

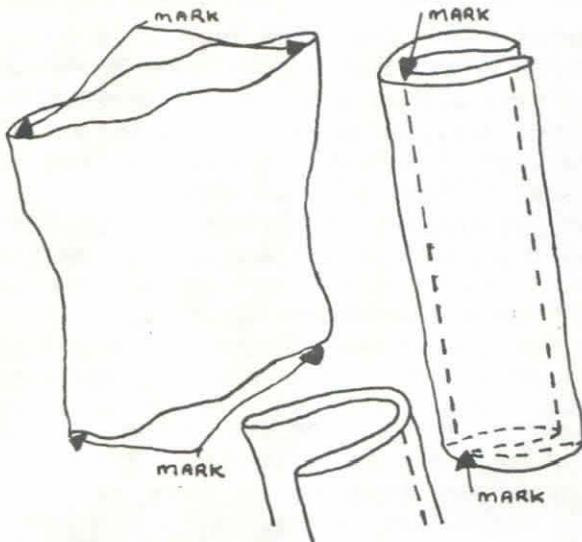
BIN BAG BOX KITE

This design was put together to answer those who ask "well how do you do that", following our suggestion "why don't you try making a kite".

Admittedly it's a bit high tech for some of the younger kids and dimmer dads but it is intended to be the first of several handouts on various simple kites.

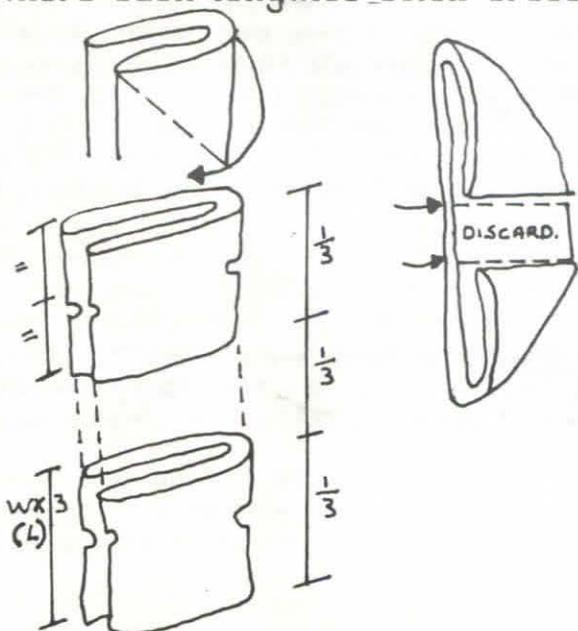
Take an ordinary bin bag, spread it out flat. Cut the bottom welded end off completely (which also removes any gussets). This leaves you with a plain tube, having two side creases. Run a spirit type (permanent) pen or chinagraph pencil or just mark with a pin, up both ends of these creases.

Fold the Tube in half along the length and crease the new fold. Then mark just inside both ends of the new fold. Reverse the fold and again mark both ends. Open out the tube and draw lines joining all the marks, these lines show where the four longwise sticks will go. With the bag still folded in four, fold one corner over until the end meets the side. Mark that point, also the line followed by the edge of the fold and repeat on the other end. Finally cut across and discard the middle bit. You should now have two tubes which are the top and bottom of your box kite.



Half way down each piece of kite cut a semi-circular hole (about 2 pence size). Measure the width of the half piece of kite and multiply by 3 to get "L" the length of the four longwise sticks. Cut the four 1/4" sticks to the length of "L". Fix the four cut lengths inside the two tubes of bin bag, by glueing or taping along the marks or lines described in the early part. Draw a square on scrap or wordy newspaper (no pictures) the same size as the box when it is stretched. Add at least 1" to this length, and this is "C", the length of the four cross sticks, which are again cut from 1/4" dowel, all equal length.

Where each longwise stick crosses a hole (eight times), tie a loop of thinish string about 1" long, plenty of spare. Cut a slot in the end of each of the cross sticks, 1/8" or 3/16" deep and wide enough to take the thinish string. Push a cross stick through one of the cut holes, across the kite, out at the other side, catching the loops in both ends of the cross stick. Push another stick through the other way, and with luck it will fit tightly. If not retie the loop knots until it is tight. Repeat for other end.

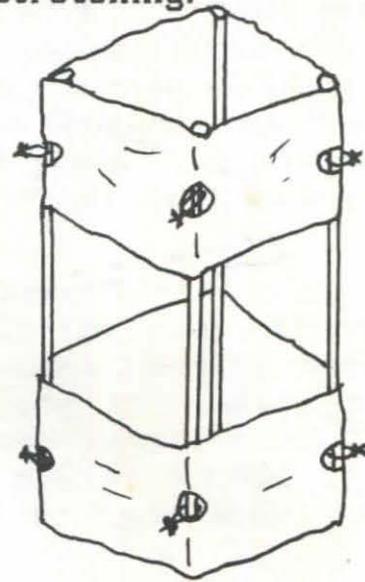
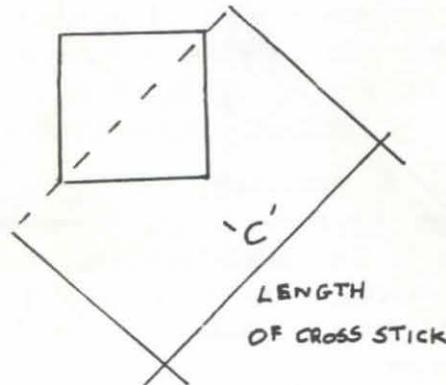


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This kite should fly on a single leg bridle, that is, tie a thicker string through the cover tightly around one stick about 1/3 down the height of the top box, and attach a ring to the end. The flying line is hooked or looped onto the ring. Tape all edges to minimise stretching.

David Bloom

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Low Level Kite Photography

Some time last year it occurred to me that for years I have been struggling with kites at low levels flying on single lines and relying on inherent stability to keep them reasonably steady, while all around me were stunting kites using two lines to keep them under perfect control while flying all over the sky. Why not reverse things and use two lines to stop my kites from misbehaving? So I have done just that. The new system described below depends on non-stunting kites using two lines to stop them wandering.

Low level kite photography in this article means that the kite is flown at a low level, not that the camera is low down while the supporting kite is flying at a considerable height. The reason for this is that a high flying kite requires much more space on the ground from which to fly. This means that many photographic subjects cannot be reached by high flying kites because of lack of space.

By using kites flying at low levels and controlled from the ground up, it is possible to lift cameras for pictures in much smaller spaces than is at present the custom. A lot of kites can be adapted to fly on two lines and it is from these that the kites for this system are chosen. Then instead of using a reel with a great length of line on it one or more double lines are carried. One may be 80 metres long so that the kite will rise at its highest to 60 metres, while the second will be 40metres long giving a maximum height of 30 metres.