

SkyWindWorld

EddyBird Kite Instructions

Introduction

The EddyBird is an easy-to-make kite, a reliable flier for youth workshops or anyone's pleasure. It was originally designed by Lee Toy and was described in Margaret Gregor's book 'Make Mine Fly'. SkyWindWorld has adapted the design to use Tyvek sail material, Ramin wood dowels, and Tyvek label stock. SkyWindWorld facilitates building about 500 EddyBird kites a year.

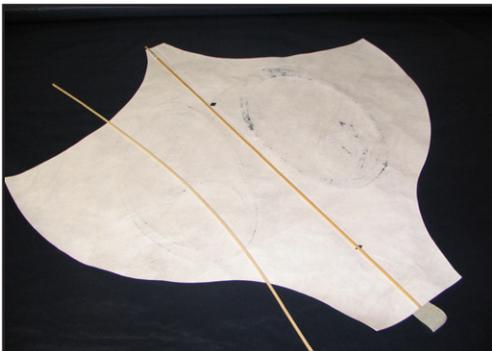


1 – Decoration

Tyvek is a wonderful material for kitemaking as well as wrapping your house. It has a drawback in that watercolors and washable markers will run or wipe off. Permanent markers, Sharpies, tapes, stickers and spray-glued decoupage work well on the kite. Markers can get onto tables and clothes!

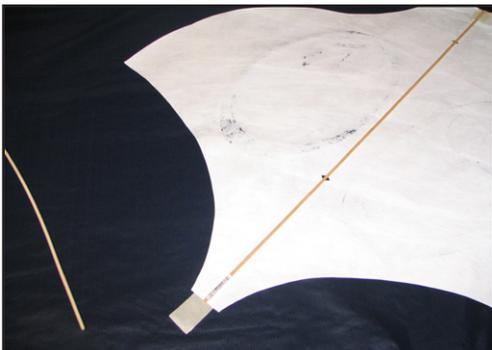
Bold and large graphics always look better on kites – keep in mind that your artwork will be 50-100 feet away in the sky.

Usually, it works best to decorate the kite sail before adding the spars, but this can also be done (or completed) later. Don't forget to decorate the tail!

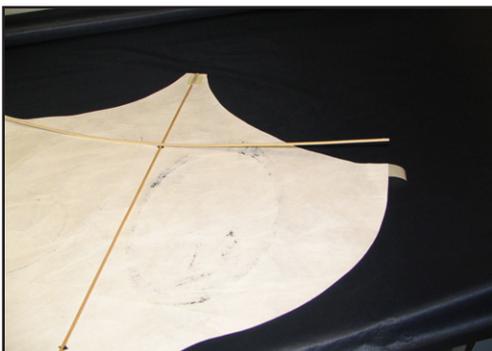


2 – Construction

Read this through and check the pictures. We will be using Tyvek labels to attach the spars to the kite sail. There are two sticks (spars), one straight and one curved.



The straight stick goes from the nose to the base of the sail. Begin by placing a label, sticky side up, centered and halfway on the front (decorated side) of nose. Place the stick on the centerline and fold the label over to the back (undecorated) side of the kite sail. Do the same at the base of the sail, using the fold line to keep the stick centered.



Next take the curved stick. This will go from wingtip to wingtip, and we want the curve to be towards the back of the sail. Put a label at one wingtip, half on and sticky side up. Fold over the label so that it covers the end of the curved stick as before, making sure the free end curves up into the air. Move to the other wingtip and do the same, only this time the other side lifts as you fold over the Tyvek label.

Construction continued...



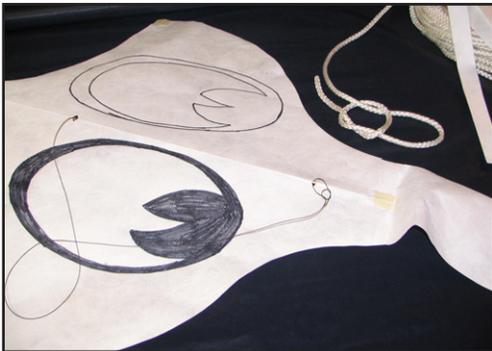
Use a couple more labels to attach the tail to the base of the kite.

Inspect your work, making sure the sticks are symmetrical, the same on both wingtips.



3 – Bridling

Find the bridle string, about 39 inches long, and using one end tie the two sticks together where they cross – at the center where the bigger hole is. This is easier to do from the back side of the sail. Try to only use an inch or two of the bridle line for your knot(s). Thread the bridle line through the hole to the front of the kite sail.



Next, poke the free end of the bridle through the sail at the bottom hole, and tie it around the straight stick. Again, try to use only one or two inches to make your knot. You should now have a loop of bridle on the front of the kite.



The “Bridle Point”, where your flying line attaches to the bridle, is found by stretching the bridle out to a wingtip, and making a small loop there.

Now you are ready to Fly!!

4 – Flying

Experienced kite fliers prepare their flying line by making a big overhand loop in the loose end of their flying line. Once you do this it becomes second nature to use a Lark’s Head knot to attach and remove the flying line. Watch you instructor, and Practice this!

5 – Safety

Don’t run!! Watch where you are going and look out for other kite fliers and lamp posts and trees and stuff!! Kites fly DOWN wind, so figure out which way the wind is blowing. Running in circles will just make you tired. If you get tangled with another kite, walk TOWARD the other kite flier to get untangled. Remember, WALK – the wind will do the work.

Enjoy your kite!!!!