

KITE MOBILE

Here's how to make a colourful kite to fly in your bedroom whatever the weather!

You can use the kite tail to display favourite photos, postcards or trinkets. Just attach them with coloured clothes pegs.

The kite can be just one colour on each side, or can be made up of several different coloured triangles.

The kite is made using a patchwork technique called English piecing over papers (except that we usually use thin card, not stiff paper!).

You will need

- Triangle templates - there are several combinations to choose from.
- Lightweight card.
- Cotton fabric in bright colours; For each side of the kite
 - Kite A will need two colours of fabric
 - Kite B will need two colours of fabric
 - Kite C will need three colours of fabric
 - Kite D will need two or four colours of fabric
 - Kite E is the Easy kite, and just needs one fabric.
- 505 basting spray glue
- Hand quilting thread.
- Cord, ribbon or Scoubidou to make kite tail
- Sequins, beads, buttons, embroidery thread or fabric crayons to decorate kite
- Brass ring to hang kite up
- Coloured plastic clothes pegs

Equipment

- Pencil and pencil crayons
- Sharp fabric scissors
- Sharp paper scissors
- Pins
- Hand sewing needle

The kite is made in 12 steps

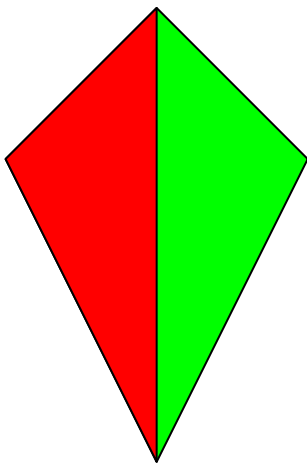
1. Choose which type of kite you would like to make.
2. Draw round the *outside* of the correct template onto fabric.
3. Cut out fabric pieces.
4. Draw round the *inside* of the correct template onto card.
5. Cut out card pieces.
6. Spray baste the wrong side of the fabric pieces and stick the card onto them.
7. Fold seam allowances over card.
8. Stitch kite sections together by hand.
9. Stitch brass ring onto corner of kite.
10. Stitch front and back of kite together
11. Decorate kite.
12. Make kite tail.

Choosing a kite design

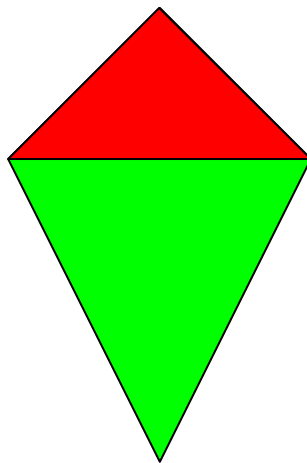
1. If you have not done much sewing before, do the Easy kite - kite E.



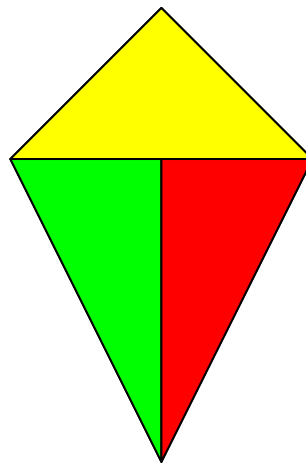
2. If you are quite good at sewing or have more time, choose one of the other kites - A, B, C or D. Kite B is easier than the others.



