

An emphasis on FINISH & QUALITY



The house of Jimmy Lewis is world renowned for producing kick ass top quality equipment and with the Stun Gun range this trend looks set to continue. Mr Lewis has been creating ocean riding vehicles since 1978, spanning a number of disciplines, and his SUP range has hordes of fans. Surfboards, kiteboards, tow surfboards, foilboards and stand ups all sit side by side in a line that caters for all types of watermen and women – no matter how they choose to tackle Mother Nature.

Tez Plavenieks got his grubby mitts on the Jimmy Lewis Stun Gun 8.7ft to put through its paces as the first swells of autumn roll onto UK beaches – read on to see how it fared.

First look

Straight out of the box the JL Stun Gun 8.7ft wears its distinctive minimalist livery – a familiar trait with all JL boards. No lairy graphics or 'punk as f@#@k' screaming attitude; instead colour schemes are simple with an emphasis on finish and quality workmanship.

Lying on the beach the Jimmy Lewis stick has a very gunny outline; pointed nose, narrow tail and thick voluminous mid-section. There's a fairly pronounced rocker running along the board's profile, suggesting a manoeuvrable personality. A

Futures Fins thruster set up completes the package.

The SG is comfortable to carry and the compact nature even allows it to fit neatly inside most cars, avoiding the necessity of strapping to the roof. All in all the Stun Gun looks like a quality piece of kit ready and willing for wave sliding and I couldn't wait to get it wet.

Conditions

Unfortunately, living in the UK we're very much at the mercy of the inclement weather – presenting challenges when searching for quality conditions. The start of autumn has seen some prolonged bouts of significant swell – both on the south coast and more exposed south western locations. This has also been accompanied with particularly hard blows that have made finding optimum offshore swells tricky.

During the testing period, chest high peelers were the biggest size the SG was thrown at with breaks in the weather short and sweet. This was actually great for testing the 'splash and dash' nature of the Stun Gun.



Heading out

The Jimmy Lewis Stun Gun 8.7ft measures up as 110 litres X 29.5" wide. On paper this should make for a moderately 'sinky' and unstable platform – something that paddlers stepping down from bigger boards will find challenging but have performance to grow into.

SUPs these days are tricky to judge performance wise by simply reading the marketing blurb and the Stun Gun was no different. From those very first paddle strokes it was obvious the SG is a super stable and composed bit of kit – a little bit at odds with the quoted statistics. Intermediates and heavyweights should rejoice as, based on float alone, the Stun Gun would make a great change down stick for paddlers looking at smaller SUPs.

Climbing the froth

Another noticeable trait is how well the Jimmy Lewis climbs over oncoming white water. The pronounced nose and ample rocker ensures getting over approaching humps is made slightly easier.

Standing in the centre of the board, adopting a surf stance, and giving a few powerful strokes should see most SUPers getting out back in a quick and efficient manner. One word of warning though; if you should step back too far then the narrow tail sinks quickly and could see you dunked in the drink.

Drop, lock and load

Once in the zone it's easy to manoeuvre into positions should you need to sweep wide or long to avoid clean up sets or place yourself better for those bigger bombs. The Stun Gun is a long SUP for its quoted volume and width and this helps with tracking as you paddle around the break.

Taking off is also a breeze as the glide helps with dropping in early and as long as you stay in the sweet spot, until you've reached terminal velocity, paddlers will have no troubles picking up waves from way out back.

Shralping

Initially I was sceptical as to how hard I'd be able to turn the Stun Gun. Boards this long and stable are often inhibited when it comes to carving. I was therefore pleasantly surprised when I laid the board on its rail during that first bottom turn. Like a knife through butter it cuts progressively through the water, projecting the rider back up to the lip in preparation for



Specification

Four sizes starting at 8.2ft for the 150lb and under surfer and continuing with the 8.7ft, 9.2ft and 9.7ft.

Five fin box setup

8.2ft and 8.7ft have five future boxes but is supplied with a 4.5" thruster set of fins. The 9.2ft and 9.7ft will have four future boxes plus a centre US finbox. The supplied fins with the 9.2ft and 9.7ft will be a 5.5" centre fin and 5" future side fins.

the next move. Banking off the bottom the thruster fins held well and at no point did I feel like I would lose the tail.

Carving off the top and bashing a lip was extremely rewarding with full G redirects a possibility with weight and technique behind the turn. Light or featherweights may struggle slightly to get the most out of lip smacking as there's still a decent amount of board underfoot.

Sliding the tail out didn't come particularly easy, although it could still be done. However, if you're a skate style rider then the Stun Gun in small to medium waves probably isn't the board for you – you'd do better with the 8.2ft.

Summing up

The Jimmy Lewis Stun Gun 8.7ft really surprised me. Out of the box I expected it to perform similarly to other boards of this size, volume and width. It actually turned out to be a lot easier and therefore would be perfect for an intermediate SUP surfer taking his/her first steps in the world of short surf SUPs. Although compact the Stun Gun feels bigger than its stats would lead you to believe – heavyweights would do well by choosing this size.

For advanced riders, the Stun Gun would make a perfect stick if riding at a choppy or windy break when a bit more stability is needed. It's also perfectly suited to heading offshore and searching out those big wave bombs. With a healthy amount of length to get you to your destination and drop in early the Stun Gun would be a magic big wave SUP.