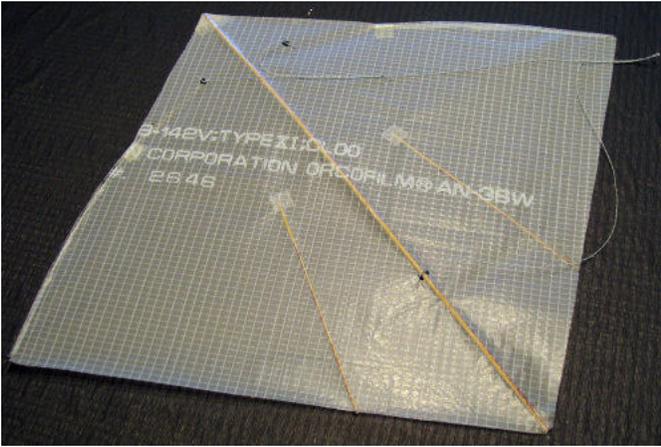
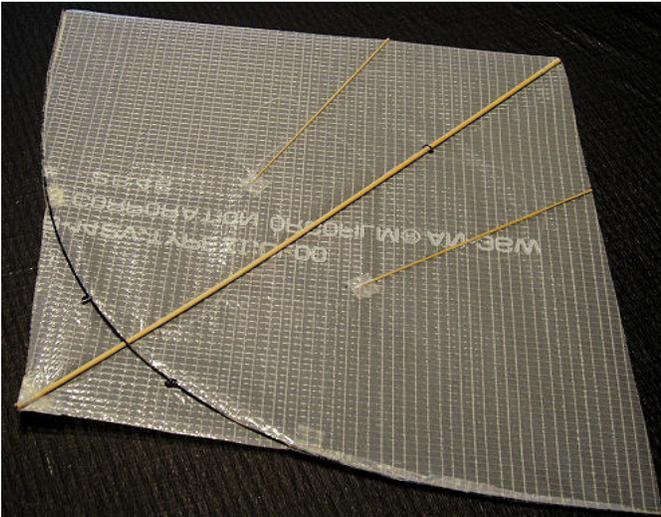


SCOOTER

A FUN & FEISTY FIGHTER KITE



Rob DiStefano's idea of using bamboo skewers for fighter kite spines got me thinking. Skewers are readily available, inexpensive and relatively strong. Rob splices a couple skewers together to get the longer size needed for most fighter kites, but I thought it would be fun to design a kite that uses a single 12" long bamboo skewer for its spine. You can buy skewers that are 15" long, but the more commonly available are 12" long skewers, so this is what I used for the spine.



I cut off the pointed end which leaves about 11-3/4" of useable bamboo. So that's the length of the Scooter's spine. Using my utility knife, I shaved a small portion off along its entire length to provide a small flatten surface to glue to the skin. Sandpaper would work better because it would provide a smoother gluing surface I think.

The bow 16-3/16" long and is made of 0.04" diameter carbon fiber rod or 0.05" diameter fiberglass rod, either works great.

The first Scooter I made had white orcon for the skin and yes, you can see that I oriented the grid on the orcon diagonally to the spine.

After flying it I wondered how it would be with a couple of battens. Using my utility knife, I split one of the skewers lengthwise into 4 pieces and used a couple of the slivers for batten material. The kite was quieter and seemed slightly more responsive with the battens.

To bond the orcon to the bow, spine and battens I used standard, stinky Weldwood contact cement.

A standard 3-point bridle is what I attached to Scooter. The upper bridle connections are located about 1" either side of the spine's center line. I used a tiny drop of CA glue to secure the bridle line to the bow.

I didn't reinforce the nose leading edge in order to save weight and I figured its length is so short that it probably won't become easily damaged unless flown in very high winds for long periods. But reinforcing the nose leading edge would add durability and it might also improve some of Scooter's flight characteristics.

Another Scooter I made, I also used white orcon for the skin, but I first wadded up the orcon a few times to get it full of very tiny wrinkles, then smoothed it out and cut the kite skin. This wrinkled orcon version didn't really need battens.....and it flies a little slower and very quietly.

Bruce Lambert 12 2005

Scooter is a responsive, spunky, quick and fun to fly in light to medium winds. I'd say it is a higher speed kite than you might expect; this little guy SCOOTs!

If you want a fighter kite in your box that's a little different and a blast to fly, make a Scooter.

The full sized template is on the following pages.

Biggrins, bruce

