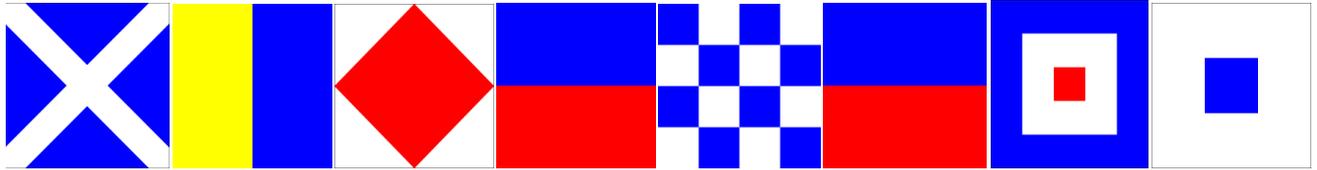


MKF@NEWS

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE
MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS OF GREAT BRITAIN



SEPTEMBER 2016 EXTRA SPECIAL EDITION



SKYBUMS 30 YEARS



The story so far.....



MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS

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A CELEBRATION OF THIRTY YEARS MAKING AND FLYING KITES IN GREAT BRITAIN



Paul and Helene Morgan have been working as professional Kite Makers and Kite Fliers for thirty years. Starting way back in 1986 as 'Morgan Kites' and later as 'Skybums' they are one of a very few who have made a successful career out of our hobby.

The Midlands Kite Fliers (started back in 1979) are extremely happy and very proud to congratulate 'Skybums' on their successes to-date. This special edition newsletter is our way of thanking them for all the hard work and humour that they both have contributed to British Kite Flying.....

I hope you find something that reminds you of Paul and Helene's efforts and is of interest.

Bill Souten Ed.

IT ALL STARTED WITH A ROKKAKU



The original Rokkaku made by Paul and Helene way back when..

I first meet Paul and Helene at a Kite Workshop I had been asked to run at the then newly opened Gateway Education and Arts Centre in Shrewsbury. Unlike ALL the other students they wanted to make a 6 foot Rokkaku – not a simple Sled or Eddy like everyone else.....
I believe that says enough about this pair - the rest is now history.





Touch the Sky

Paul and Helene Morgan have been designing and building high quality, high performance kites in Shropshire since 1986.

Both Paul and Helene went to Shrewsbury Art School before going to Art College. Paul took a course in Illustration and Graphic Design in Cambridge and Helene studied Fashion and Textiles along with Business Studies in Brighton. In 1982 they took their two year old son on holiday to the coast and bought a quicksilver mylar octopus kite. Two year olds soon become bored and play with other things but the kite was flown all day. The following day a larger serpent kite was purchased and they became hooked. From that day forward kites became a bigger part of life. Trips to the library followed to find kite books and plans. Helene taught Paul to use a sewing machine and the first kites took shape. Around this time they noticed a kitemaking workshop advertised and they signed up. The workshop was run by Bill Souten of the Midland Kite Fliers. The kite they built was a 2m Tyvek Rokkaku which was painted with a ladies face. After this they started altering existing designs, then designing their own kites until, in 1986, Morgan Kites was set up and they started selling kites to the public at festivals around the country. At the first Bristol Kite Festival they met Andy King of the Kite Store and started selling through them. In 1991 they wrote "The Book of Kites", published by Dorling Kindersley, and in 1992 changed the company name to Sky Bums to

coincide with the opening of their shop in Shrewsbury. At around this time there was an explosion of kite shops around the country. By 1995 they decided shop keeping was not for them and returned to what they do best. Designing and building kites, banners and windsocks. Paul and Helene still work full time from home and produce all their kites themselves. In the past few years other jobs have come along working with the same materials. These include working with Carl Robertshaw on stage sets for the likes of Peter Gabriel, Antony and the Johnsons and others as well as designing and building the construction prototype of the Windrush ship for the Olympic opening ceremony. Other promotional work includes companies like Orange, Northern Electric, BP, John Lewis, Sainsburys, Samsonite and Ecotricity. They also run kitemaking workshops of their own for kite clubs in this country as well as at Fort Worden in USA. They teach at schools, colleges and teacher training courses as well as giving demonstrations and displays. In 1998 they took over the running of the Shrewsbury Kite Festival (first started by the MKF). A few changes of venue and the festival is now known as the Shropshire Kite Festival which, this year is to take place on the 9th and 10th August at Lacon Childe School in Cleobury Mortimer.

We are often asked how the name Sky Bums came about. In the early days of Rokkaku fighting in Britain there were individual and team competitions and each team needed a name. These included The Blitz, The Boop Troup, The Decorators and The Snowdon Yetis as well as many others. We called ourselves The Upper Severn Sky Bums. Upper Severn because we were based in Shrewsbury and Sky Bums because of the nomadic lifestyle of going to festivals each weekend (think beach bums but flying kites instead of surfing). When we finally opened the shop we wanted a catchy name so shortened the team name. It took three goes for the bank to approve the name but we were determined.

We try to make all our kites as individual as possible so our customers have something unique. It sometimes feels we get bogged down making the smaller kites but we are determined not to outsource to the far east. We enjoy being challenged with different projects

and ideas, a lot having short deadlines, but also enjoy having time to come up with ideas for both new kites and artistic designs to decorate our existing range.

The photos show some of that range, both old and new.

Deltas. We were originally asked by the Kitestore to build a camera lifting platform in 1987. The Mega Delta was the result. The following year we produced the larger Sled Delta. With the advent of the flowtail delta, rather than copy we decided to design our own variation and our longkeeled Delta was born.

Bees. New for this year this pair of carbon framed yakkos on a bar was designed as a workshop kite for the Margam festival. It draws inspiration from the Chinese swallows.

3do. This variation on the Edo of Japan, first designed in the mid 90's has three bows and lends itself to many decorative designs. This version is the first of a new "touch the sky" range. Customers can send their own finger print and have it appliquéd on to a kite of their choice. You can't get much more unique than that. The tallest 3do we have made had 21 bows.

Multisled. This was in the range when we started in 1986 and was designed as a cheaper and simpler alternative to the parafoil. This is a revamped version of the lifter for 2014.

Powerpack. This is another variation on one of our original designs, the 6pack. We have been playing around with making a bigger version for a while and last year we made the double sized version. A light spar at the root of each keel and one less keel are the only differences. For this year we have added another size at approximately 4 sq m.

Fish/Snake Pennants. These colour matched pennants were designed for an event on the Isle of Wight, which had a nautical theme. They look great on the flying line and also grouped together on poles.

Inflatable Horses and Dragons. Our first inflatable windsock was a teddy bear

designed and made in 1988 for the first Dieppe kite festival we attended and was featured on French television. The Horse windsock was designed at the beginning of 2006 and was first tested on Cleeve Hill, Cheltenham. Following that three different horses were flown on the race course (very apt) at Chester kite festival where Sky Bums celebrated its 20th anniversary. The horses come in two different sizes, 2m and 4m, and larger ones can be made. In 2013 a Donkey version was designed. Having produced a series of dragon designs for banners and windsocks there appeared to be many on the market so it wasn't until Brenda and John Southerton asked if a dragon / linemarker / structure to hang from the line could be made that one was produced in 2013. Look out for the next idea from the drawing board.

Cupid

This kite was designed in 2012 and is a variant of the Della Porta . A series of seven different doll designs were made: Choir boy, Dracula, Devil, Angels, Cupid and Fairy. You can see a train of five of them on our website.

The ba 12.

"ba" in Egyptian means spirit rising to heaven. The ba kite was first designed in 1990 when we had an Egyptian theme (as each year we had a new theme for our banners etc). The first ba was a single cell which then progressed into a 3cell, 6cell and 12cell. In the process of erecting a ba 6 that lay on the floor (the 4 sets of bottom spars had yet to go in) the cover was folded by the wind and the tapered ba 6 was visualised. Then the mini tapered ba and the tapered ba 3 followed.

The Basque

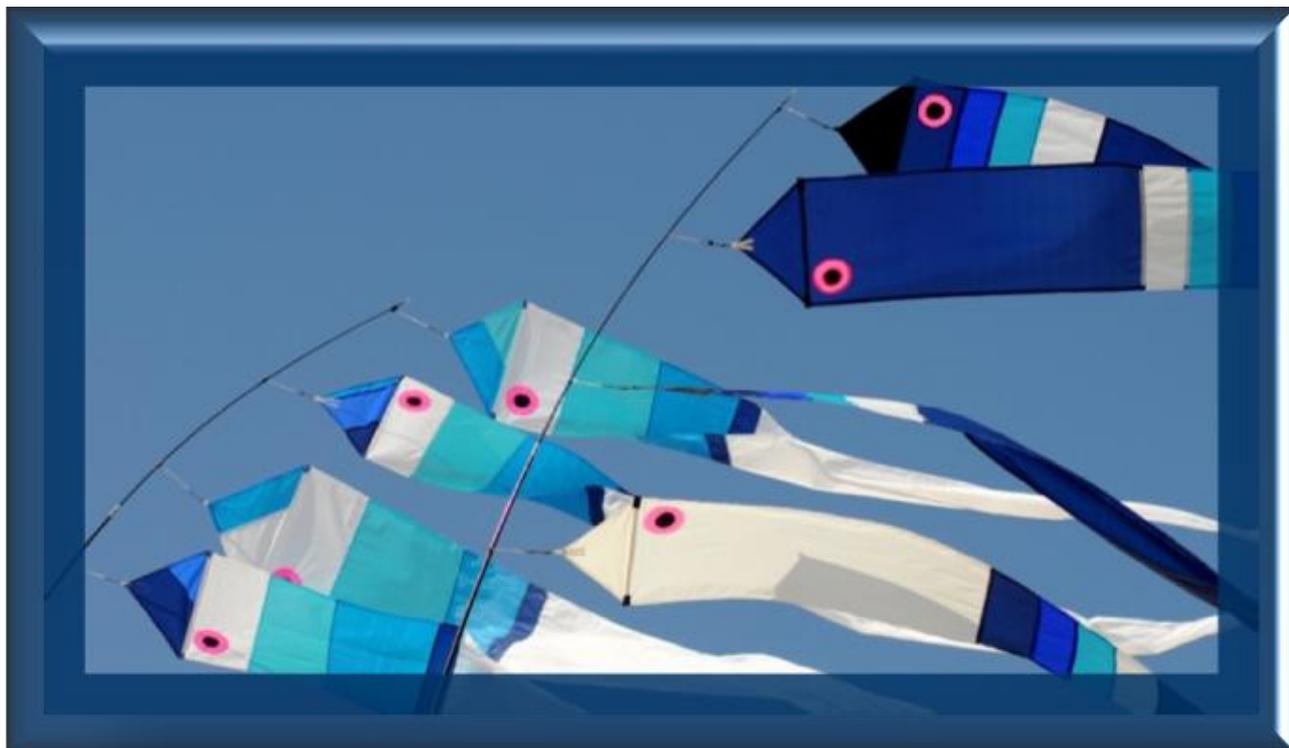
In 2003, having displayed two mini tapered ba s close to each other the idea of the basque was formed thus starting our underwear theme. After adding frills and lace to the basque, our midge kite was made into a pair of frilly knickers. These were inspired by Tony Slaters pants fighter which was from a design by Dom Martin in 2004 and prior to that a Nishi design from Japan. We could have used the Pippa kite as it would have lent itself perfectly. The fighter we then gave to Tony as a Christmas present and made some up for sale. From the

Basque came a one off black fox kite and then other coloured foxes followed.

