

Beer & Skittles Social Evening

Graham Binney has asked me to remind everyone, that he still has some tickets available.

Beer & Skittles Social Evening
Schofields Public House, Great Barr, Birmingham
Saturday 23rd February 2002

Promising an evening of great entertainment for the princely sum of £8.00 (adults) £3.00 (children), This also includes a bar meal of your choice (chicken, scampi, etc).

1st come, 1st served! 40 tickets only! Don't be disappointed, BOOK EARLY!

Charity Raffle (any donations gratefully accepted)

Whisky Coin Roll, win this bottle for as little as 20p!

Contact Graham Binney on 0121 7837078

Or e-mail - graham@gbinney.freeserve.co.uk

The recipient charity will be selected on the night, so bring your nominations.

BOOK THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARIES NOW!!!



Err.....It was the last one left

Ok hands up, how many of us have made excuses or had to think up some kind of explanations for that latest acquisition to the kite bag. Below are some common ones, but if you have more please share them with us.

- *It was in the sale.*
- *No, I do not love kites more than you.*
- *You're the one who said I needed a hobby.*
- *But I didn't have one with that colour on it.*
- *I need 2 more Shockwaves so I can stack them. .*
- *This kite will NEVER be this price again!*
- *No...This one is for you to hold.*
- *You know yellow is my favourite colour.*
- *You treated yourself to some new shoes, So.....*
- *This one will teach me to fly the other better*
- *It was the last one left*
- *WOW you have got too see this one*
- *You know I have always wanted this one*
- *This one is for the family*
- *I got this one so everybody would stay off mine*
- *I need too demo this style for someone*
- *You should see everybody else's kite bag*
- *I bought this one cheap for spare parts*

Please remember

...excuses are used at your own risk!

FREDFORM, the plans by Fred Broadhead

Why 'Fredform'? - 'Cos my name's not Flo. This is one from my light wind era, and one of those banker kites I often fly with a couple of sleeve multi-coloured drogues linked together. In fact in very light winds without drogues it outflies most deltas, with drogues it copes with quite high winds.

I had a long natter with Jim Rowlands at Coventry about 4 years ago to pick his brains. He lost me a bit getting very technical but having seen it fly and then looking at it on the ground, when asked if he would change anything answered, 'Nothing'. His point was that there are some five aspects of Floform design which matter for a great kite & whereas they can fly to a degree without all being spot on, that I got them all spot on, which is why it flies so well. Jim was surprised that it was the only one I have made.

The point of all this name-dropping is not inflate my ego but to convince you to make this simple kite. If people who have forgotten more about parafoil kites than I'll ever know are impressed why shouldn't you be. It will let you get into a little one-upmanship; watch for when there's a few floforms gently coming to earth as the wind drops, get your Fredform out and watch it going up whilst the rest are coming down.

If like me you want to be even sneakier get your Fredform out when there's only just enough wind for it, others seeing it up will often reach for their floforms, and you can sit back and watch their unsuccessful antics.