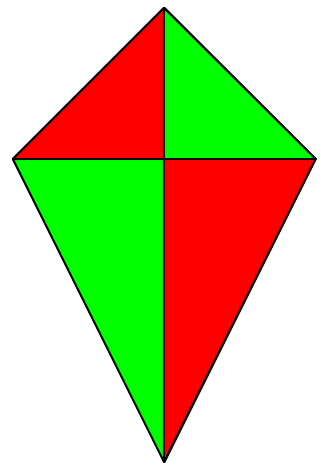
Kite A



Kite B



Kite C

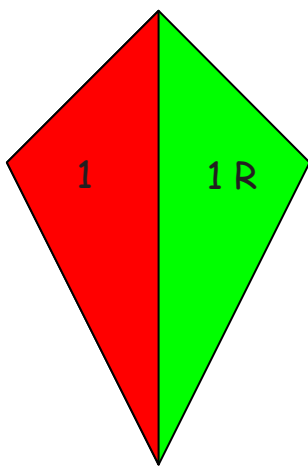


Kite D

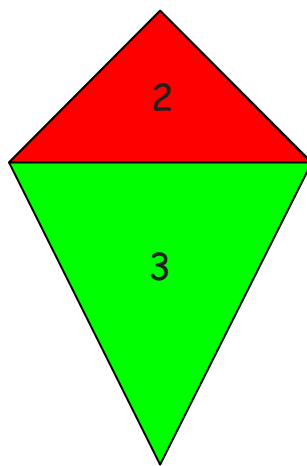
3. You could use one kite design for the front of your kite, and a different one for the back.
4. Don't cut out the pieces for the back yet - if you are running out of time later, you could just use the Easy kite for the back.

Cutting out the kite pieces

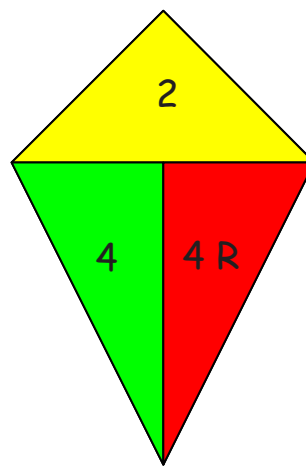
1. Choose the right number of fabrics for the first side of the kite design that you have chosen.
 - Kite A will need two colours of fabric
 - Kite B will need two colours of fabric
 - Kite C will need three colours of fabric
 - Kite D will need two or four colours of fabric
 - Kite E is the Easy kite, and just needs one fabric.
2. Try out the colours together to make sure that they will look good next to each other.
3. Look at the kite design that you have chosen, and check which pieces it needs. Find the templates that you need.