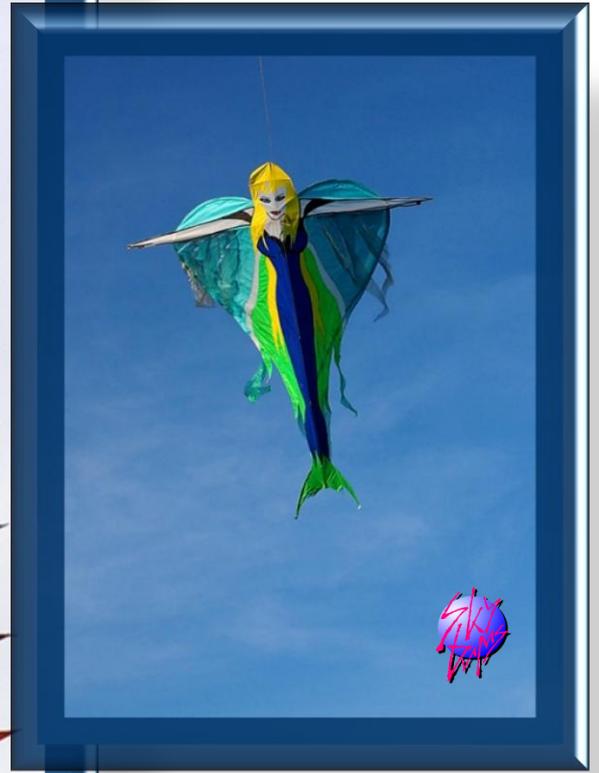
Water Nymph (wasser frau)

For some time we have been playing around with designs for mythical beings such as the Mimis (Australian rock spirit) (2005), Silkies (seals that come ashore shed their skins and take on human form) (2012) both based on the original ba. In 2013 the water nymph (a female water spirit) was actually made. This kite has two long floaty tails (not shown due to light wind) which suggest the Nymph rising from the water with the water flowing back down to earth. The tails are only needed in stronger winds. Many other designs are on the drawing board. We need more time to make them all up but manage a few in the quieter times.

More photos and designs can be found on our website www.skybums.com







' WHAT THE PAPERS HAVE SAID! '



● ABOVE: One of the organisers of the kite festival, Helen Morgan, with one of her designs.

Training for Care OPEN DAY

Wednesday 5 July, 3.00-8.00pm
Radbrook College, Radbrook Road, Shrewsbury

Information, Guidance and Qualifications for those working or wish to work in the Caring Profession. Find out about opportunities for:

- Anyone wishing to enter the Caring Profession
- Carers - NVQ Levels 2 & 3 Preparation
- Supervisors and Managers
- Career Progression - Higher National Certificate
- Career Planning - paid & voluntary work opportunities
- First Aid, Health & Safety qualifications and more...

Please contact Bob Worton for further details.

Email: prospects@shrewsbury.ac.uk Website: www.shrewsbury.ac.uk

Bob Worton

Tel: 01743 342664



The sky's no limit for kite fliers!

Words by Liz Gray and pictures by Pete Flemmich

THOUSANDS gathered to see the sky above Shrewsbury fill with kites of all shapes, sizes and colours at the town's 18th Kite and Boomerang Festival.

The two-day event held at Sundorne recreation ground on Saturday and Sunday attracted enthusiasts from all the country and even from abroad.

The festival is held annually in conjunction with Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council and one of the organisers, Paul Morgan, said they were pleased with this year's attendance.

"Interest in kite-flying is growing and the boomerang section was also well-supported," he said.

Spectators

"The weather was a little too windy on the Saturday but we held a number of successful competitions."

There were more than 100 kite-flyers from various clubs across the UK as well as a couple of thousand spectators who came to watch.

"In the boomerang section we had throwers from countries including Denmark, Switzerland, Holland and Germany," said Mr Morgan.

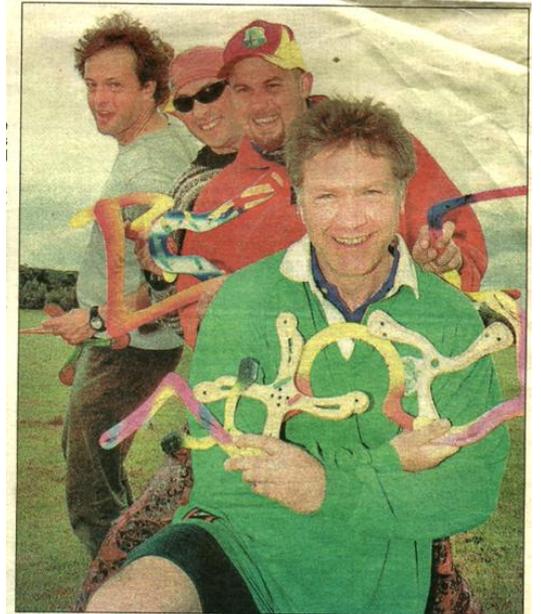
Among other events there was also a beer lifting contest where one man managed to lift ten cans of beer off the ground with his kite and hold them for a minute. There were also a number of trade stands.



● ABOVE: Tony Slater from Sundorne, secretary of the Shropshire Kite Group.
● BELOW: Youngsters Chloe Ward, aged seven, and Ben Chard, two, enjoying the event.



The sky's no limit for kite fliers!

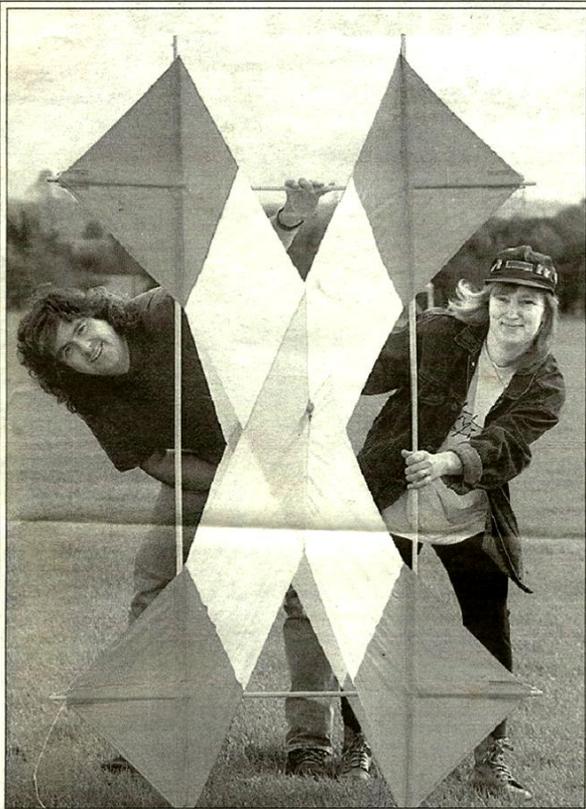


● ABOVE: Flexing their throwing arms Sean Slade, president of the Boomerang Society, Andy Furniss, Flo West and Mark Lisney.
● BELOW: Holly Meredith, aged seven, and Corey Wycherley, eight, both from Shrewsbury, get to grips with a giant kite.



Shrewsbury Chronicle - Thursday 29th June 2000





SKY'S THE LIMIT: High flying kite fans can take part in a kite workshop which will be held at the Gateway Education and Arts Centre in Shrewsbury on October 24-25 and 28-29 for children on their half term break. The workshop is being run by Paul and Helene Morgan who have their own kite company called Sky Bums.

Shropshire Star - Thursday 19th October 1995

Kite fans ready to reach for the sky



Helene Morgan, of Skybums Kites based in Shrewsbury, gets things ready for the Kite and Boomerang Festival to be held at Sundorne recreation ground on the 23-24 June. There will be kite stalls and competitions such as altitude sprint, beer lifting and can clobbering.

Shropshire Star - Wednesday 13th October 2001



Paul Morgan tries to launch one of his kites for the cameras.

Shropshire Star - Thursday 17th April 1997

Kite duo flying high on TV show

A Shrewsbury kite making duo were flying high yesterday when a TV crew filmed them for a special feature on day time television.

Paul and Helene Morgan, who run Sky Bums from their home in Sunnyfields, Shrewsbury, will have their kite making and flying skills aired to the nation on tomorrow's edition of This Morning.

They have also been invited to appear live on the show talking to day time TV's best known couple, Richard and Judy, about their unusual job.

Delighted Paul said: "We have written a book all about kites and I think the show's producers must have got to hear about us through the publishers."

Sky Bums make a range of kites from simple fun kites costing £3.50 to huge ones costing around £600 that can drag a buggy with a person in it along the floor.





The story in 'old' photographs.



Johnny Barker and the 'Ferry Droque'



Lunen 1993
Helene & Yanneka



Our first 'Blackheath'



Julian - Oldest Shropshire Kite Flier



Blackheath



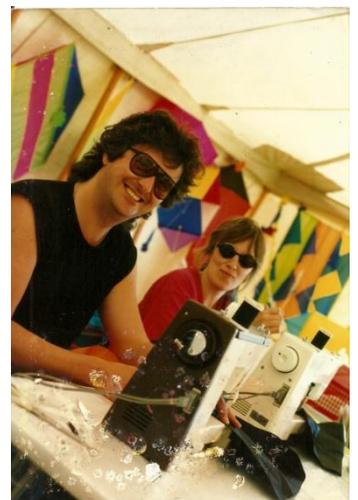
Kite Collection - Glasgow



Book Launch at 'our' shop



Just drinking!!!



First York Festival





Rokkaku Fighting At Weymouth



Young and ??????????



Steerable PlaySail.



Steerable PlaySail.



1991 Catalogue Cover



Opening the shop with friends.

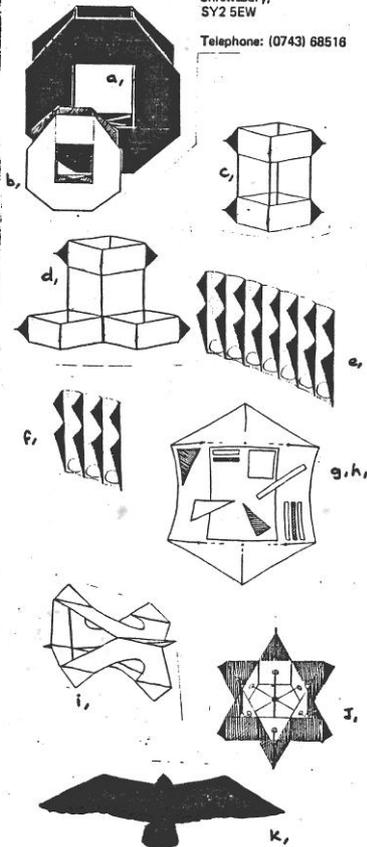


Steerable PlaySail.

