

MAKE A GREAT FLYING FIGHTER KITE USING TISSUE PAPER, BAMBOO AND CARBON FIBER



If you want to have some fun making a kite quickly that flies great in all wind conditions except wet ones make a fighter kite using tissue paper for the skin. Tissue paper is quickly weakened and/or dissolved by water, so you won't want to fly a tissue paper kite in wet weather, but in all other conditions, they are some of the most satisfying kites to fly that you could imagine.

In the photos I used a 'hotdog' full sized template and a 0.05" diameter carbon rod for the bow, bamboo for the spine and crumpled tissue paper for the skin. Although I don't show any battens in the photos, I may put them on the trailing edge, similar to the way they are shown on the 'hotdog' template. I'll do that only after I've flown the kite without them to see how I like it.

I like the way tissue paper feels in the air when it has been crumpled before cutting out the kite's skin. The crumpling seems to 'soften' the paper and allows it to easily conform to whatever shape the wind wants it to take.

There are many types of tissue papers. The strongest ones I've found are Japanese tissue papers that are used by model airplane builders. You can buy it at <http://www.peck-polymers.com/> and probably at other model airplane building supply stores. Also silk tissue available from art supply on line stores is very strong. However, all tissue papers work fine.

The paper I used in this particular kite is a 'domestic' model airplane tissue. It has a shiny side and a dull side; I put the shiny side to the front of the kite.

One of the wonderful properties of paper is almost any type of glue will bond it well. Also, you can cut it with scissors, tape sticks well to it and generally it is very easy to work with.

THE BUILDING PROCESS I USED:

- Crumpled the tissue into a small wad or ball as tightly as I could
- Smoothed out the tissue
- Crumpled the tissue again
- Smoothed out the tissue as smooth as I could get it on my work surface
- I didn't attach the tissue to my work surface
- I drew around the template with a fine tipped Sharpie pen.
- Then applied cello tape along the nose leading edge lines
- Marked the location of the wingtips
- Cut out the skin
- Applied photo corners at the bow tip locations
- Glued the spine in place
- Inserted the bow into the photo corners
- Applied glue to the bow hems and folded them over and around the bow
- Applied a piece of tape to the points where the nose leading edge meets the bow
- Marked the location of the bridle connection points

Attached the bridle
Done

The following photos show the process before I attached the bridle. I use a 3-point bridle.

