

# THE EASY TO MAKE, GREAT FLYING GoodDog FIGHTER KITE

*Even if you have never made a fighter kite or any other type of kite before, this kite will be easy for you to make; it will also be easy for you to fly!*

Although I designed this kite primarily for newer fighter kite builders and flyers, it flies extremely well. It is predictable, controllable and has a relatively slow spin rate.

If you are making GoodDog for a first time fighter kite flyer, I strongly suggest using a 24" long **fiberglass** rod for the bow. Use a fiberglass rod with a diameter in the range from 0.058"-0.063". With a fiberglass bow, GoodDog is very easy to fly even for first time flyers in light wind of about 3-4mph. This also makes it very good for teaching folks how to fly fighter kites. If GoodDog is still more active than a particular new flyer can control, add a 4'-6' long streamer tail to the kite.

If you are making the kite for a flyer with some flying experience or want to use it in skills or precision competitions, use a 24" long carbon fiber rod, 0.05" or 0.06" diameter for the bow, depending on the wind speed you plan to fly it in. With a 24" long, 0.06" diameter carbon fiber bow the kite will fly well in winds about 6-11mph. I think GoodDog will be a superb skills/precision competition kite, especially in light winds using a 0.05" diameter bow as well as a great ballet kite in light winds.

**Here's a brief description of the process I use to make this kite in about 25 minutes.**

- A. Use the full sized template included here to cut out the skin.
- B. After cutting out the skin, smooth it onto your work surface with the backside facing up.
- C. Draw the 'flap fold' lines on the back side of the kite skin.
- D. Also draw 2 lines each 1/8" away from and parallel with the fold in your skin material. One line should be on one side of the fold and other on the opposite side of the fold. These lines make aligning the spine's location easier and are optional.
- E. This step is also optional but advisable for those planning to fly the kite in competitions; apply a piece of clear 1/2" or 3/4" wide tape to the leading edge so the tape is aligned with the edge of the skin material until it reaches the 'flap'; along the flap the tape follows the flap's fold line to the wingtip.
- F. Apply self adhesive photo corners just below the junction of the flap fold line and the trailing edge as indicated on the template. If you did the optional step above, the photo corner will actually be applied to the leading edge tape.
- G. Install the spine; apply a single 2" long piece of 3/4" wide tape at each end of the spine making sure the skin is taut after securing the spine. Attach about 1/3 the length of the tape on the front of the skin, then wrap the tape over the end of the spine, and press it around the back of the spine and onto the back of the skin. When you're finished taping both ends of the spine, trim off the corners of the tape with scissors parallel with the shape of the kite.
- H. Install the bow into the photo corners; if you use a toothpick to open the corner pockets, it makes it easier to slide the bow in.
- I. Place a piece of tape about 3/4"x3/4" to cover the most of the photo corner, this helps keep the bow from working itself out of the pocket.
- J. Fold over the flap and tape to the back side of the skin. You can use double sided tape or regular tape.

- K. Attach either a 2-point or 3-point bridle. A 2-point bridle is quicker to make; I prefer the 3-point bridle because of the greater range of adjustability it offers. If you use a 3-point bridle, make the upper bridle connection points about 2" either side of the spine.
- L. Go Fly GoodDog!

Biggrins, bruce

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A

SPINE LINE  
(ALIGN ON FOLD OF SKIN)  
MATERIAL

B

LOWER  
BRIDLE  
CONNECTION  
POINT

SPINE IS 18" LONG  
SPRUCE, BASSWOOD OR BAMBOO

'GOOD DOG'

By

BRUCE  
Lambert

11.2005

TAIL