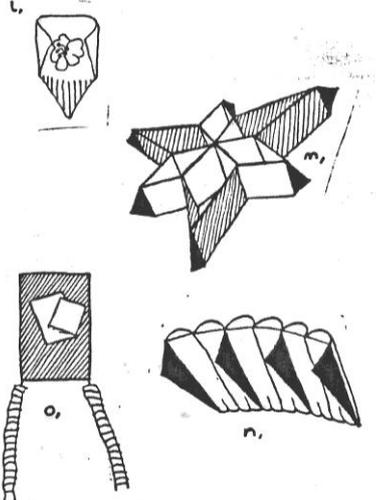
The Morgan Kites Collection. 1987

7, Sunnyfields, Bell Lane, Shrewsbury, SY2 5EW
Telephone: (0743) 68516

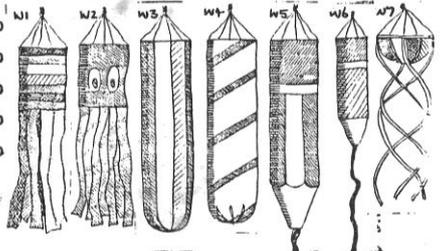
- a, The Black Hole. £82.50
The Black Hole is an octagonally faced box kite made from gold-backed black ripstop nylon. It is 2m tall, 2m wide and 1m deep. Light to Moderate. 200lb line.
- b, The Cirrus. £25.00
This is the 1m version of the above kite. Single or double colours. To order only. Light to Moderate. 50lb line.
- c, The Rhombbox. £16.50
A fibred rhomboid box kite. Easy to assemble and fly. 1m high with adjustable tensioning. Light to Moderate. 50lb line.
- d, The Aerhombbox. £29.00
This is the three celled version of the above kite. 1m high with a 2m wingspan. Light to Moderate. 70lb line.
- e, The Multisled 7. £37.50
Looking and acting more like a parafoil this kite flies in a wide range of winds at a very high angle. 1m high and 1.75m wide. Rainbow colours. Light to Strong. 200lb line.
- f, The Multisled 3. £17.00
A three celled version of the above kite. Gentle to Fresh. 100lb line.
- g, The Rokkaku (2m). £47.50
Very stable, high flying kite. Attractively applied in various designs. Ideal for aerial photography. Light to Moderate. 200lb line.
- h, The Rokkaku (1m). £16.00
Smaller version of the above kite. Light to Moderate. 50lb line.
- i, The Optic Box. £13.00
An unusual shape in the sky. It is flown off a single tow-point. 1m long. Adjustable tensioning. Moderate to Strong. 25lb line.
- j, The Morgan Star. £21.00
A three coloured, multifaceted, single celled box kite. 1m across. Gentle to Fresh. 25lb line.
- k, The Bussard. £10.50
Brown ripstop, flapping wings and stability give this bird kite an uncanny realism as it hovers in the sky. 1.6m wingspan. Light to Moderate. 25lb line.



- l, The Fringe Sled. £2.75
Ideal for the younger flier. Ripstop and fibre-glass. Light to Moderate. 25lb line.
- m, The Nova. £31.50
A larger star kite that flies at a very high angle. 1.5m across. Gentle to Fresh. 50lb line.
- n, The 6-Pack. £17.50
It has six cells and packs into your pocket. 90 cm across the face. Light to Moderate. 25lb line.
- o, The della Porta. £8.50
A rectangular kite with a 7m loop tail. Attractively applied. Light to Fresh. 25lb line.



- w1 Rainbow Windsock. £18.00
7 colours. 2m long.
- w2 Octopus Windsock. £15.00
Black with white eyes. 2m long.
- w3 Spinning Rainbow Windsock. £20.00
2m long.
- w4 Spiral Windsock. £15.00
Barberpole effect. 2m long.
- w5 Pencil Windsock (Large). £20.00
2m long with 3m tail.
- w6 Pencil Windsock (Small). £7.50
Over 1m long with 1.5m tail.
- w7 Spiral Drogue. £3.50



Line (wound on handle)		
25lb	150m Twist	£ 7.50
70lb	150m Twist	£17.50

Line (wound on card)		
100lb	150m Braid	£3.50
200lb	150m Braid	£4.00

Mail Order.
Please add £1.50 per kite.
Add 50p for line if separate.
The Black Hole and Rokkaku(2m) are too large for posting.

MORGAN KITES

- Cirrus £25.00
- Black Hole £65.00
- Rhombbox £15.00
- Aerhombbox £27.50
- Rokkaku (2m) £45.00
- Rokkaku (1m) £15.00
- Multi-sled (7 cell) £37.50
- Multi-sled (3 cell) £15.00
- Optic Box £12.50
- Morgan Star £18.50
- Malay £ 6.50
- Fringe Sled £ 2.75

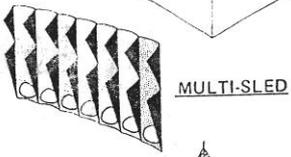
- Spiral Windsock £15.00
- Spinning Rainbow Windsock £20.00
- Pencil Windsock £ 7.50
- Spiral Drogue £ 3.50

Line (wound on card)		
25lb	150m Twist	50p
50lb	150m Braid	£ 3.00
100lb	150m Braid	£ 3.50
200lb	150m Braid	£ 4.00

Other sizes can be acquired.

7, Sunnyfields, Bell Lane, Shrewsbury, SY2 5EW
(0743) 68516

ROKKAKU



MULTI-SLED

MORGAN STAR



BLACK HOLE

RHOMBOX



OPTIC BOX



CIRRUS

Mail Order.
Please add £1.50 per kite.
More kites will be available for the Christmas period, including Birds and printed miniatures. Contact nearer then for full list.

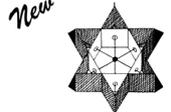
Promotional kites and windsocks also undertaken.

THE OPTIC BOX



Flown in moderate to strong winds this kite is an unusual shape in the sky. It is 1m long and, like the Rhombbox, has adjustable tensioning.

THE MORGAN STAR



This is a three coloured, multifaceted, single celled box kite flown like the Leomru. It is 1m across. Adjustable tensioning.

THE CIRRUS/THE BLACK HOLE

THE CIRRUS

The Cirrus is a single or two colour, octagonally faced box kite that flies at an angle and in winds more usually associated with deltas (3-15 m.p.h.). It is easy to assemble and flies on 50lb line. It is approximately 95cm square. The Cirrus also stacks simply and beautifully.



THE BLACK HOLE

This kite, a big brother to the Cirrus, is made from either silver or gold backed black ripstop nylon. It is twice as big as the Cirrus, giving four times the lifting area, but it still retains all the flying characteristics of the smaller kite. The Black Hole is flown on 200lb line.

SPIRAL DROGUE

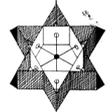
Can be used as a drogue or even as a line decoration.

PENCIL WINDSOCK

Can be used as a line decoration or even as a drogue.

Kites and Windsocks also made to order.

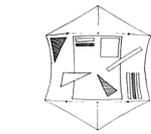
MORGAN KITES



7 Sunnyfields, Bell Lane, Shrewsbury, SY2 5EW

Telephone: (0743) 68516

THE ROKKAKU



Traditional Japanese design and modern materials make this a powerful, but very stable, high flying kite. The 2m X 1.7m face is attractively applied in various designs. Flown on 200lb line this kite flies in 7-20 m.p.h. winds. This Rokkaku is regularly used for aerial photography. A smaller, printed Rokkaku is also produced. At 1m high it flies on 50lb line.

THE MALAY

This 80cm tall bowed Malay can be flown in a wide range of winds on 25lb line. Very attractive two colour kite with 2m long, three stranded tail.

THE MULTISLED



Looking and acting more like a parafoil this is another powerful kite that flies in a wide range of winds and at a very high angle. The Multisled is built in rainbow colours and with its long bridle lines fanning out from the towing point it looks stunning in the sky. It is flown on 200lb line and is 1m high 1.75 wide.

THE RHOMBOX



This fibred rhomboid box kite is flown in a wider range of winds than a standard box kite (5-20 m.p.h.) due to the more efficient angle of the cells. It is a good looking two colour kite (the wings being a contrasting colour to the cells) that is easy to assemble. The Rhombbox is 1m in length and is flown on 50lb line. Another feature is an adjustable tensioning system on each cell.



2005



2012



2011



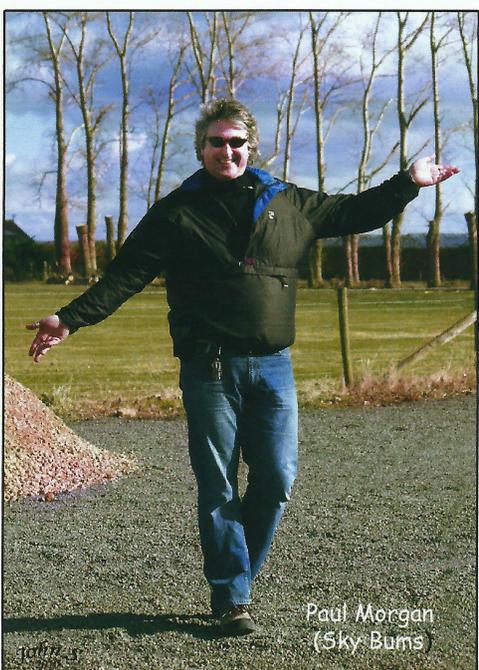
2007



2006

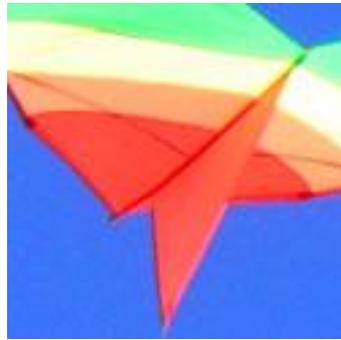
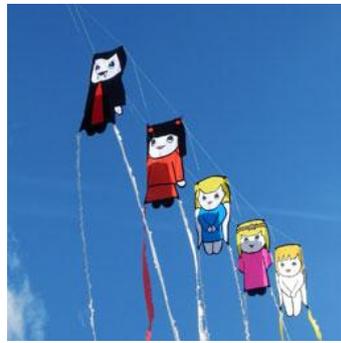


2010

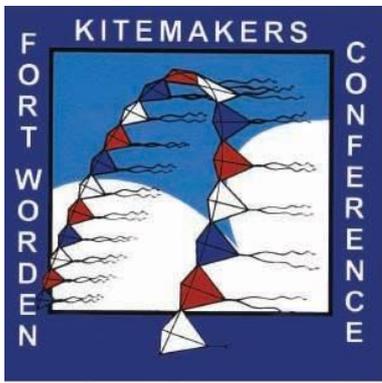


John S 2014





Just a few examples of the wide range of kites 'Skybums' have produced over the past few years.....

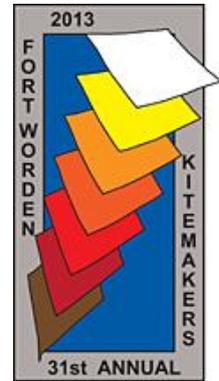


FORT WORDEN KITEMAKERS CONFERENCE



For several years Paul and Helene have attended the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conferences in the United States.

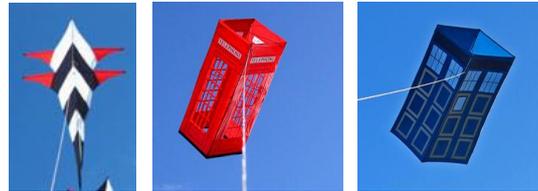
Over the years they have taught several of their designs to the Conference attendees.



