

# THE MINI ROKKAKU

The Rokkaku kite comes from Japan, and means six sided. Rokkaku's (Rok's) are often made in either one or two metre sizes, for fighting with at Festivals, but this smaller size is quicker and simpler to make, and is much more fun! It requires some skill and patience to make, but can be made in a couple of hours. The materials can be found fairly easily and Mylar comes in a wide variety of colours and patterns. For workshops, cut out and prepare a template beforehand.

## Materials:

1 piece of Mylar wrapping paper  
(shiny plastic foil)  
2mm Fibreglass for the spars  
(at least 151cm)  
Scotch Diamond Tape  
Superglue  
50 inches of light nylon cord  
Flying-line and handle

## How to make your kite:

1 Clear the table and lightly tape the corners of the sheet of Mylar to the table to keep it under control. Make sure you lay it best face down to the table.

2 Lay your template onto the sheet and anchor it in place with four baked bean cans. Mark up using a fine point felt tip pen - don't forget to mark the bridle points.

3 Remove the template and lay tape all along the outline using the Diamond Tape, overlapping the edge by approx. one third. Also tape over the bridle points. The reverse of the bridle points will need taping over later too.

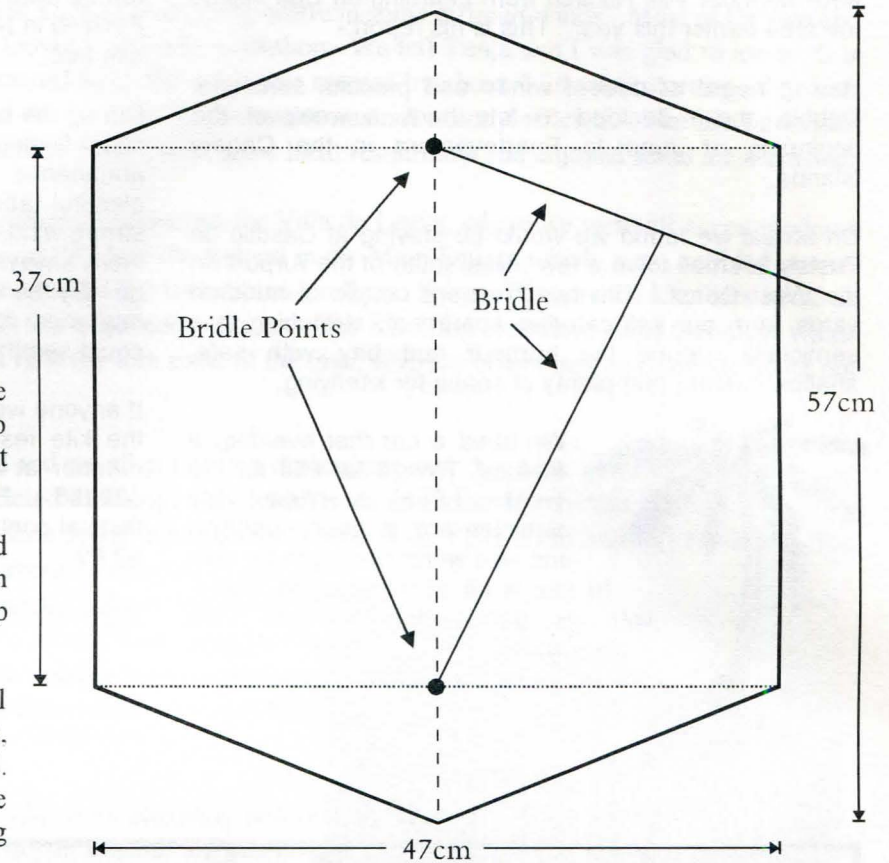
4 Remove the tapes securing the kite to the table and carefully cut out the outline. Take care to work accurately as this will effect the final balance. Pierce holes for the bridle and place tape over the other side of the holes.

5 Cut the spine spar to length and tape in place with approx. one and half inches of tape top and bottom and one centrally. Cut one cross spar to length and then cut other to match so they are identical. Tape these in place at each end and add a small piece midway between the spine and the edge.

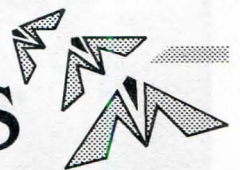
6 Using a large needle thread up some bridle line and thread through the bridle points, tie to the spine and the cross spars with a knot on the diagonal. Use a spot of super-glue to lock in place.

7 Mark one and a half inches in from each end of the cross spars for the tension cords. Tie up a small loop and tie at the mark at one end of each cross spar. Tie a length of line long enough to use as a tensioning cord to the mark at the other end of the cross spars. Use some Superglue to secure these in place. The tensioning cords are tied in a slip knot to tension the kite - approx. one and a half inches of bow seems about right. A small plastic ring, a button or a proper line tensioner can be used to correctly tension the tensioning line.

8 Hang by the bridle and check the balance. Small errors can be adjusted by adding a piece of tape to the lighter side. Now is the time to go out and fly your kite.



## MIDLANDS KITE FLIERS



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