

Terry McPherson's Award Winning Madras Paper Kites

Terry emailed me the following text along with the photos of his beautiful kites. I put them together in this article for Terry. Bruce

I had gotten some Madras Paper, with the help of Karl Szilagi about 7-8 years ago. At that time we go it from Dave @ Big City Kites, which I'm sorry to say is no longer in business.

I got to messing around with Madras Paper this fall, and made five kites, 3 Indian style, 1 using my Mc2 design and 1 variation of my Mc2. I took them all the AKA 2006 Convention this year and entered the Mc2 design in the kite making competition.



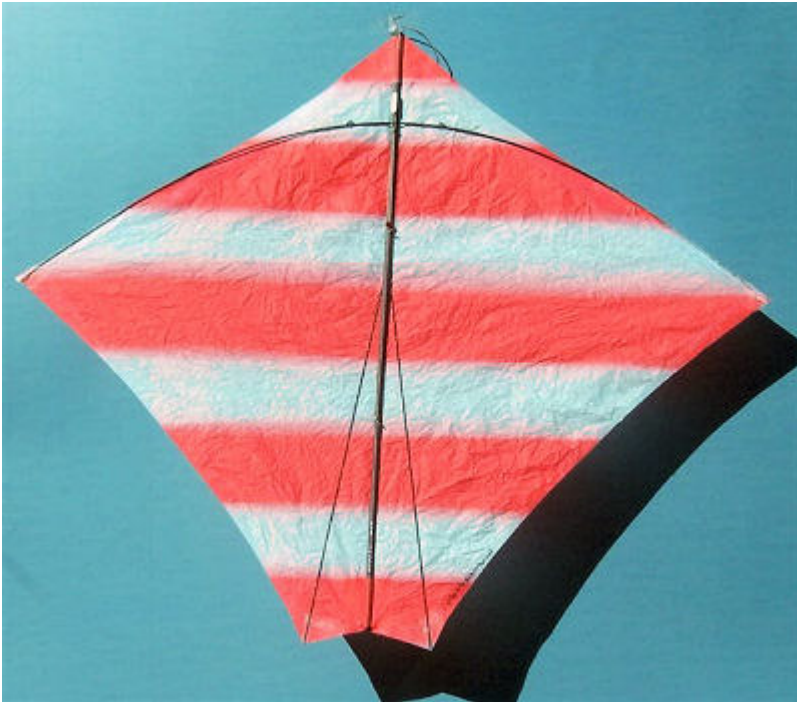
I won the Mixed Media Award with the kite I called "Old & New". For this award winning kite I used Madras Paper for the sail, a painted Bamboo spine with a tensioning devise, carbon fiber for both the bow and battens. Both the leading edge and trailing edges were reinforced with Scotch Tape. I used Photo corners and Elmer's Glue-All to hold the bow in place. This made a very durable well flying kite and got me a very nice award.

This is how I made these kites:

I first marked the outline of my pattern on the paper, then placed Scotch tape on the paper, this is the reinforcement for both leading edge and trailing edges, but not on the area where the sail is folded over the bow.

After applying the tape, I then realigned the pattern to the outline drawn on the paper and cut the sail. I used a very sharp knife to cut the shoulders, where the sail goes over the bow.

Then I added the photo corners in the proper location, put a very light amount of the white Elmer's on the sail and rolled it up over the bow.



Then I added the spine using 1/8 wide double sided craft tape, the battens are held in place using strips of Madras Paper and Elmer's.

Holes were drilled in the painted bamboo spine for the tensioning lines. Clear binder hole reinforcements are used around the bridle attaching points, the holes are then cut using a template. This procedure worked well for me, and the kites are fun to fly.

If the sail gets ripped you just repair it using clear tape.

Terry McPherson

