

Go Fly a Kite that You Made Yourself

We hope you're more successful at flying a kite than good ol' Charlie Brown is!

These are directions for a diamond kite, the kind that Charlie Brown tries to fly. Kites are made of these basic parts:

Spine: the vertical bar that the kite is built around.

Frame: the kite's support structure made of the joined spine and spar.

Spar: the support stick that is placed over the spine.

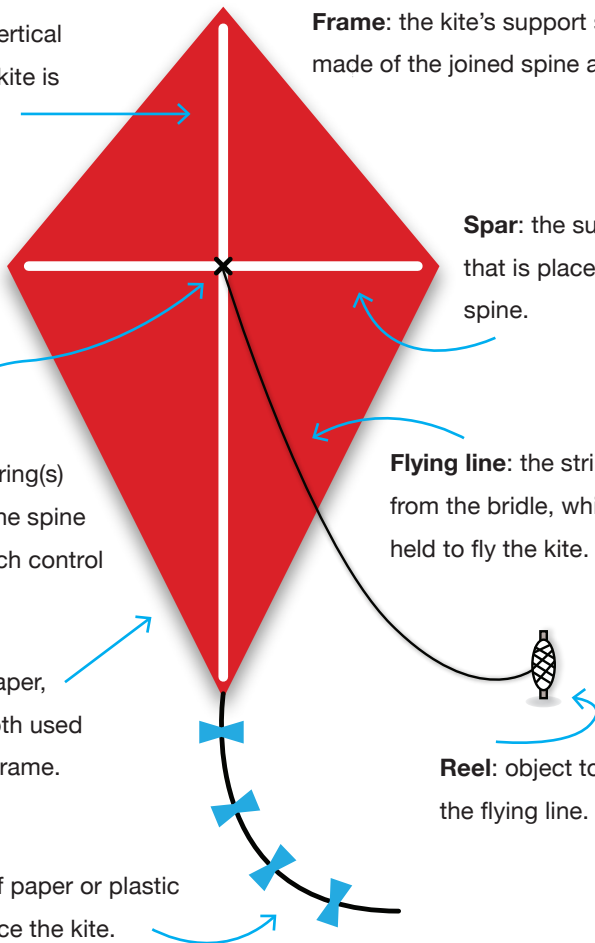
Bridle: the string(s) attached to the spine or spars, which control the kite.

Flying line: the string running from the bridle, which is held to fly the kite.

Cover: the paper, plastic, or cloth used to cover the frame.

Reel: object to hold the flying line.

Tail: a strip of paper or plastic to help balance the kite.



MATERIALS:

- One 24-inch and one 20-inch wooden dowels or bamboo sticks
- String or fishing line
- Sturdy tape
- Cover material (24 inches x 24 inches). You can use newspaper, wrapping paper, or even plastic from a trash bag.
- Scissors
- Ribbons, material, or streamers for tail
- Markers
- Ruler or tape measure

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 Tie the sticks together (tightly) with string at the center of the short stick and six inches down from the top of the long stick.
- 2 Lay the cover material flat and put the sticks on it. Draw a line between each point of the sticks to make a diamond, then cut the material. Tape the material securely to the sticks at each of the four points of the frame. Reinforce the center of the sticks with four pieces of tape.
- 3 Punch a hole in the material at the cross-section of the sticks. Attach string through this hole to the cross-section.
- 4 Decorate your kite and make a fun tail that you can tie to the bottom of the spine.

Be careful when flying your kite. Stay away from tall trees and power lines.

