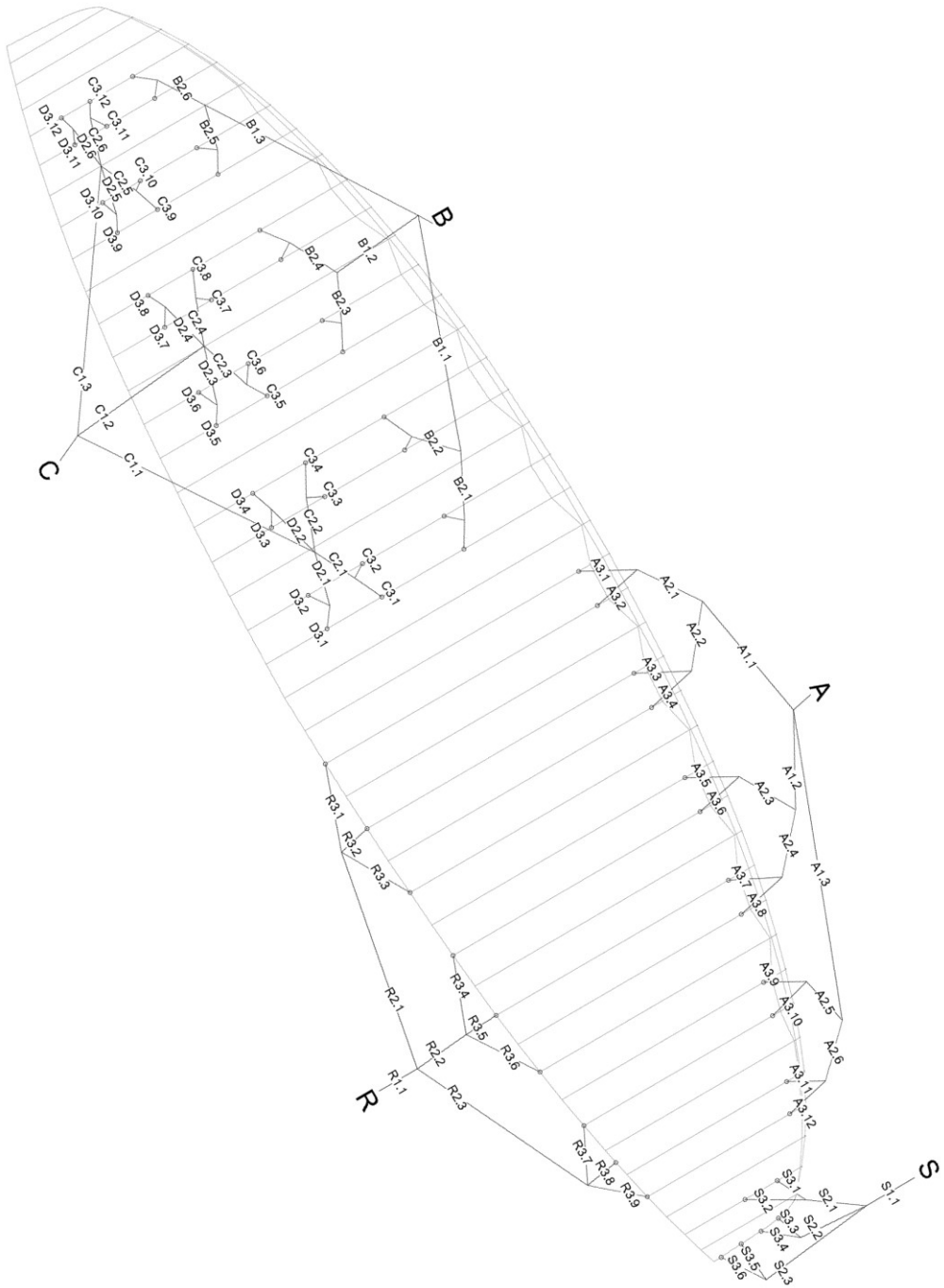


**Denali**



**Denali**

### 10. LINE PLAN



## 11. ENJOY YOUR FLYING

- Even though Denali has outstanding performance and stability it must be understood that even the safest paraglider is an aircraft and that all air sports can be relatively dangerous.
- Remember that your safety lies in your own hands and that it's always your responsibility to be well prepared.
- Never underestimate weather conditions. And never forget that you are flying for pleasure and not to become a 'fallen hero'. Remember this and the fun that only free-flying can bring will be yours.
- We believe that your sensible attitude and the flight characteristics of your Denali will combine to ensure you have many hours of fantastic flying.
- For all our gliders we are using Porcher materials which are made under environmental laws of EU and all the coating has to be environmental friendly.
- When your glider get to the end of its life we recommend to use Porcher recycling Program to dispose it.

**GRADIENT wishes you many fabulous flights and happy landings.**

## 12. CUSTOMER CARE

Please contact your nearest Gradient dealer for any question concerning your Gradient equipment.

You can find a list of all Gradient dealers on our website.

<http://www.gradient.cx/en/Agencies>

For all other questions or requests please email [gradient@gradient.cx](mailto:gradient@gradient.cx)

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