2016

The Tapered Ba 6

The Telephone Box / Tardis



2012

The 3Do



2008

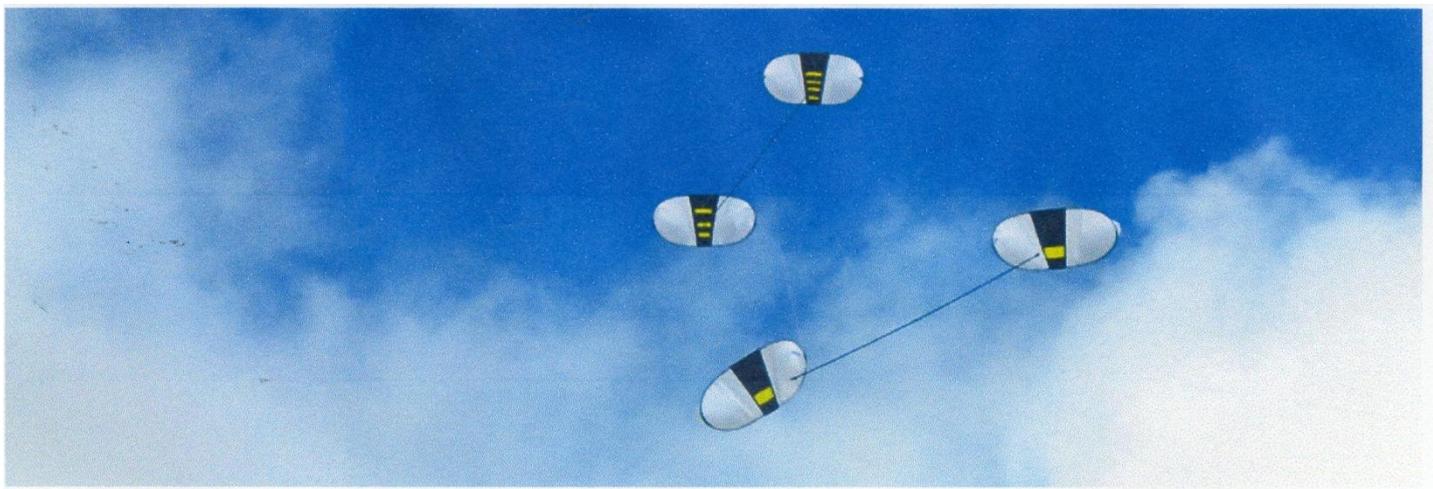
The Basque



2005

The Harlequin Box





TWO BEES OR NOT TWO BEES (or plan Bee)

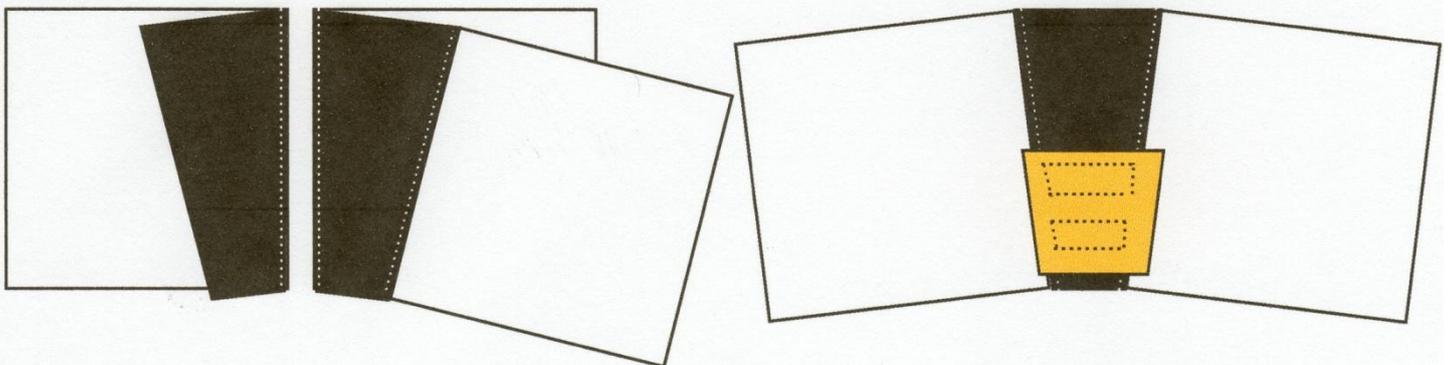
Sky Bums first used this as a workshop kite at Margam Festival in 2014. Two carbon framed stylised bee yakkos flown from either end of a carbon spar in much the same way as Chinese swallows. This project requires simple sewing and basic applique.

CUTTING

For two bees you will need to cut four white 35cm squares for the wings, two black shapes 35cm high 20cm across the top and 10cm across the bottom for the body. You will also need some scraps of yellow approx 15cm wide for the bees stripes. You will need two 8cm strips of 5cm wide dacron (or 8cm by 10cm pieces of ripstop) for reinforcement.

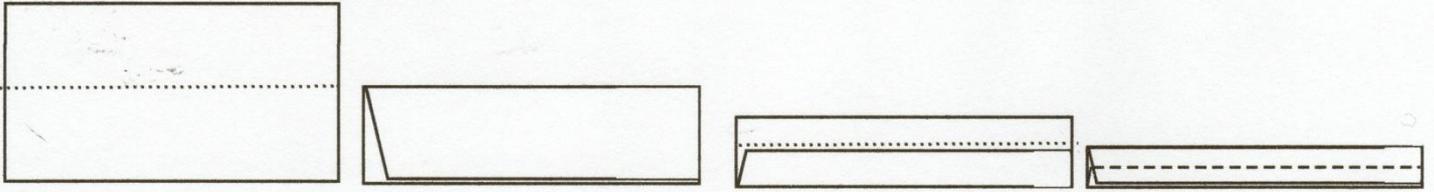
SEWING

Start by sewing white squares to either side of the black body. Allow approx. 1cm then turn the resulting seam over onto the black then sew along its length. You will end up with a cover shown below right.

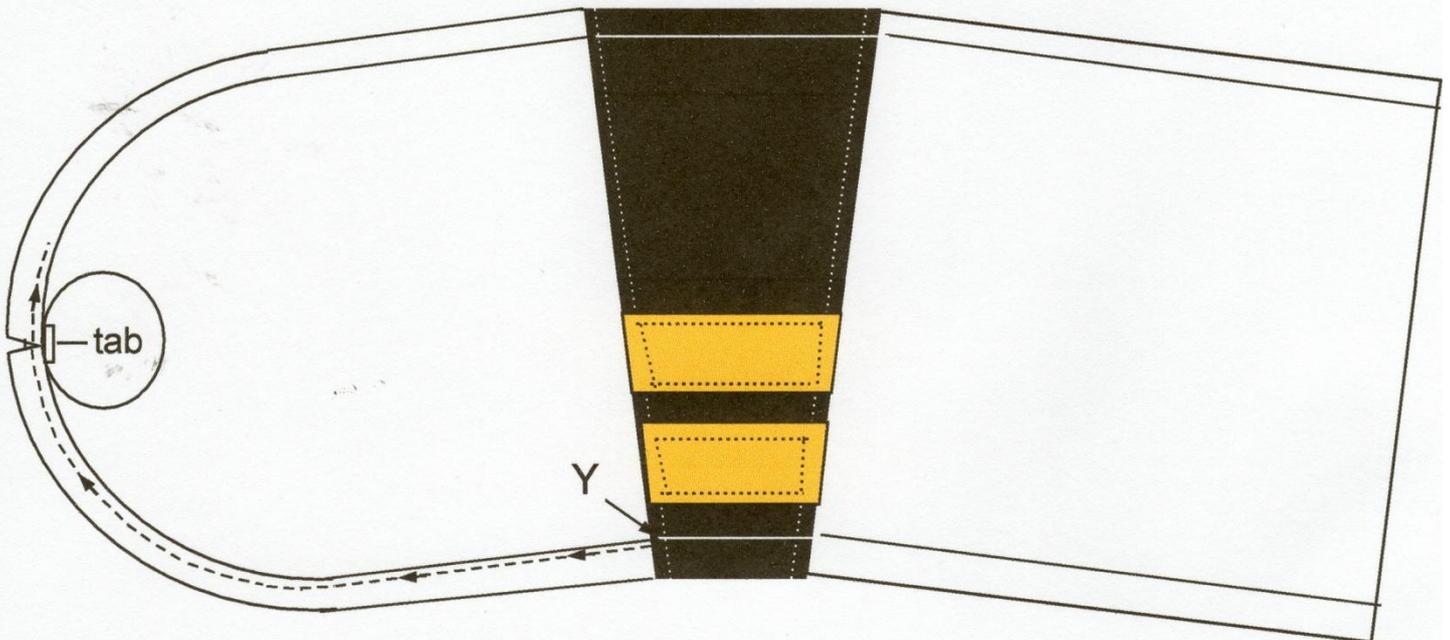


Place the yellow scrap onto the back of the kite then mark and sew stripes (your choice as to how many). Cut away the excess yellow then turn over and cut out the black leaving yellow stripes.

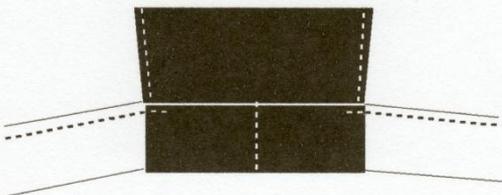
Before you sew you need to make two tabs. Cut a 10cm x 5cm length of white. Fold in half lengthways then fold into three. The sew along the length. See below. Cut two tabs approx. 3cm long.



Mark lines 2cm in from the top and bottom of the kite. When you turn the edge over to the line and sew you will end up with a 1cm sleeve.



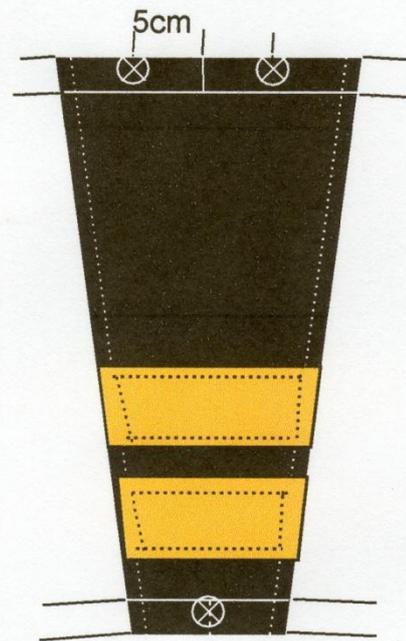
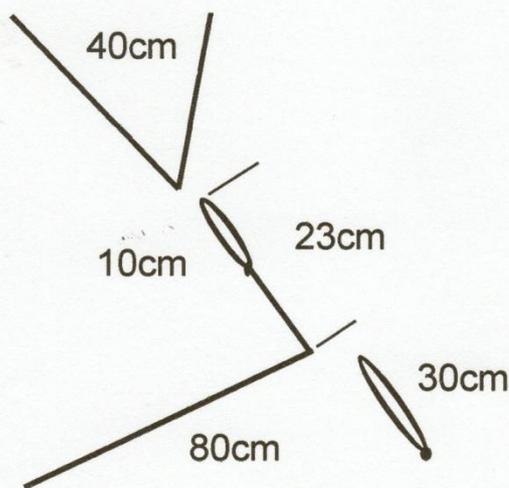
Fold over the bottom edge to the marked line and start sewing along the wing from the edge of the black (marked Y in the diagram above) towards the end. Before you reach the end place one of the tabs between the two layers as shown. Once the tab is sewn in fold the top seam over then bring round to the tab and continue sewing. Do the same at the end of the top seam, adding the tab before folding the bottom seam and bringing round to the top seam. Continue sewing until you reach the edge of the black. Next take the 8cm long piece of dacron and fold in half length ways (or the ripstop folded in half then in half again to give a double layer). Place over the bottom of the black section and at the mid point sew up and down from the bottom. Then sew 1cm in from each edge as shown. This leaves a gap for the spar to be inserted.



Insert the one end of the 2mm carbon spar (approx. 1.7m long) and feed round the entire sleeve then cut so that the spar ends are either side of the sewn middle section of the dacron. End caps can be added.

