

On bright and breezy days, there's nothing quite like being outdoors flying a kite.

If it's one you've built and designed yourself, then showing it off and watching it soar is even more fun. Our cool kite-making project is surprisingly easy, but don't tell anyone else – let them think you're a genius!

Ingredients

- Two wooden dowel sticks, one measuring 80cm and the other 100cm
 - Fishing line or strong nylon string
 - Thin nylon material (an old shower curtain is perfect)
- or:
- Large sheet of wrapping paper
 - Strong glue or sticky tape
 - Scraps of nylon fabric or ribbon
 - Cardboard

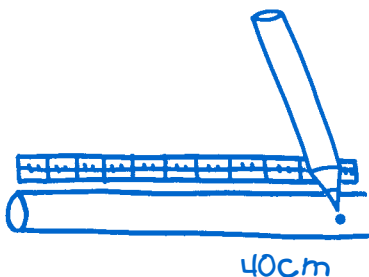
Equipment

- Ruler
- Pen or pencil
- Sharp knife
- Scissors

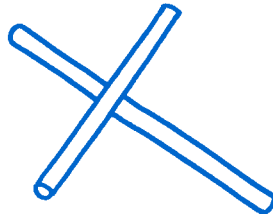


Instructions

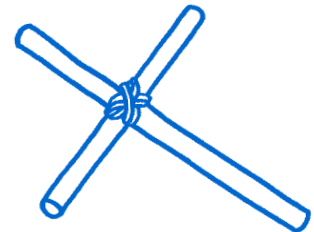
- 1** Use a ruler to measure 40cm from one end of your first wooden stick and mark a small dot at that point. Do the same on the other stick.



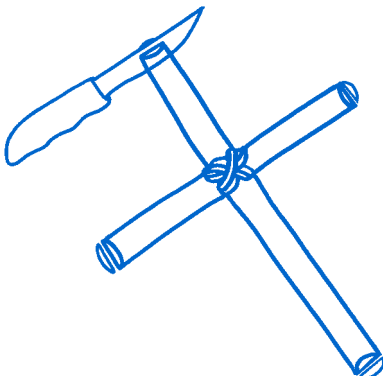
- 2** Lie the longer stick down on a flat surface and then place the shorter one across it at right angles. This will give you a cross shape, and the two dots you made in step 1 should sit at the point where the sticks cross over each other.



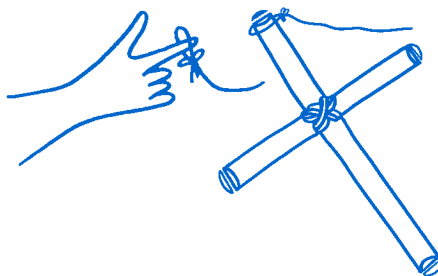
- 3** Wrap a length of string tightly around the cross-over point, wrapping it over, under and around both sticks until they're firmly joined together. Knot the ends of the string together.



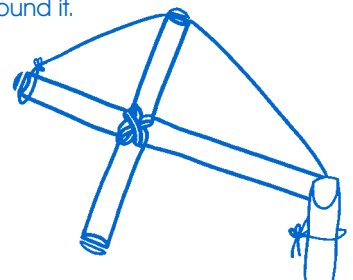
- 4** Ask an adult to make a horizontal cut or notch in the end of each stick with a sharp knife.



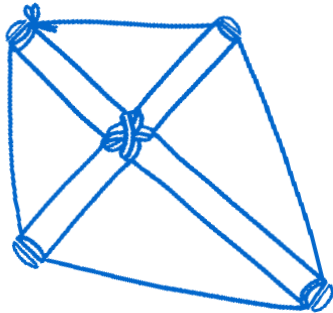
- 5** Take your ball of fishing line or string and about 15cm from one end, tie a loop around your index finger. Slide the loop off and slot it into the notch at the top of your crossed sticks.



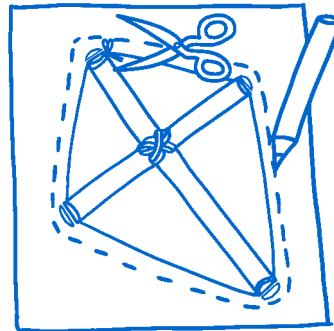
- 6** Holding the short end of the string tight, pull the longer end down through the notch in the right-hand stick and then through the bottom one. Place your index finger over the bottom notch and carefully let go of the string. Leaving your finger where it is on the string, tie another loop around it.



