



Make a Paper Kite!

You will need all of the following materials:

- 1) Newspaper
- 2) Thin Wood Dowels (or something stiff but light to make the crossbars)
- 3) Scissors
- 4) Pencil or Pen
- 5) String or Twine
- 6) Masking Tape (Wider width works best)
- 7) Yardstick

Some optional materials:

- 1) Glue
- 2) Colorful Construction Paper
- 3) Packaging Tape
- 4) Yarn

Step 1:

Start by cutting your dowels down to two specific lengths. Your kite could be any size you want, but it's recommended to keep one dowel at 20 inches (or under) and the other should be 16 inches (or under). Use your yardstick to measure out the lengths and mark on the dowel where to cut. Use your scissors (or garden clippers) to then cut at that mark. Do this on both dowels.

Step 2:

Take your longer dowel and place it vertically on a flat surface. Mark a spot $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way down. Next, take the 16" dowel and place it perpendicular to the 20" dowel (to form a lowercase "T"), at the mark you just made. Next, tie string or twine around the point where the two dowels meet. Make sure that neither one of the dowels move or slide out of the string at any time. Feel free to tape the dowels in place and potentially remove them later when the tape is no longer needed for support.

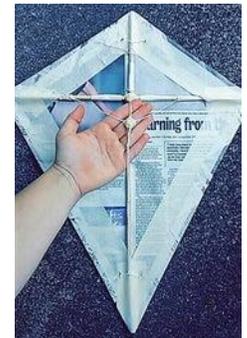
Step 3:

Lay out a large piece of newspaper on a flat surface and place the kite frame in the middle of the newspaper. Next, draw lines around each side of the kite – keep about 1” of newspaper beyond your frame ends. Finally, fold over each side of the newspaper over the frame. Use masking tape to secure each side. Do this on all four sides of the kite.



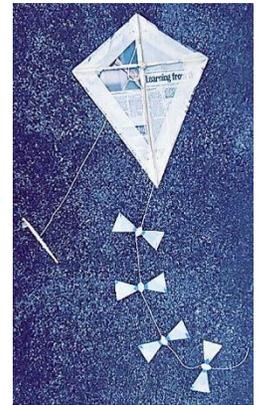
Step 4:

The next step to making your kite is to string it. On each corner of your kite, poke two holes, one on each side of the dowel, and about one inch in from the side of the kite. Thread a piece string through the two holes and tie a knot on the side that the dowels show. Make sure the string is long, as it is better for it to be too long than too short. Do this on all four corners of the kite. Next, gather all four strings from each corner and gather it in the center, tying them into a knot (make sure it's secure!). MAKE SURE YOU LEAVE SLACK FOR THE KITE TO FLY SMOOTHLY. Refer to the fourth image on this step to see what it should look like.



Step 5:

To make the tail, you can use a piece of yarn, or crepe paper, if you have it! Cut your material as long as you like (though longer tails make kites heavier, and harder to fly). Take one end of the string (or paper) and tape it to the bottom of the kite. Make sure that it is securely taped on.



Step 6:

You're ready to fly! The final step is to attach a 30' string to the kite in order for it to fly. Tie one end of the string to the knot of strings stemming from the kite corners. You should be able to pull this string with a good amount of force and not have it come undone.

Once all is complete, check and make sure your tape is still on and FLY!

Hint: Have a family member hold the kite gently; once you're ready, start running (or quickly walking) to give the kite some lift (especially if there is not sufficient wind).