RIGGING

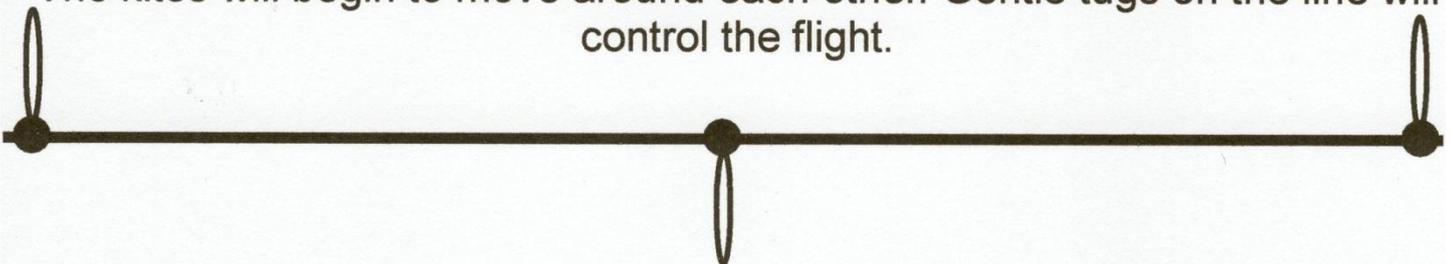
The rigging line should be about 50lb breaking strain and be able to hold a knot. Cut 1 x 40 cm, 1 x 80 cm and 1 x 30 cm. Seal each end with a lighter. Mark the mid point of the 40 cm length then, using a large eyed needle, thread either end through the top sleeve at 5 cm from the midpoint, around the spar and tie. Take the 80 cm length, turn over 10cm and tie an overhand knot creating a loop. Take this loop and larkshead onto the the mid-point of the 40 cm length. The other end is threaded through the sewn mid-point at the bottom of the kite then back through slightly lower down and tied. Fold the 30cm length in half and tie the two ends with an overhand knot to create a loop. From the join between the 40 cm and 80 cm lengths measure 23 cm and mark. Larkshead the short loop at this point.



If you have made two bees you can fly them together on a bar.

THE BAR

Cut a piece of 4mm solid carbon 1.1m long. Fix a grommet at the midpoint then another grommet just in from each end. Tie a loop of line 20cm long securely around each grommet and larkshead the swivel end of a snap swivel onto each loop (see below). Fix the flying line to the centre point and a bee yakko to each of the others. Launch both kites and let out line gently. The kites will begin to move around each other. Gentle tugs on the line will control the flight.



SKY BUMS WORKSHOP
MARGAM PARK 2014



Folding over the top seam.



Joining the ends with a tab.



Marking where the stripes will go.



Sewing the stripes.



Adding the Dacron



Add the bar and ready to fly.



Group shot showing variations.

TELEPHONE BOX

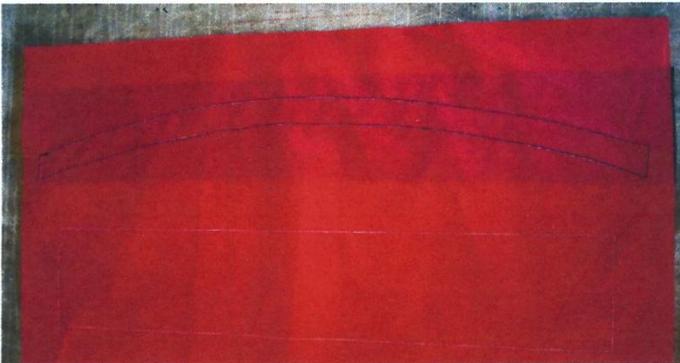
The Telephone box is a stylised variation on the standard two celled box. It flies at a good angle and in a good range of winds. It is built using simple applique techniques and requires the hot cutting holes for the windows.



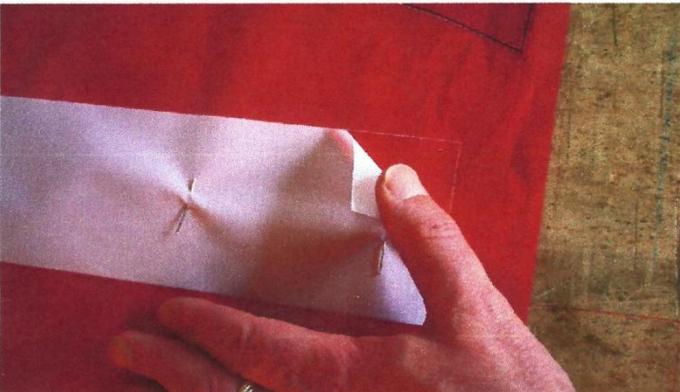
Please read each step carefully but ask if you are unsure about anything.



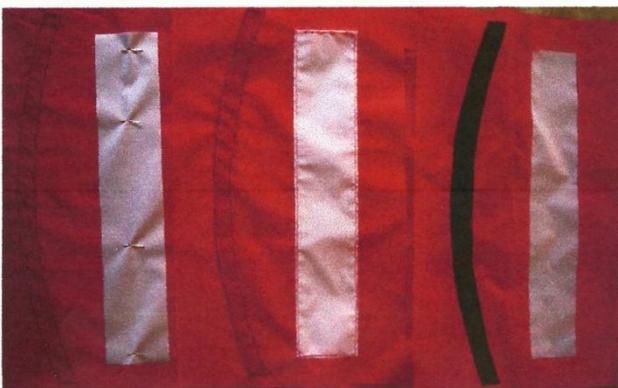
On one end of each panel there is a rectangle marked on the face of the kite (below all the marked windows). Cut the thin black strips and sew these around the inside of the marked lines. Either use two rows of stitching or a three stitch zig-zag using **black thread**.



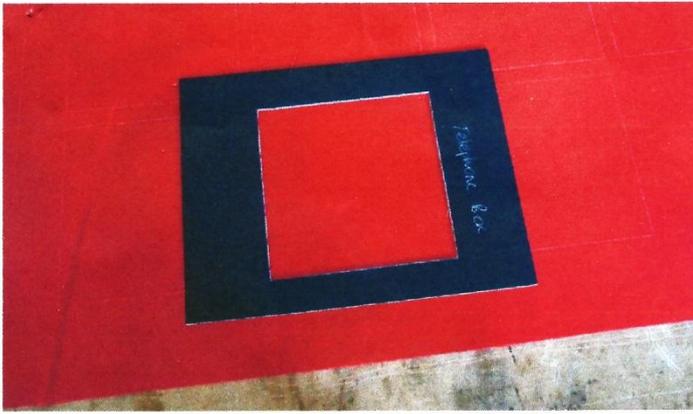
On the other end of each panel there is a curve marked out on the reverse of the kite. A black rectangle should be placed on the face of the kite lining up with these lines on the reverse. Sew along the lines using **black thread**. Cut the excess black fabric away from the face of the kite leaving a thick curved line on the face of the kite (representing the curved roof of the telephone box).



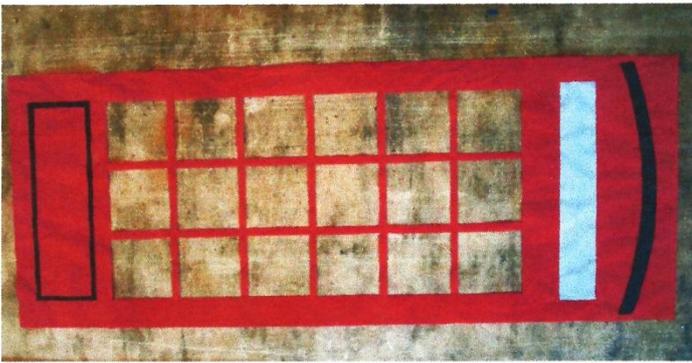
Below this curved line there is another rectangle marked on the reverse of the kite. Place a white rectangle within these lines. Sew around the edge of the white rectangle using **red thread**. When you have finished turn the kite over to the face and cut away the red leaving the white rectangle showing through.



You can see all three stages here from pinning, through sewing to cutting away the red on the face of the kite to leave white panel showing.



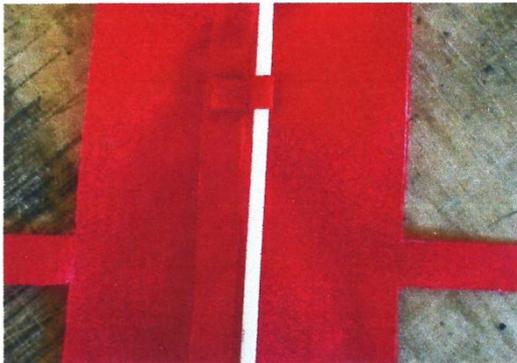
In the kit you will find a piece of card with a hole cut in it. This hole is the same size as each window and is your template. Place this down on the face of the kite so that a marked window is framed. Using your hot knife cut round the inside of this template. Lift the cut section away then move the template to the next window and repeat until all the windows are cut out. (Alternatively use a metal rule and cut round each window that way being careful not to go past the marks)



You should now have four panels exactly the same and are now ready to join the panels together. Seam the top and bottom of each panel by about 1cm. Place each panel face down and mark the halfway point on each long side (approx. 63cm /25"). This will be the position of tabs that hold the spars in place. You will need one 6cm long tab and four 4cm long tabs.



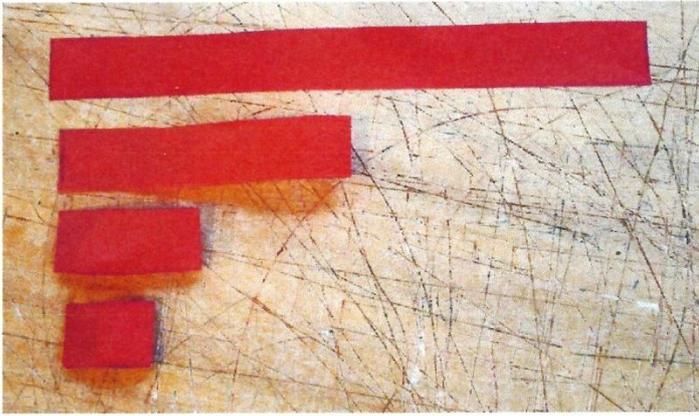
Put two panels face to face and match the top edges. Sew 1cm in from the edge to join the two. At the marked halfway point place the 6cm tab (lower bridle point) between the two panels, folded edge in, with the ends level with the edges. Sew, reverse then sew on down to the bottom of the kite. Open the panels out face down. Fold over the 1cm seam and sew it flat from the top to the bottom of the kite.



Next take a 4cm tab and place with the ends against the raw edge of the seam at the halfway point and sew it into position along the original join (half way across the tab). See photo left with spar in place to show how the tab is positioned



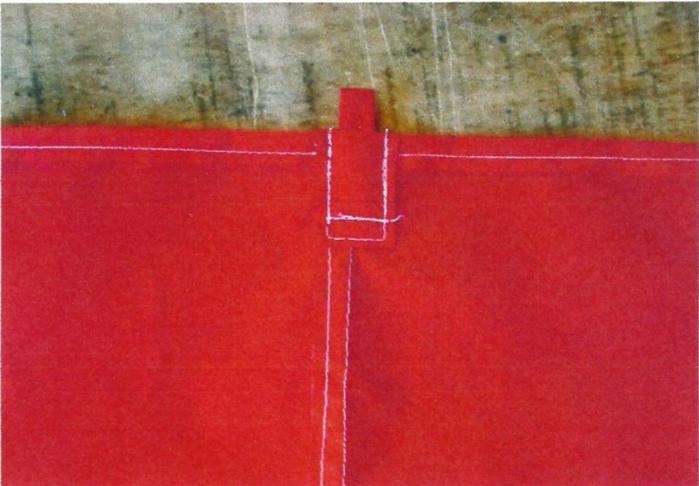
Repeat until all four panels are sewn together and joined and have tabs. Now turn right side out.



Cut eight pockets (2cm x 20cm already marked out). These will be sewn on the inside of both the top and bottom of the kite at the join between each panel. Fold the strip end to end once then fold end to end again then turn the fold over to half way as shown in the photo left.

