

6 easy steps to make your own diamond-shaped kite

You will need

- Two sticks, one the same length as your newspaper and one the width across when you open the newspaper. You can use wooden skewers, dowels or bamboo sticks.
- A plastic handle or a piece of wood.
- Crayons, paints or marker pens to decorate.
- Newspaper
- String
- Scissors
- Glue
- Sellotape



Photographs: Elisa Hoffmann

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step 1

Lay open your newspaper and measure two thirds up the long stick (the length of the newspaper) and place the other stick across to form a cross. Our kite is 55cm by 40cm and we used garden canes and newspaper.

step 2

Tie the sticks with a piece of string where they meet. Draw four lines from stick to stick. Now cut one centimetre wider than this diamond shape, leaving a border.

step 3

Fold in the border along all sides and tape securely. Then tape the sticks onto the newspaper.

step 4

Making the bridle

Take a piece of string twice the length of your kite. With a pen, mark the kite into four equal lengths. Make a hole in the kite on either side of the long stick at the first and third marks. Now secure the stick to the kite with the string through these holes. Finally, lift the string and measure your string from the bottom knot to the tip of the kite and mark the string. Then measure to the bottom knot and mark the other piece of string. Tie a loop where the two marks meet. You have now made your bridle.

step 5

Making the tail

Take a piece of string 10 times the length of your kite and tie to the bottom of the stick to make your tail. Cut 12 strips of newspapers and tie in a bow every 20cm.

step 6

Flying line

Roll about 20m or more of string to a short piece of stick or a plastic handle. Tie the end of this string to the middle of the bridle's loop. This is your flying line. You can now paint or decorate your kite using pens, crayons or a light coat of poster paint.

To fly your kite, ask a friend to hold your kite while you walk away into the wind for about 10m, keeping the line taut. When your friend tosses the kite up, pull on the line
Courtesy of Keith Mould, SA kiter