

# How To Make A Kite

To make a diamond kite, start by making a frame. To create a diamond kite, you'll need two relatively long dowels. We used one that was 40 inches long and one that was 32 inches long.

A larger kite will fly better than a smaller kite. We wouldn't recommend making one any smaller than 24 inches long.

Take your shorter dowel and find the middle. Mark that spot on the dowel. Place the middle point of that shorter dowel about one quarter of the way down the longer dowel, forming a cross. Use some of your string to secure the the two parts together, wrapping it tightly around the two dowels. Make sure to keep them at right angles and to keep the cross piece centered in the middle to insure the right shape for your kite.

Leave the beginning of your string a little long so we could tie the end off when we finished tying the two dowels together. Run a piece of string from one cross piece, over the top dowel to the other cross piece. Then run the same piece of string down around the bottom dowel and back to the original cross piece, securing each point with tape. Make sure the string is pulled nice and tight when you attach it to each dowel. You may need a grown up to help with this bit as it can be a little tricky to keep tight.

This will help the kite retain its shape and keep those right angles. You have now created the frame for you kite.

# Make a Diamond Sail

The next step in how to make a kite is to create a sail to catch the wind and make your kite fly.

Start by laying your plastic out completely flat. Then place the kite frame you just created onto your plastic. Using a straight edge guideline like a ruler and a marker, trace the diamond shape of your kite just a little larger than your frame. Be very careful with your scissors around your fingers! Cut out the shape you've just traced from the plastic, and you've cut out your sail.

Lay your kite frame on top of the newly cut sail, and fold the sides inward, working on one side at a time, attach each side of your sail with your heavy duty tape.

It's a good idea to make sure the tape wraps all the way around the edge of your sail, to give it a little more strength and prevent ripping.



# Make a Tail

The tail serves a really important purpose on a diamond shaped kite. It will keep it more stable in the air and keep it from spinning wildly in the wind. Longer tails tend to add more stability, but adding a little bit of weight with beads can help stabilize the kite without having to make the tail so long.

This is where to attach your bells, or other sound pieces. Cut a tail from our about three times the length of your kite and about two inches wide.

Once you have your tail cut and measured, attach it to you kite at the bottom with some of tape or just tie it to the frame.

*Create a handle:* Now that the tail is created and your sail is attached to the frame, you'll want get the handle ready - the way the string is attached to the kite to keep it steady when flying. Cut a piece of string about twice as long as your horizontal dowel on the kite. Tie each end of the string to the end of the horizontal dowel.

When you're ready to fly, tie your fly line to the middle of this bridle string. You can attach more small bells to the top of this string if you would like too.