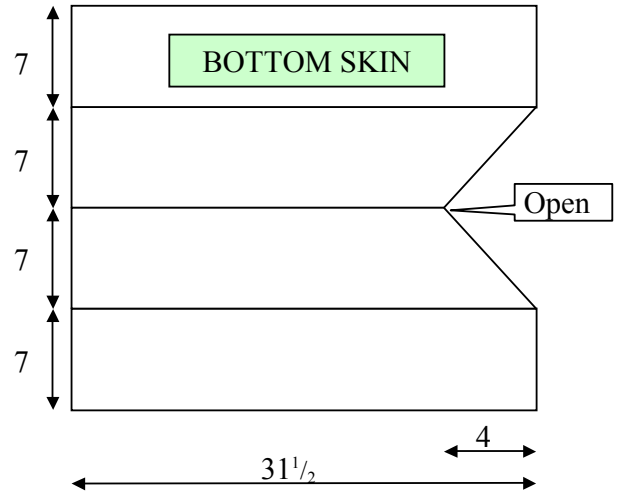
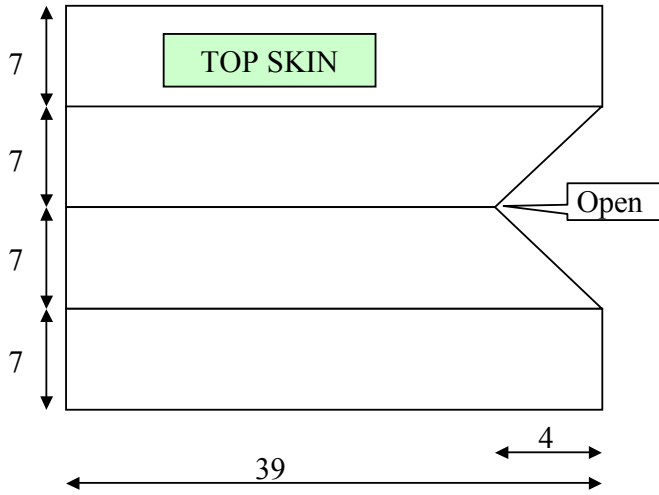
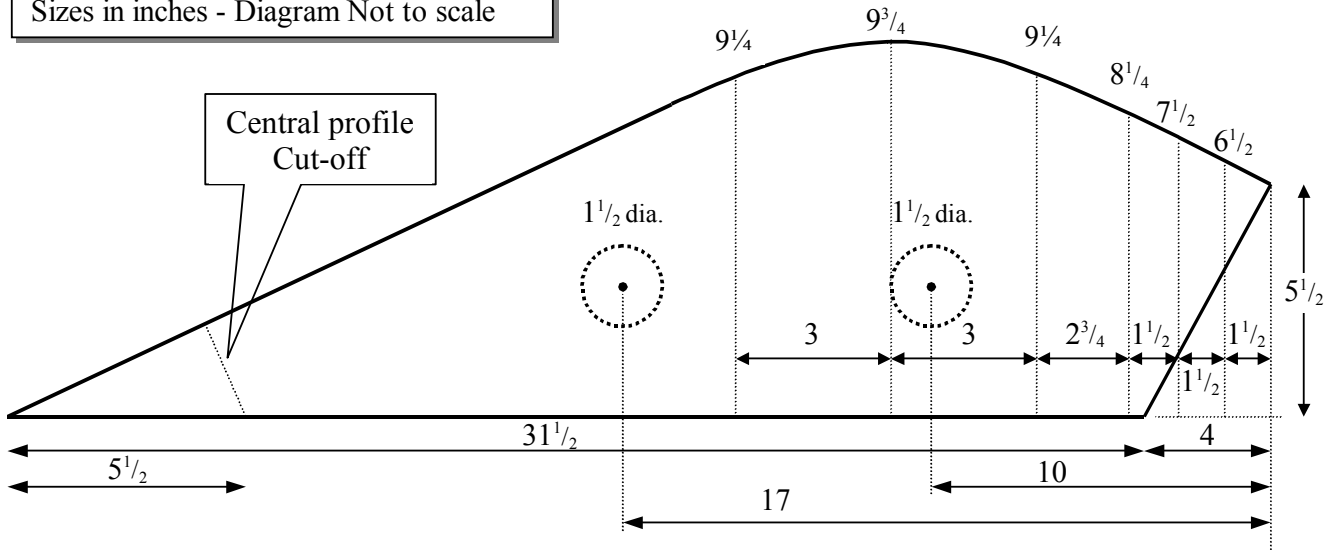
Construction

It's a simple parafoil sequence, with the 'V' at the trailing edge left open. The underside of the profile is straight, as is the rear section of the top and, although most sewing plans for parafoils show the aerofoil profiles being sewn to the bottom skins before the top, I do the opposite & suggest you do too.

My logic is the top profiles always have much greater curve than the bottom so to me it's easier to sew the more awkward curve to a straight line at the start, than when you may have to manage a large bulk of material through your sewing machine later. Also, I would advise you to cut your top & lower skins longer than the sizes shown as it is easy to find you've run out of material before you've reached the end of the aerofoil profile (I've done it) whereas if it's too long it's easy to trim back.



Fredform - by Fred Broadhead
 Sizes in inches - Diagram Not to scale



The 3 internal profiles should have the holes as shown. I'm not convinced the holes are vital but they seem the thing to do; I'm open to being convinced either way. If you intend to appliqué the underside it will be less obstructed if you use white ripstop for the central keel.

I've reduced all the sizes by 1/3 for a kite I have made for my wife, Jean, which, with a Donkey Tail drogue flies better than this one in some winds. It's too small to cope without a drogue but with it, it's great.

So what's a Donkey Tail? In effect short lengths of ribbon-sized ripstop stapled through their centres rather like a mop head & dangled on a line behind the kite. Tails, drogues, or whatever work better on most kites (& certainly on this one) if, rather than fixed to a single central point, are fixed to a 'V' line fixed, for example on this kite, to the two inner corners. It gives the drogue greater leverage to the kite & quicker

response by the kite. Incidentally in making my wife's kite I used a wheeled map distance reader to measure the length of the curved profile & therefore the length of the top skin and having tried other methods this one was absolutely accurate.

The rest is now up to you. I'm open to being questioned, but make it at this size first. If you ring and ask 'how will it fly if you make it ten times larger?' well how the heck should I know!!

Good Luck
 Fred Broadhead