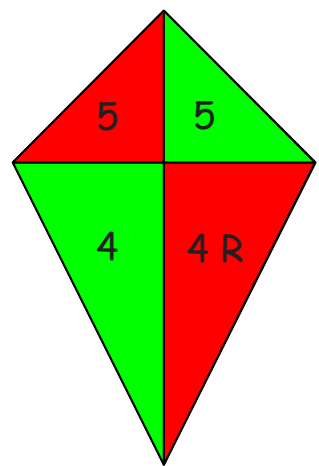
Kite A



Kite B



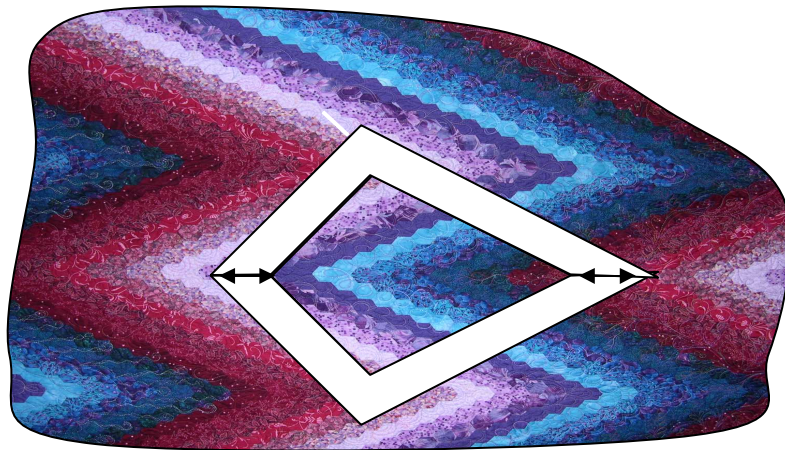
Kite C



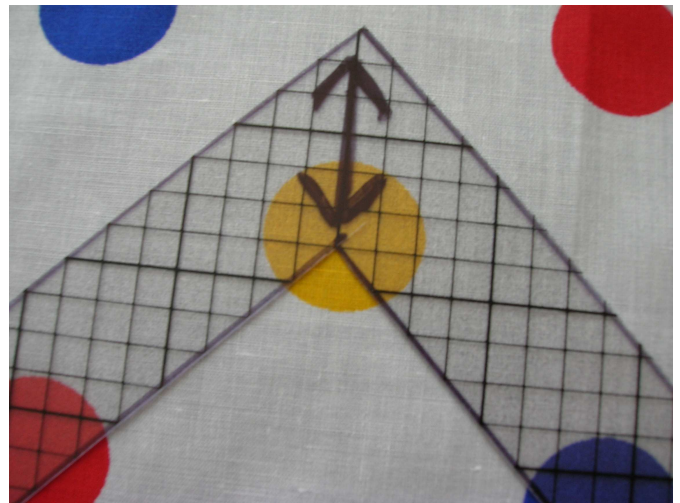
Kite D

4. Shape 1 and shape 4 are not symmetrical, and so you will need to use two pieces that are *mirror images* of each other.
5. This is done by cutting one piece with the template the right way up, and one piece with the template reversed (i.e. turned over).
6. Reversed templates are shown with a letter R.
 - Kite A will need one Template 1 and one Template 1 R
 - Kite B will need one Template 2 and one Template 3.
 - Kite C will need one Template 2, one Template 4 and one Template 4 R.
 - Kite D will need two of Template 5, one Template 4 and one Template 4 R
 - Kite E is the Easy kite, and just needs one Template 6.

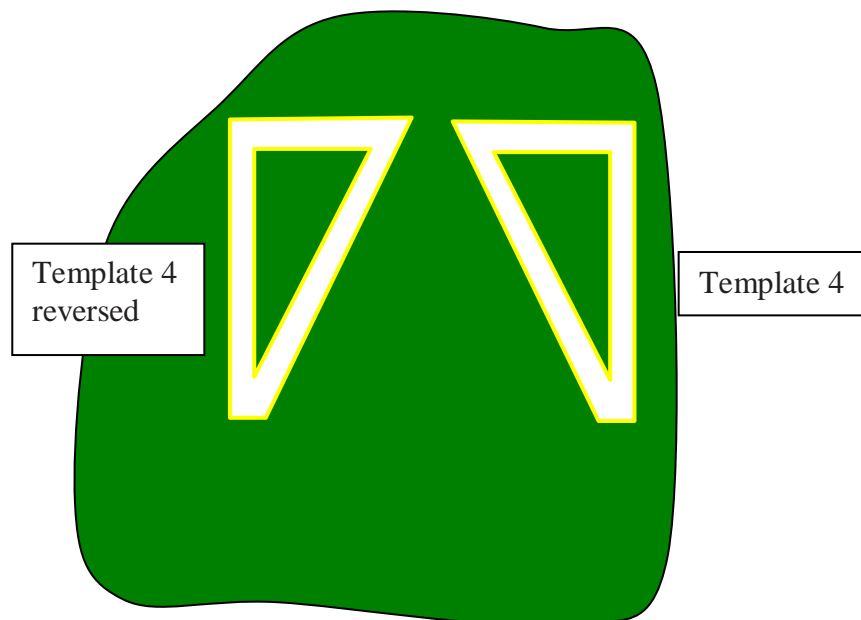
7. Take the first template that you need, and place it onto the *right* side of the correct colour fabric.
8. Put it near the edge of the fabric, not right in the middle (so that you leave enough for someone else).
9. If your fabric has a pattern on it, look through the "window" in the template, and move it until a nice part of the pattern is showing.



10. Try to line up the template so that its arrow line is pointing in the direction of the straight grain of the fabric.
11. Hold the template firmly in place. If it moves about, ask a friend to help hold it still for you.
12. Draw round the *outside* edge of the template with a pencil. Use a coloured pencil if ordinary pencil doesn't show up (yellow is good on dark fabrics).

