

How to Make a Kite

by [Kiteman](#) on February 6, 2007

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Author: Kiteman [Irregular Profundity Blog](#)

An East Anglian Maker, who spends a lot of time in a very small shed. Interested in science, kites, beer (proper beer, not lager) and the general Maker ideal.

Need help on the site? Drop me a PM.

Credo:

Faith, noun; Belief that does not rest on logical proof or material evidence.

"Faith is believing what you know ain't so" - Mark Twain

Science, noun; Set of processes that explain the universe and its contents through hypotheses and theories based on observable evidence.

I am in the universe, a part of the universe. I was not created, I am the most recent product of several billion years' worth of random mutation selected by environmental and sexual pressures, plus a healthy dose of accidents.

I am a unique individual, with my own mind, knowledge, skills, dreams. I am a husband, father, son and friend. I teach others and learn from others.

No god had a part in my genesis. I have no religious faith, although I respect those that have (so long as they do not expect others to share it without question). I take responsibility for my own actions, and bear the guilt for any wrong-doings without feeling the need to confess them to a higher being. When I die, all that will remain of me will be the memories held by those that knew me. I will go to neither heaven nor hell, nor will I be resurrected. When I am gone, I am gone.

To quote the famous philosophers; "Cogito ergo sum" and "I yam what I yam!".

"Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities" - Voltaire.

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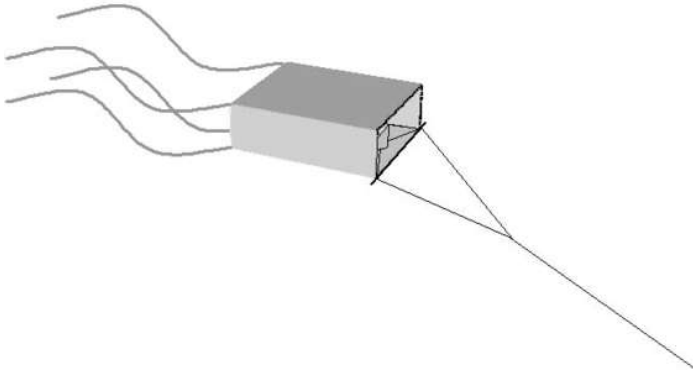
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Intro: How to Make a Kite

A quick and easy box-kite with only a single spar. All the materials you need can be recycled from your local supermarket or burger joint. My local supermarket (Morrisons) sells fresh pies in flat-bottomed bags, and McD bags also work well.



Step 1: You will need...

A clean, flat-bottomed bag, a bamboo skewer, thread, and a carrier bag for tail material. Scissors and glue or sticky tape would also be useful.

If the bag is small enough, you could use a straight take-away straw instead of the skewer (McDonalds straws are unusually strong).

If the bag is wider than one straw, use two linked together:

Cut a straight slit about 5cm along each straw. They will fit together cut-to-cut, and the joint can be fixed with a single wrap of sticky tape.

Step 2: Make it:

Buy a pie (or a take-away burger). Personally, I recommend the steak and kidney.

Eat the pie. You just need the bag it came in, and pies aren't really very aerodynamic, anyway.

Open the bag out, carefully, into a sort of box shape.

Cut round the two short sides of the base, and one long side.

Lay the skewer (or straw) inside the last, uncut, long side, sticking out at both ends.

