

FALCON

A winning fighter kite design by Brian Johnsen and Jeff MacInnis

A few years ago Brian Johnsen and Jeff MacInnis worked together and developed a great flying fighter kite they called the FALCON.

Both Brian and Jeff have reputations for being very skilled fighter kite flyers....and they are; however, this FALCON kite is part of the reason. It is a well behaved very controllable smooth flying kite with enough speed to be a competition winner! During the past few years they have both won many competitions flying the FALCON! On a top point, Brian will fly the FALCON way behind his opponent and maneuver the kite to float over his opponent's line for a winning point!! This is a great flying kite!

Brian gave me a pattern for the FALCON at the 2005 WSIKF so I could post it for others to use and enjoy...MANY THANKS BRIAN!! I drew around the pattern and scanned it to create this full sized template.

One of the things that makes this kite so nice is it is simple in design and therefore easy and quick to make.

Brian uses tape to secure the bow to the skin rather than a hem glued to the bow. In the template, I added a hem for those who may prefer gluing a hem rather than using tape. If you use tape to secure the bow and skin, cut the skin without the hem but do keep the wingtip tab.

Brian glues with contact cement the wingtip tabs to the tips of the bow to secure the bow to the skin before taping the rest of the bow to the skin. You could use self adhesive plastic photo corners placed at the wingtip instead of using the wingtip tab. This is true whether you glue a hem or use tape for securing the rest of the bow to the skin.

The spine is made of bamboo. Brian usually makes his spine almost square in cross section about 3/16" square, actually it is a little narrower than 3/16", and the spines of his kites are quite stiff.

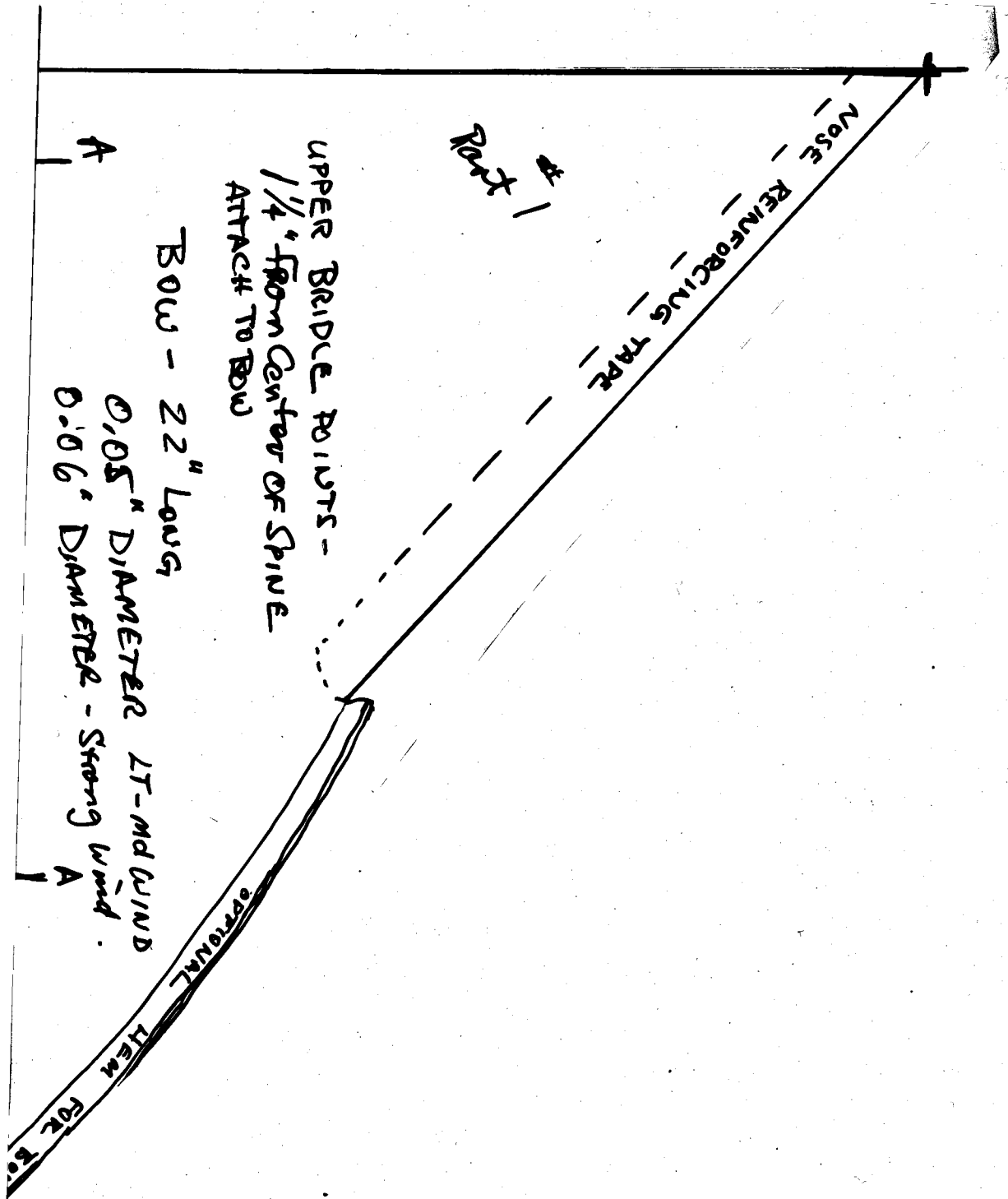
Before flying the kite, he bends the upper portion of the spine so the nose of the kite is about 5/8" to 3/4" off the table when the tail portion of the spine is held flat on the table. The upper portion of the spine starts at the nose and goes almost to the point where a line connecting the wing tips intersect the spine. The tail portion of the spine is straight.

This kite uses a 3-point bridle. The upper bridle connections are secured to the bow at 1-1/4" either side of the center of the spine.

When printing the 3 parts of the template be certain your printer settings are at 100% image setting you do NOT want your printer set at any 'fit to page' setting and the same with your Adobe Acrobat reader.

After printing, tape the 3 parts together, matching the A to A and B to B. You will then have a full sized template of 1/2 of the kite.

Biggrins, bruce
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#1
Trap

NOSE
REINFORCING
TRAP

UPPER BRIDLE POINTS -
1/4" FROM CENTER OF SPINE
ATTACH TO BOW

BOW - 22" LONG

0.05" DIAMETER LT-MD GRIND
0.06" DIAMETER - STRONG WIND

APPROXIMATE
ITEM FOR REF.

A

A

Point #1

3 PT. BRIDGE

BRIAN JOHNSON & "FALCON"
JEFF MAC INNIS

NO BATTENS

A

B

BOW TIP HEN THE

9"