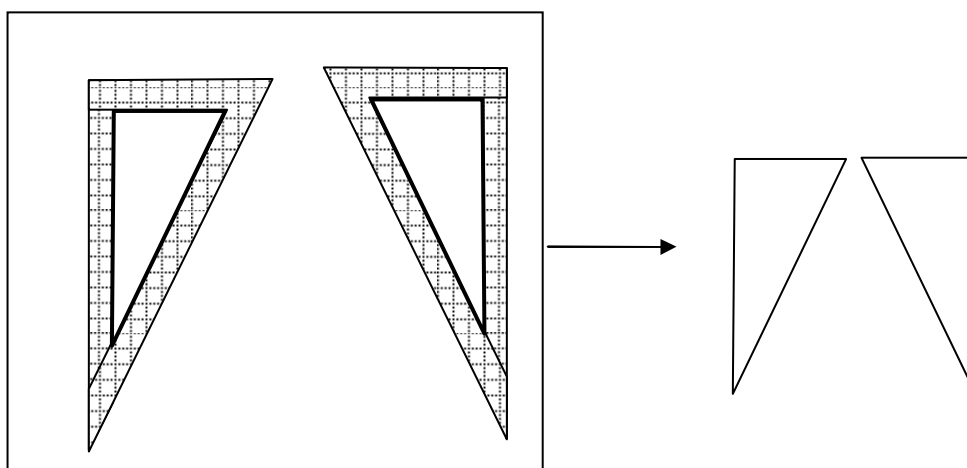


13. Cut out the kite section.
14. Cut out the other kite pieces you need in the same way.
15. Remember that if you need a REVERSED template, this means that you must turn the template over before drawing round it.



Cutting out the card pieces

1. Now the same pieces need to be cut out from the card.
2. Place the template onto the card.
3. Draw round the *inside* edge of the template.
4. Remember to turn over the template for any REVERSED templates.

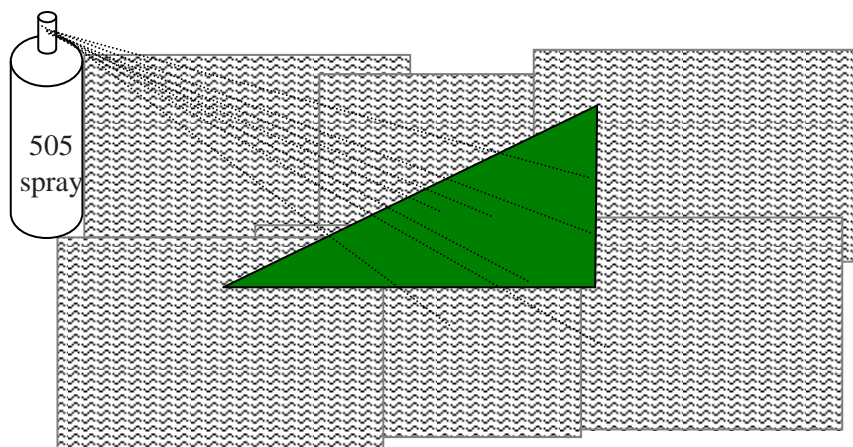


5. Cut out the card shapes using sharp paper scissors.

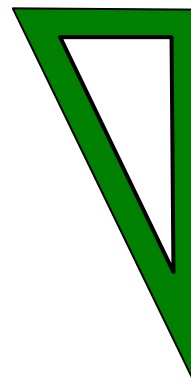
Sticking on the card pieces

1. Spread out some newspaper or plastic to protect your table.
2. Place the kite fabric pieces on the newspaper *wrong* side up, and spray lightly with the 505 spray. Shake the can well before spraying, and hold about 30cm above the fabric.

Note: Make sure that the room is well ventilated; and if you or anyone else in the room suffers from asthma, use the spray glue outside.

