Korda's - Kris 10.1 Review

Diameter and Weight

At 10.1mm thick, I expected this rope to be heavier and more cumbersome. In stark contrast to other thick ropes we work with, the Kris 10.1 felt like a much thinner rope for its size, in terms of both weight and handling. Although at 65 grams per meter this rope is not the lightest on the market, it is lighter than other ropes of similar diameter and you still get the durability of a thick rope, despite it not feeling like one.

Handling

The Kris 10.1 handles like a dream. Although a thick rope, it pays out ultra smoothly from both tubular style and assisted breaking devices - and bonus points for working well with the increasingly popular Mega Jul belay device, which is designed to work with thinner ropes. The suppleness of the uni core design makes it easy to pull and clip with, and coiling is also no hassle. The smooth and easy handling of this rope was the stand-out feature in these tests.

Catch

Falling on this rope is a softer catch than many others. Compared with the usual impact force of 9 - 9.5kN for ropes of a similar diameter, the impact force rating of the Kris 10.1 is extremely low at only 8.5kN. I am happy to take repeated big falls on this rope and expect a decent catch, as well as the added peace of mind when trad climbing that the extremely low impact force rating won't pull my gear.

Durability

I have only used this rope for a few weeks, however after many sessions both the gym and outdoors there are no signs of sheath wear so far. In fact, it still feels like brand new. With 0mm sheath slippage due to the interwoven sheath and core design (uni core), I expect its condition to stay fresh for a good while yet.

Weatherproofness

The Kris 10.1 is coated with Total Dry, a thermo-chemical finishing that claims to absorb less water and never freeze (according to the user's manual). We tested this in the most extreme conditions, having soaked the rope through before leaving it in freezing conditions overnight - and yes, it did freeze. To The manufacturer's credit, these conditions are pretty uncommon, and the rope did completely dry out within half a day at warm-room temperature.

Conclusion

The Kris 10.1 is a good, durable diameter for working those hard projects without feeling like you are hauling up a big rope at every clip. With its relatively light weight you don't notice the size, and combined with the uni core design, you can expect this rope to last - at only \$269 for 60m, you will definitely get your money's worth, and more. With incredible handling and such a low impact force rating, the Kris 10.1 is a delight to belay with, climb on, and fall on. This rope responds excellently to showers at the crag, where its Total Dry treatment serves it well, seeing it dry out remarkably quickly. You could even venture into the mountains with it, however one rope can't be perfect for every situation, and the Kris 10.1 is definitely more perfect for rock. Whether you are a hard core sport climber, seasoned trad climber, or new to climbing altogether, this rope will serve you well.