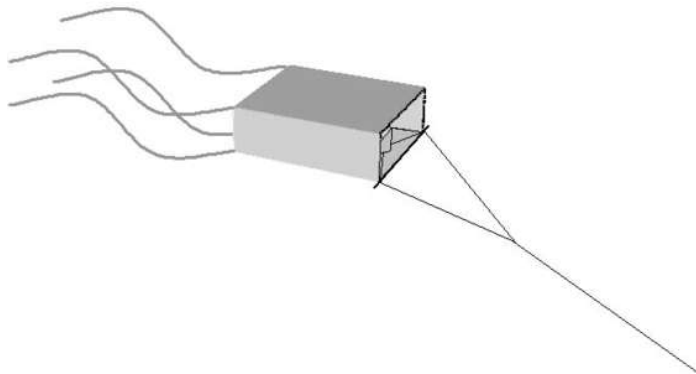
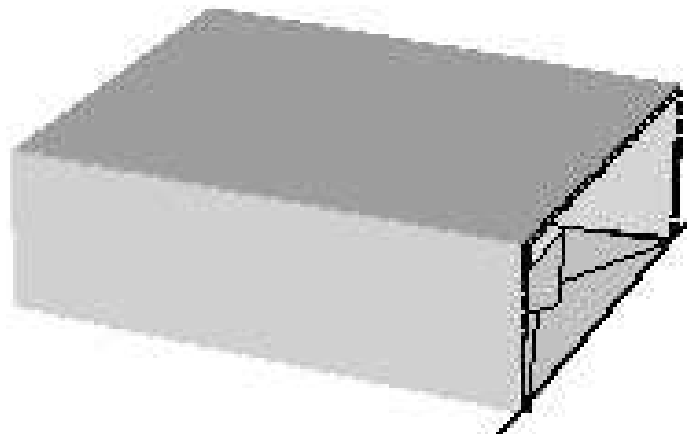
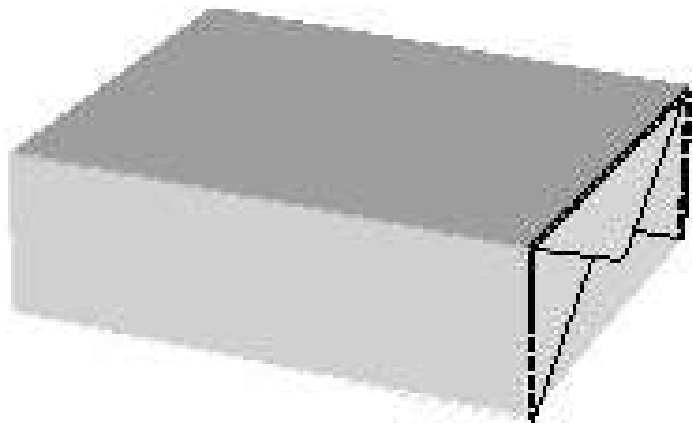
Trim the skewer so that about 1cm is sticking out at each side (remember symmetry), and then stick it in place.

Fold the base of the bag into the bag (over the skewer) and stick it down, trapping the skewer firmly in the crease.

Take a piece of thread, roughly four times as long as the skewer, and attach it to each end of the skewer to form the bridle.

Cut four metre-long tails from the carrier bag and attach them to the four corners at the back end of the kite.

Once your flying line is attached to the centre of the bridle, you are ready for your first flight. If the kite keeps drifting to one side, trim small amounts of tail from that side until it flies level.



Related Instructables



Some Kiting Basics by Kiteman



The Box Kite by notjustsomeone



Bell Tetrahedral Kite by emilyfis



How to Make a Plastic Bullet Kite by uncoiled.tiger



The 10-Cent Kite by Mr Cheeseo



How to make a homemade kite with video by SOD



Kiteman says:

It's 4x1m. Sorry, should have made that clearer. If you use very light tails (like video cassette tape) you can make them much longer if you want.

Dec 19, 2008. 1:42 AM [REPLY](#)



cowscankill says:

OH SNAP. KITE MAN MADE A KITE. LOL anyway, this is cool, and i have some ideas for mine, if i make one. do you really need 4metre long tails? they always seem too long for me. on my last kite, it needed 6 foot tails, and i used like 3 feet. so, can i use smaller tails on my kite? or is it best to have a long length?

Aug 23, 2008. 2:47 PM [REPLY](#)



Kiteman says:

I used very light, smooth tails, so they needed to be longer. It also depends on wind conditions, and what sort of look you're going for. This is a small, anonymous kite, so it needed long tails to show up.

Aug 23, 2008. 3:01 PM [REPLY](#)



littlechef37 says:

I KNEW YOU MADE THIS INSTRUCTABLE..... lol

Apr 3, 2008. 10:29 PM [REPLY](#)



macrumpton says:

You can even make these without the stick by rolling the bottom front edge of the bag 2 or 3 times around a pencil, then tape (or glue) the tube you have made and remove the pencil. You will have to trim the other front edges flush with your "tube"

Mar 18, 2008. 7:06 PM [REPLY](#)



Kiteman says:

Good idea - thanks.

Mar 19, 2008. 2:29 AM [REPLY](#)



fingers says:

step by step photos would help me out a lot..thanks

Dec 26, 2007. 7:36 AM [REPLY](#)



Kiteman says:

I'll add it to my long "to do" list, but if I'm honest it's a long way down.

Jan 2, 2008. 1:06 PM [REPLY](#)



changeable fate says:

Bleeding fantastic! I reckon even the five-year-olds in my class at school could do this. Thanks.

Feb 12, 2007. 2:24 AM [REPLY](#)



Weissensteinburg says:

That seems like a pretty simple thing to do on a boring Saturday..thanks :D

Feb 6, 2007. 7:01 PM [REPLY](#)