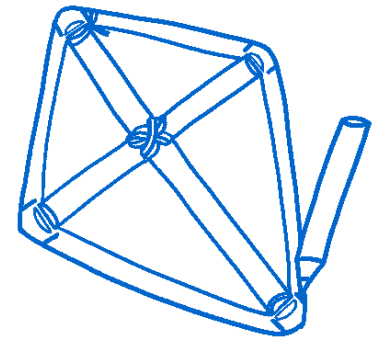
- 7** Wrap the string around your crossed sticks, sitting it in all four notches and making sure the loops sit opposite each other at the top and bottom of your kite frame. Pull the string taut and then knot the ends firmly together and trim away any excess string.



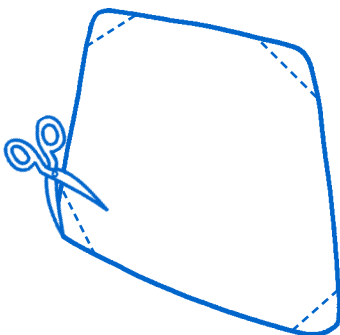
- 8** Place your nylon fabric or wrapping paper face downwards on a flat surface. Lie the kite frame on top and draw around it, adding a 3cm border all the way around. Cut the fabric or paper out.



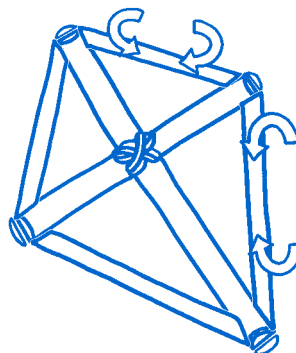
- 9** Lie the diamond-shaped kite 'skin' flat with the frame on top of it again. Make a pencil mark where the ends of the sticks sit on the skin and then take the frame away.



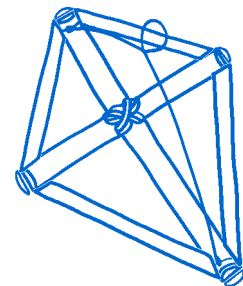
- 10** From the edge of your kite skin, cut across towards the pencil marks, snipping a triangle shape away from each corner.



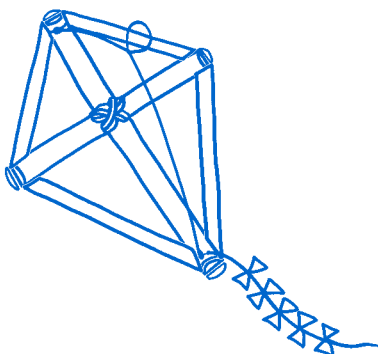
- 11** Now, fold all four sides of your kite skin inwards, turning them over the string frame. Glue or tape in place.



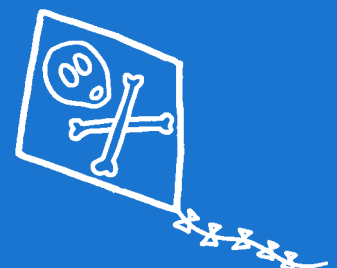
- 12** Cut a 120cm length of string. Tie one end to the loop at the top of your kite and the other end to the bottom loop. Over the place in the middle of your frame where the two sticks cross, make a new loop in the string.



- 13** To finish off, give your kite a tail. Cut another piece of string, this time 1.5 – 2m long, and tie one end to the string loop at the bottom of your kite. Snip strips of nylon fabric or ribbon and knot them at intervals along the piece of string.



- 14** To fly your kite, you need one last piece of string – the flying line. Tie this to the string loop in the centre of your kite and make it as long as you can. Wrap the loose end around a piece of cardboard to stop it becoming tangled. You can then let out as much as you want to fly your kite higher and higher on the next windy day.



TOP TIP:

If you use plain paper or nylon fabric to make your kite skin, you can add your own unique design with coloured marker pens.