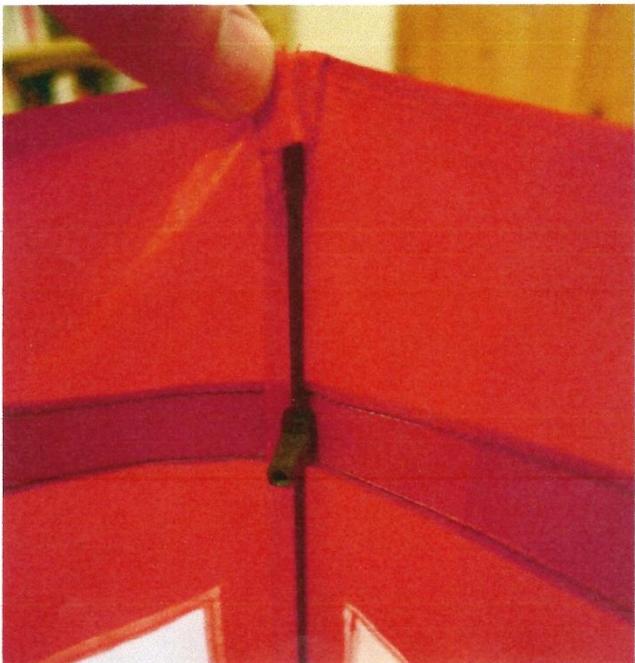


Lay the pocket down on the join so the join is half way across the pocket. Sew down one side, reverse and sew again then across the bottom the sew up the other side reverse then sew again. See photo with stitching in white. Repeat until all pockets are on.



Finally, take an 8cm tab. Fold in half and feed the ends between the pocket and the kite only on the pocket on the edge that has the bridle point at the halfway mark. Sew in as shown on photo left.

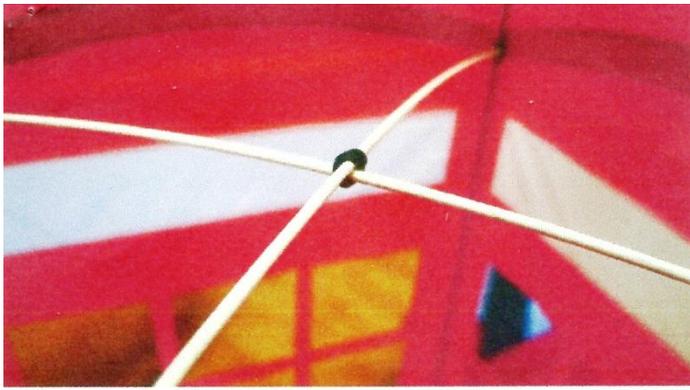
The sewing is now finished.



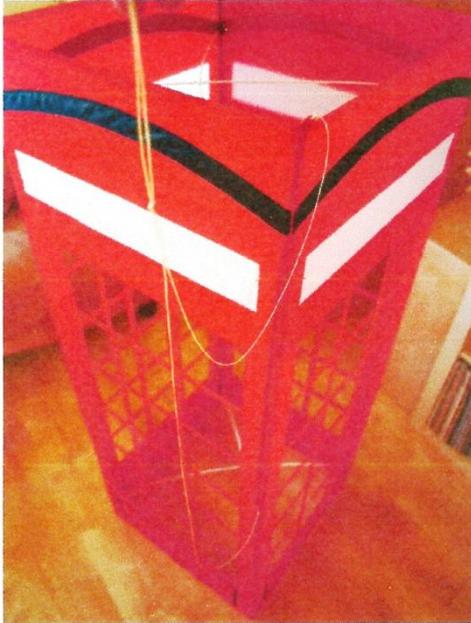
Take one of the carbon (longer) spars. Feed through one of the inner tabs and place in the pocket at the end of that seam. Pull taught then mark the spar at the end of the corresponding pocket at the other end of the kite. Cut the spar and round.

Put a leading edge fitting on to each end (remembering to keep the spar through the tab) and position approx. 10cm (4") from each end. Put each end into pocket.

Repeat with all four spars.



Finally place the remaining spars (GRP) into the opposing fittings both top and bottom to finish the kite. These spars are long and flex. The centre point will be held with an elastic strip. If too long these spars can be trimmed.

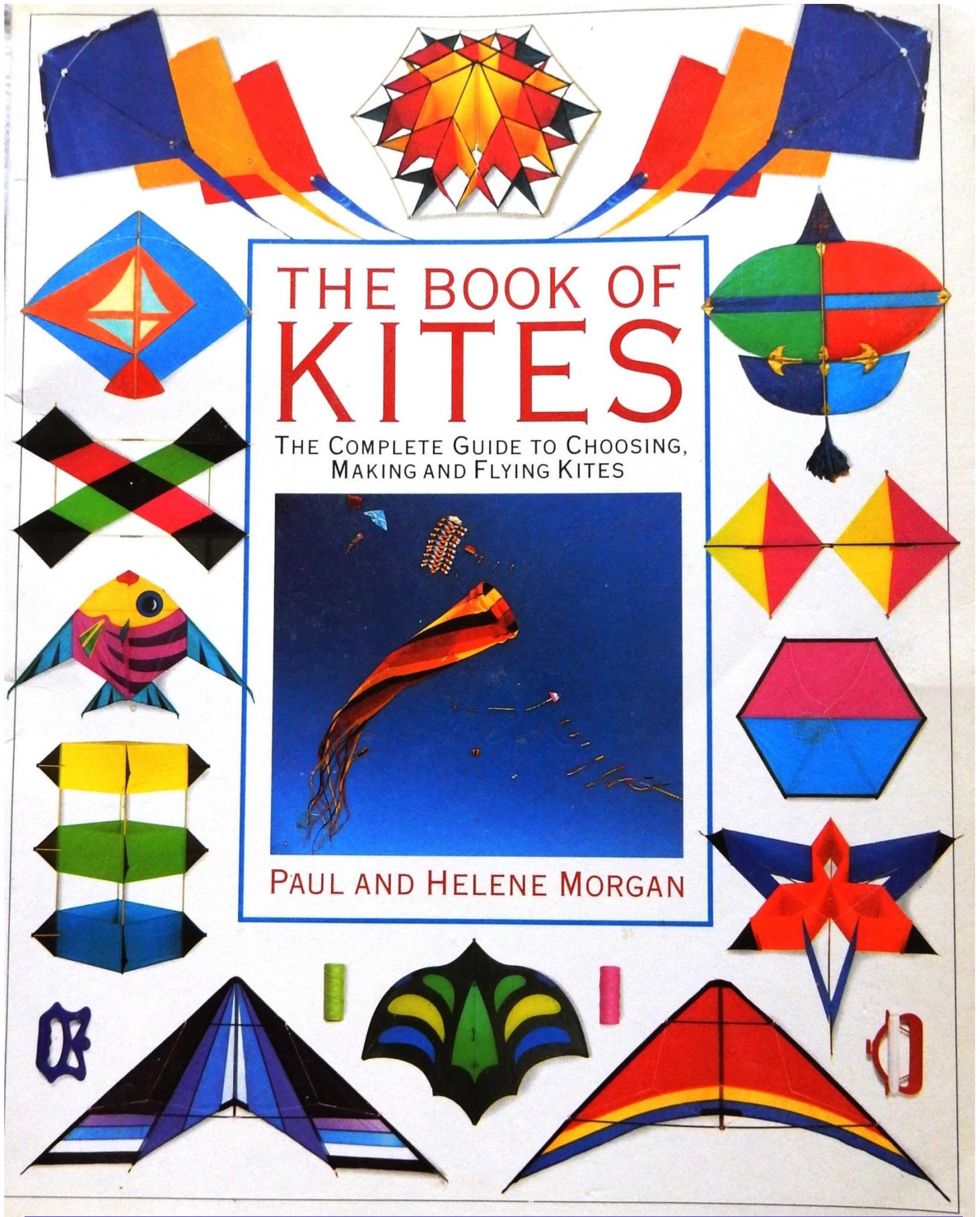


The last job is to add the bridle. This is the same height as the kite and is tied onto the top bridle point near the pocket and the lower bridle point half way down the kite. The loop of line is the larks headed onto the bridle at approx. 45cm or 18" from the leading edge of the kite. This can be moved to trim the kite in flight.

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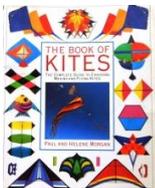


THE BOOK OF KITES

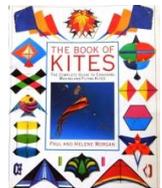
THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO CHOOSING, MAKING AND FLYING KITES



PAUL AND HELENE MORGAN



This page is from 'The Book of Kites'
written by Paul and Helene Morgan
back in 1992 ISBN 0-7513-0145-0
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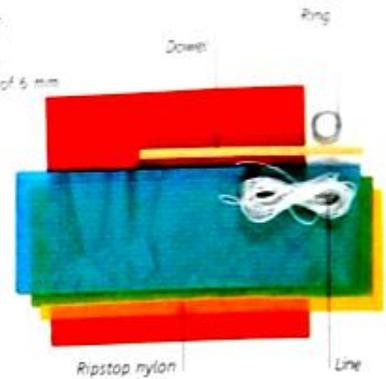


DELLA PORTA

Basically just a rectangle of fabric with two diagonal spars, four pockets and a long loop tail, the classic Della Porta is simple to make. To vary the look, appliqué the cover or make it from bands of different-coloured ripstop nylon sewn together. The kite is very stable in a wide range of winds. It should be flown on line with a breaking strain of 12 kg (25 lb).

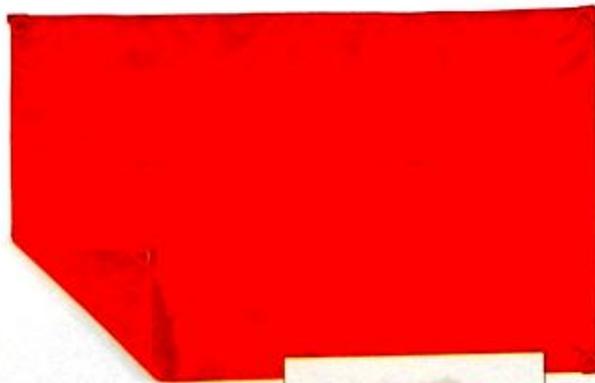
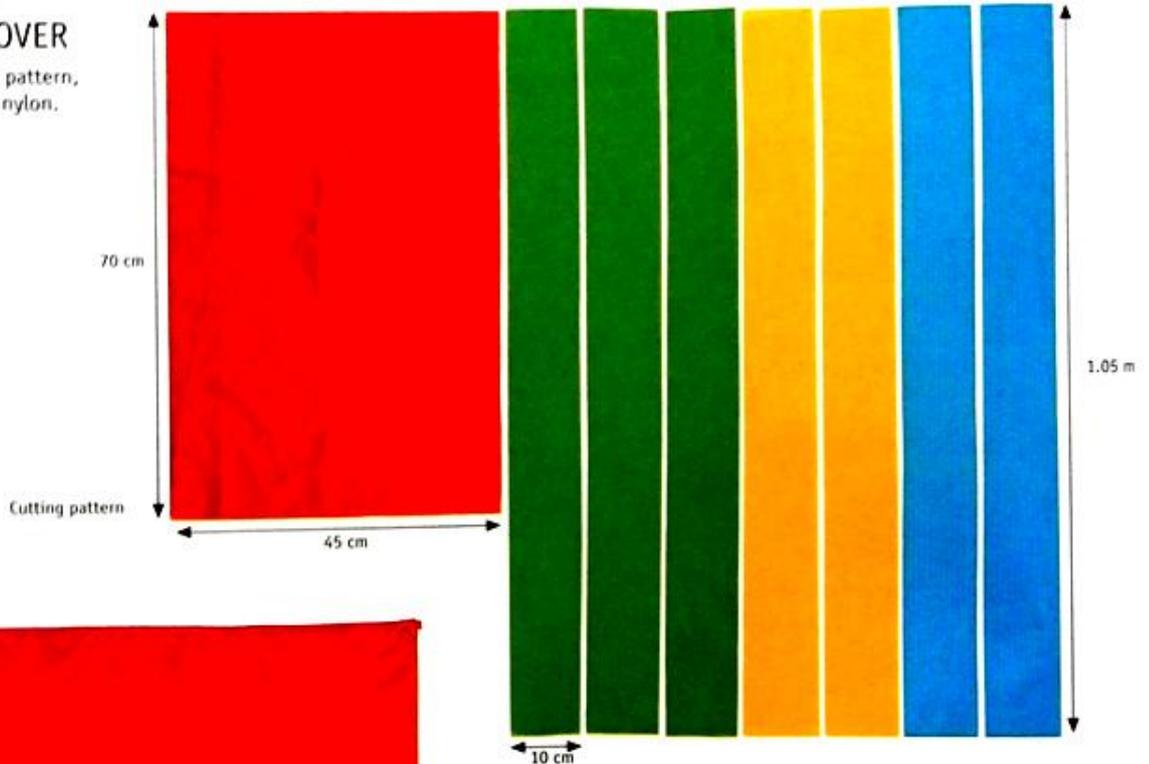
MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT

