

PRINTING AND MAKING FULL SIZED PLANS

The PDF files of 'FULL SIZED PLANS' on this website are great time savers for making proven successful fighter kites! You don't need to draw the kite plan using dimensions given on a diagram.

The full sized plan PDF files are designed to be printed on your computer's printer and give you an 'instant' full sized kite plan. Each of the full sized plan PDF files have multiple pages, usually 2,3 or 4. Each page is part of the complete plan. To see the complete full sized plan, you must combine all the parts together in the correct order as indicated on the pages of the plan. It's very quick and easy!

These full sized plans are actually $\frac{1}{2}$ the kite; the half you get by splitting the kite down the centerline of the spine. **The reason is most kite makers fold their kite skin material** and use the fold of the material as the spine line; only $\frac{1}{2}$ of the full sized kite plan is used to make the whole kite skin.

Here's how these full sized plans are used. Lay the full sized $\frac{1}{2}$ plan or template on the folded skin material so the spine of the plan is perfectly aligned with the fold of the material. Press down on the plan and cut the material along the perimeter of the full sized $\frac{1}{2}$ plan. Then unfold the material to reveal the entire full sized kite skin.

Here's how to make a full sized plan from one of the PDF files:

Open the PDF file and click 'print'. When the print dialogue box opens, make certain the settings of your printer's properties and settings do not allow 'scaling', if it has a scaling setting it needs to be set to 'no scaling', do not allow the printer to 'expand or shrink image to fit page' or any other adjustment to modify the image size. Print at 100% image size.

When you are certain the image will print at 100% full original size, print the pages of the plan.

Once you have all the plan parts printed, cut each part of the plan along its 'joining' line(s). Next align each part to the others along the 'joining' lines to form the full sized plan and tape them together. Some of the plans have letters on each part of the plan. Matching the letters aligns the parts of the plan in the correct order. Other plans use grid squares as guides for proper ordering and alignment of the plan parts.

You can purchase sheets of 'index card stock' from office supply stores; it's only a few cents per sheet. It is heavy paper that will work well in most printers. If you use this heavy stock for printing the parts of the plan, the final taped together plan can be your working template for cutting out the kite skin.

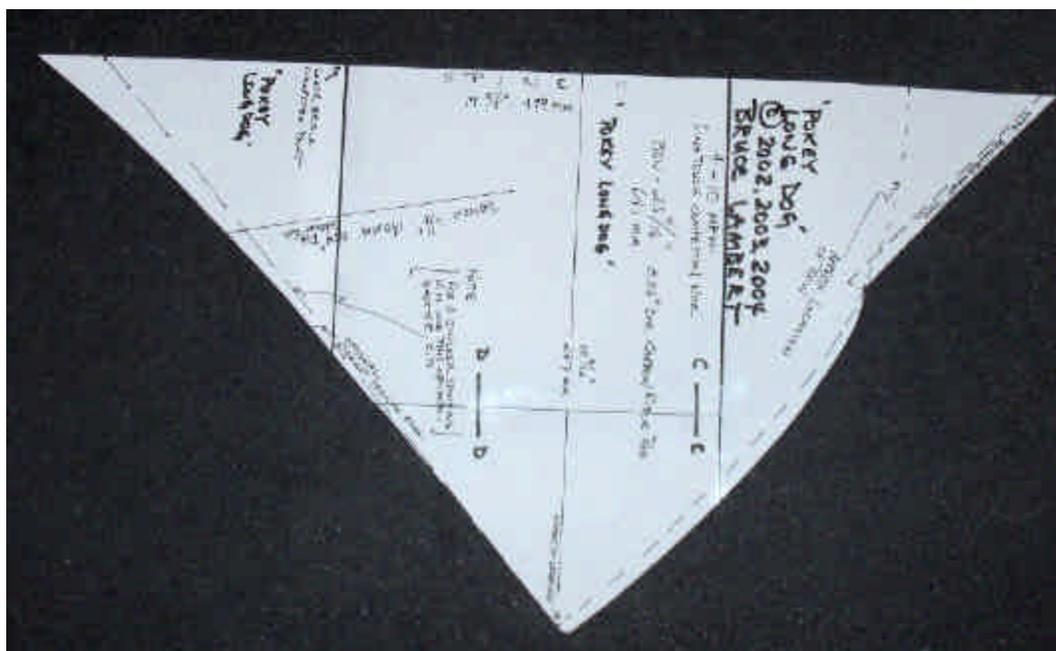
If you use standard copy paper, it is best to glue or tape the final plan to poster or matt board and cut out the full sized plan from the heavier board. This will give you a durable template to use for cutting out your kite skin.

Here's an example:

The photos below show the parts as printed from the 'pokeylongdog' full sized plan PDF file, this particular plan has 4 pages and 4 parts, most plans have fewer parts. You can see how each page of the printed file look as they come out of your printer in the photo below.

make the cut so the printed joining line remains on the plan part. **However, when cutting around the perimeter, make the cut on the inside of the perimeter line** so it remains with the scraps of the plan paper you throw away. **If you leave the perimeter line on your kite plan, your kite plan will be slightly larger than the original.** This isn't a big deal, but is worth mentioning.

The last thing is to measure your plan from the wingtip to the spine and verify it is the same distance as is written on the plan. If it is slightly off, this can happen because of slight differences in printers, make any needed adjust to the plan size so that dimension is equal to the one written on the plan.



SHRINKING OR ENLARGING AN ORIGINAL PLAN

A nice feature of using full sized plans is you can easily enlarge or shrink them. For example if you like a particular kite plan but want a larger or smaller version of it you can shrink or enlarge it easily.

By using the controls in your printer dialogue box and/or properties window you can print at a reduced % or enlarged %. You can have several different sized kites with the same proportions and shape as the original. You can also do this by photocopying the original plan at a reduced or enlarged size.

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