

Making an Afghan Kite with Gulumai

Summary

These are instructions for making an Afghan Kite, provided by Gulumai, a member of Afghan Peace Volunteers.

Watch his accompanying video at www.FlyKitesNotDrones.org



You will need:

- A roll of kite string
- A pair of scissors
- A large sheet of thin plastic at least one square metre
- Two flexible sticks:
 - One 1 metre long
 - One 90cm long
- Sticky tape could be useful too



Stage 1: Cut out a diamond of plastic

Lay out the plastic on the ground.

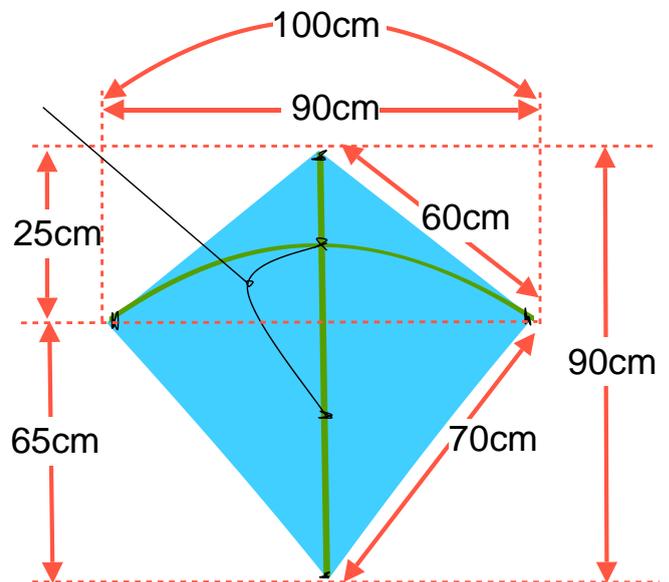
Place the 90cm stick down the middle to form the diagonal spine of your kite.

Fold the plastic over the stick and use the scissors to cut the two layers together to make a diamond shape as shown below.



Stage 2: Tie the stick to the plastic

Tie the spine stick tightly to the top and bottom of the diamond. Loop it round lots of times tightly so that you know it will stay in place when your kite is flying. You could use sticky tape to help hold it in place, but string is stronger.



Stage 3: Add the cross piece

Take the 1m stick and place it across the other stick between the other two corners. It should be longer than the distance between the corners because it's going to bend.

Use the string to tie one corner first, then bend the stick so the other end is touching the opposite corner. Tie this end in place too.



Stage 4: Tie the sticks down

You need to tie the sticks in place against the plastic. To do this, use the scissors to make two holes in the plastic next to the centre where your sticks cross. Thread a short length of string through the plastic then tie it tightly around both sticks.



Now make two holes next to the spine on each side about two thirds of the way down from the cross. Again, thread a short length through the holes and tie it tightly to the sticks. This makes 6 knots in total.



Stage 5: Add a bridle and string

The "bridle" is a piece of string that you attach to the spine stick in two places.

Cut a length of string about 40cm long.

Tie one end to the centre where the sticks cross, and the other to the spine next to the second set of holes.

Finally, attach the end of your kite string to the bridle, not in the middle but with roughly 15cm of bridle string between the centre of the kite and 25cm for the remainder.

You might want to decorate your kite- see Workshop 4 in the Fly kites Not Drones pack for ideas!