- ▲ 1.15 m (3 7/8 ft) ripstop nylon
- ▲ Two 80 cm (31 1/2 in) lengths of 6 mm (1/4 in) ramlin dowel
- ▲ About 2.2 m (7 ft) of 25 kg (50 lb) braided nylon line
- ▲ One aluminium ring
- ▲ Flying line
- ▲ Pen or tailor's chalk
- ▲ Ruler/set square
- ▲ Scissors
- ▲ Pins
- ▲ Sewing machine and thread
- ▲ File
- ▲ Matches or lighter
- ▲ Wide-eyed needle

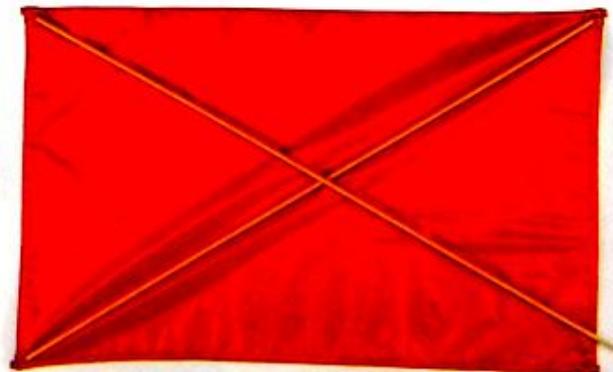
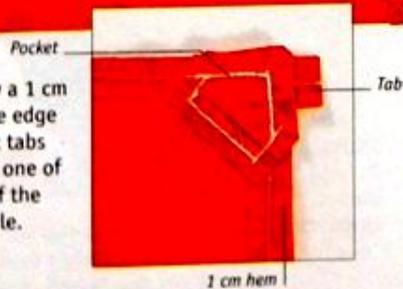


MAKING THE COVER

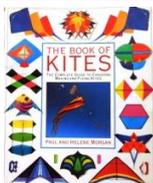
1 Following the cutting pattern, mark and cut out the nylon.



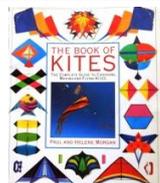
2 Fold over, pin and sew a 1 cm (1/2 in) hem around the edge of the rectangle. Make six tabs and four pockets and sew one of each on to every corner of the wrong side of the rectangle.



3 Round the ends of the dowel and insert the lengths diagonally into the pockets. The sticks should fit tightly without distorting themselves or the cover of the kite.



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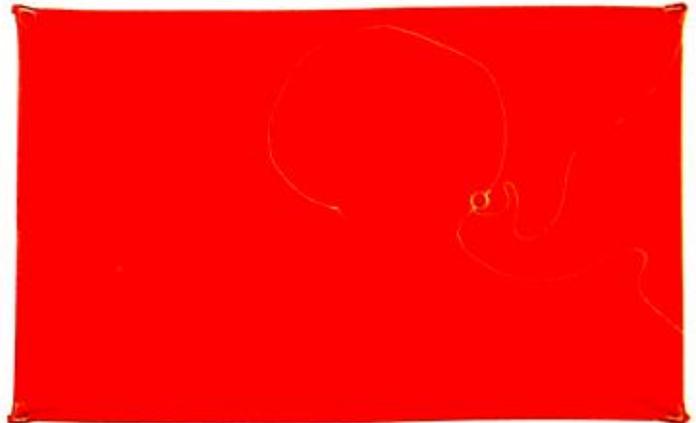


ATTACHING THE BRIDLE

The legs of the bridle should be the same length



Centre loop securing the sticks

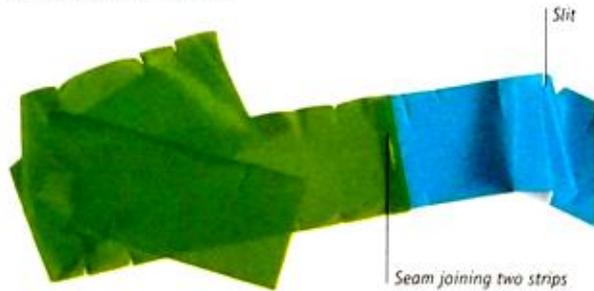


1 Cut the line into a 1 m (3 ft) length, a 62 cm (24½ in) length and three 15 cm (6 in) lengths, and heat-seal the ends. Tie the ring with a lark's head knot halfway along the 1 m (3 ft) length, then tie each end to the tabs at the top corners of the kite.

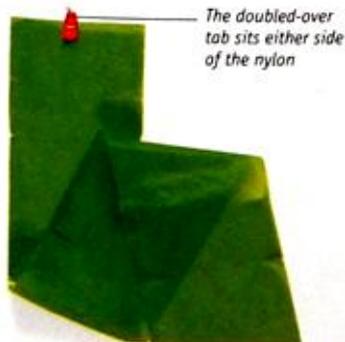
2 Use a wide-eyed needle to thread a 15 cm (6 in) length through to the front of the kite on one side of the crossed sticks. Bring the length up again to the back on the other side of the sticks. Tie an overhand knot to create a small loop.

3 Pull the loop through to the front and using slip knots, tie one end of the 62 cm (24½ in) length to the centre loop and the other end to the ring. Tie the flying line to the ring.

ADDING A TAIL



1 Sew the strips of ripstop together end to end to make a tail, and cut slits randomly in both sides.



2 Sew a tab to each tail end. Thread a 15 cm (6 in) length of line through each tab, line up the ends and tie an overhand knot near the tab. Tie the tail to the tabs at the bottom corners.

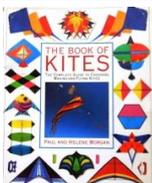


Stable in flight
Once the kite is airborne, the long loop tail keeps it on a straight course if it wanders to one side.

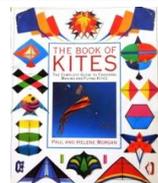
TECHNIQUES

See pages 64-5

- Making tabs
- Making a pocket
- Preparing dowel
- Heat-sealing
- Lark's head knot
- Overhand knot
- Slip knot



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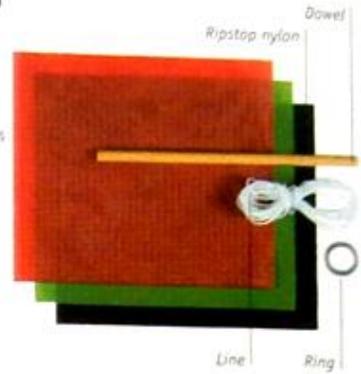


TUMBLING STAR

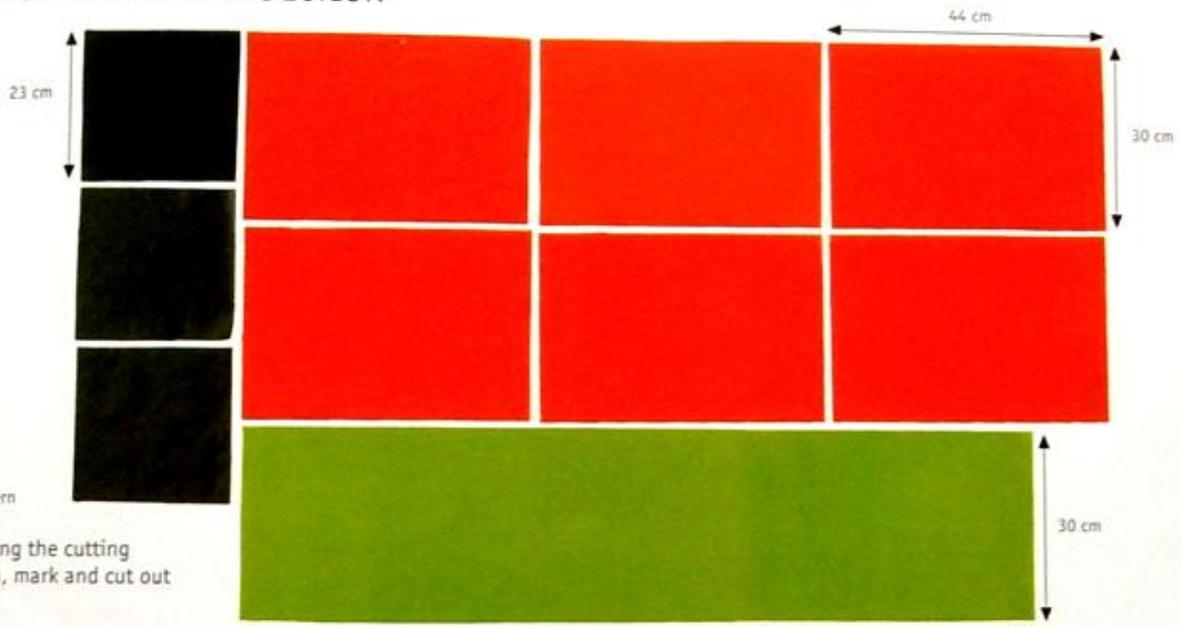
A multi-faceted, single-celled box kite, the Tumbling Star is great fun to fly as it rolls and tumbles in light to moderate winds. Making the six-pointed Star is not as complicated as it looks because many of the steps are repetitive. Choose different colours of ripstop nylon for the central section and the points on the Star so that they alternate as the kite tumbles. Fly the Star on line with a breaking strain of 25 kg (50 lb).

MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT

- ▲ 1.6 m (5 1/4 ft) ripstop nylon
- ▲ 2.5 m (8 ft) of 25 kg (50 lb) braided nylon line
- ▲ Six 29 cm (11 1/2 in) lengths of 6 mm (1/4 in) ramin dowel
- ▲ Three 1.05 m (3 1/2 ft) lengths of 6 mm (1/4 in) ramin dowel
- ▲ One aluminium ring
- ▲ Flying line
- ▲ Pen or tailor's chalk
- ▲ Ruler/set square
- ▲ Scissors
- ▲ Sewing machine and thread
- ▲ Circle cutter
- ▲ Pins
- ▲ Matches or lighter
- ▲ File
- ▲ Hacksaw



MAKING THE CENTRAL SECTION



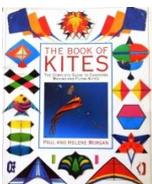
1 Following the cutting pattern, mark and cut out the nylon.



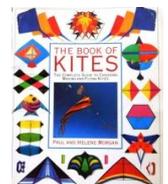
2 Fold over and sew a 1 cm (1/2 in) hem along the long sides of the large rectangle. Draw a line 1 cm (1/2 in) in from each end of the rectangle and mark the space between the lines into six equal sections. Cut a circular hole in the centre of each section.



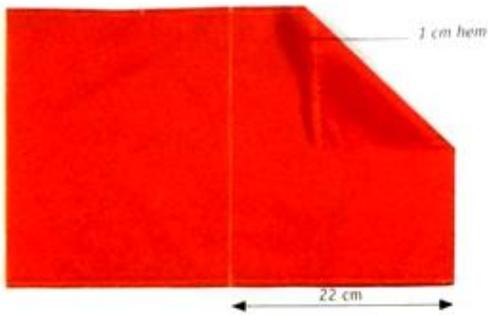
3 Bring one end of the rectangle over to line up with the other end, right sides together. Sew together 1 cm (1/2 in) from the edge. Fold this seam down to one side so that it lies flat, and sew. Turn right side out.



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ADDING THE POINTS

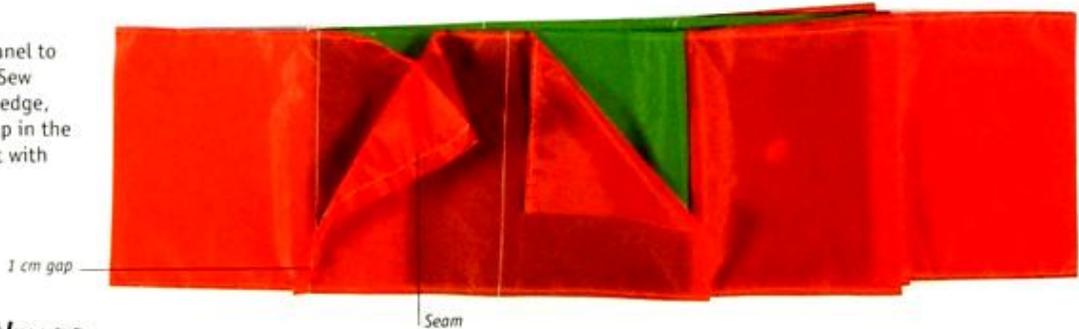


1 To make the outer panels, sew a 1 cm ($\frac{1}{2}$ in) hem along the long sides of each small rectangle. Mark into two equal sections.

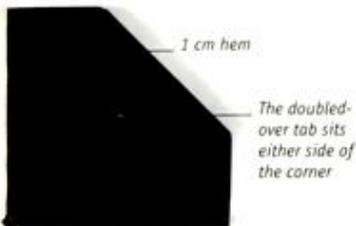


2 Join the panels to the central section, aligning the line on each panel with a section line. Pin and sew.

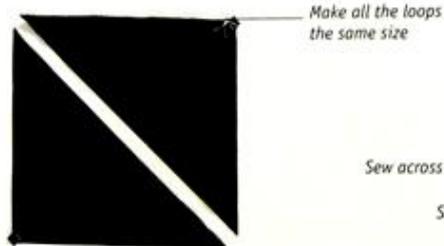
3 Pin the end of one panel to the end of the next. Sew 2 cm ($\frac{1}{2}$ in) in from the edge, leaving a 1 cm ($\frac{1}{2}$ in) gap in the seam at one end. Repeat with the other panels.



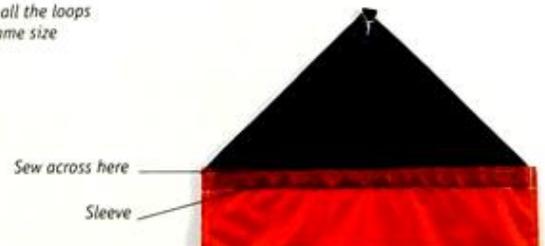
MAKING THE WINGS



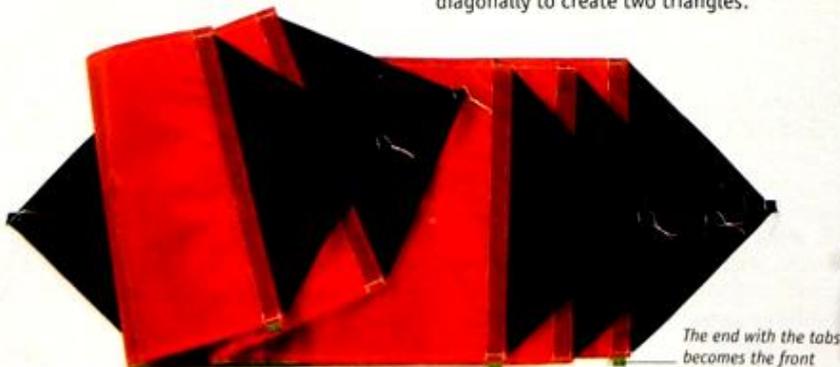
1 Fold over, pin and sew a 1 cm ($\frac{1}{2}$ in) hem around the edge of each square. Make nine tabs and stitch a tab to two opposite corners of the squares.



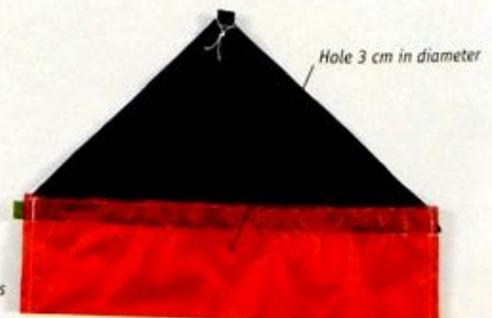
2 Cut six 10 cm (4 in) lengths of 25 kg (50 lb) line and heat-seal the ends. Thread a length through a tab and tie an overhand knot to make a loop. Repeat with the other lengths. Cut the squares in half diagonally to create two triangles.



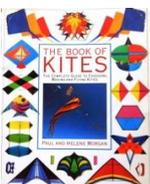
3 Put a wing between the flaps where the end of one panel meets another. Pin across the top of the flaps, and sew. Then sew down the ends of the flaps to make an enclosed sleeve.



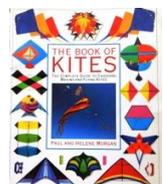
4 Repeat with the other wings, making sure that they all face the same way, sewing a tab into the same end of every other sleeve, as you seal the ends.



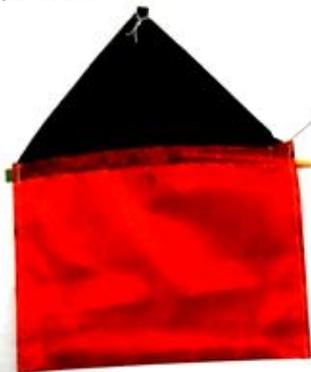
5 Stick a reinforcing patch below a sleeve halfway across the same side of each point. Cut holes through the patches.



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ASSEMBLING THE KITE



Insert the dowel through the gap

1 Round the ends of the shorter dowel lengths and insert each length into a sleeve. If they do not fit tightly, trim to size. Cut a 5 mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ in) notch in each end of the longer lengths.



2 Push a length through the hole on a point, through the central holes and out through the line on the other side. Slip the loops of line on the wings over the notches. Repeat with the other lengths, trimming to size if necessary.

ATTACHING THE BRIDLE



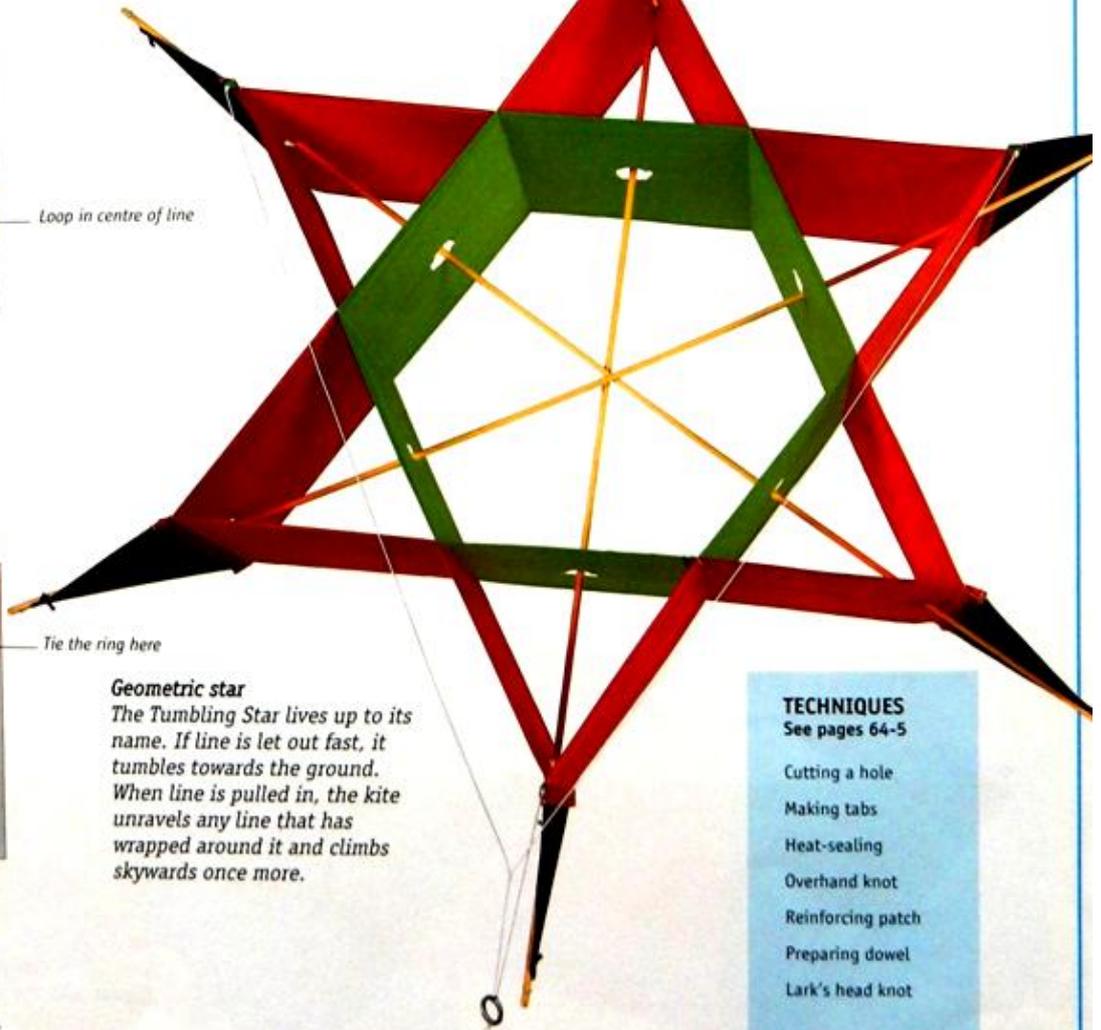
Loop in centre of line

1 Cut a 1.5 m (5 ft) length and a 40 cm (16 in) length of 25 kg (50 lb) line and heat-seal the ends. Fold the longer length in half and tie an overhand knot to create a small loop. Tie each end to a tab on the front.



Tie the ring here

2 Tie one end of the shorter length to the remaining tab and the other to the loop. Tie a ring with a lark's head, 10 cm (4 in) back from the loop, and attach the flying line to the ring.

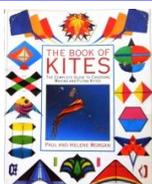


Geometric star
The Tumbling Star lives up to its name. If line is let out fast, it tumbles towards the ground. When line is pulled in, the kite unravels any line that has wrapped around it and climbs skywards once more.

TECHNIQUES

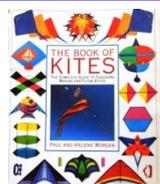
See pages 64-5

- Cutting a hole
- Making tabs
- Heat-sealing
- Overhand knot
- Reinforcing patch
- Preparing dowel
- Lark's head knot



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