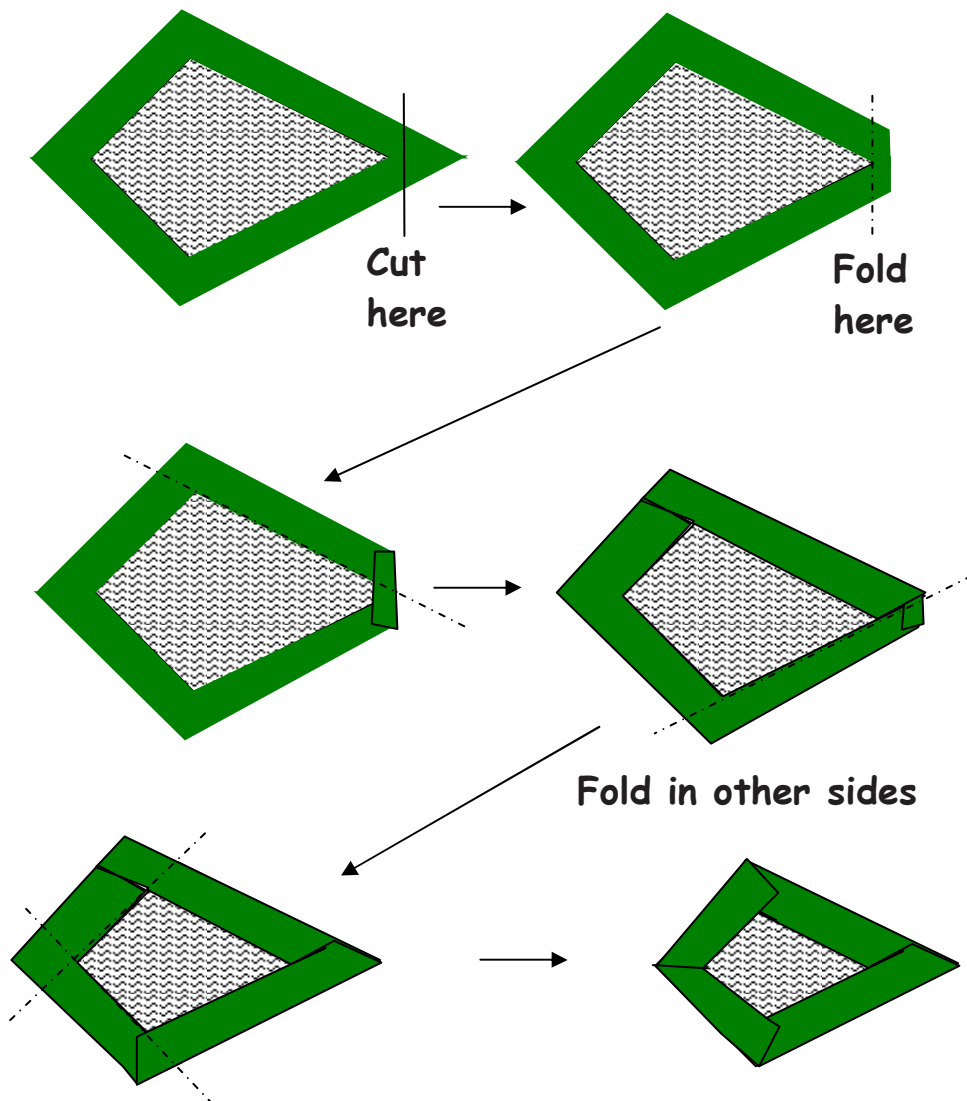


3. Place each card shape onto the centre of its cut fabric shape.
4. Make sure that the same amount of fabric is showing all round.
5. If your card is the same size as the fabric, then you probably forgot to draw round the *inside* of the template on the card! Take it away and recut it.
6. If the card is not in the right place, it can be peeled off, and repositioned.
7. Check that the card is stuck to the fabric - if not, take it off and spray a bit more.

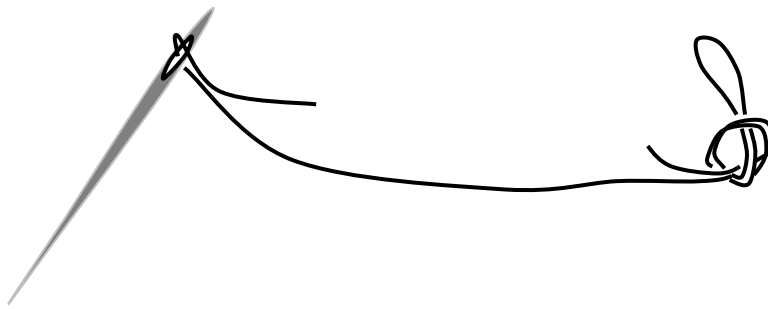
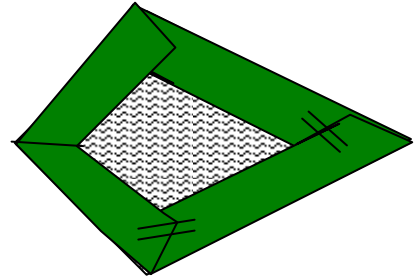


Assembling the kite

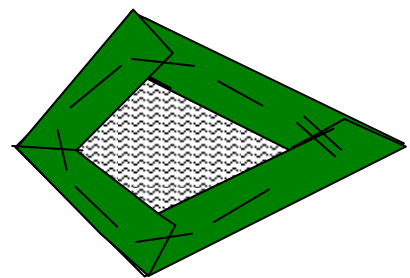
1. The part of the fabric which shows all round the card is the seam allowance.
2. Fold this over the edge of the card, and press with your fingers to make it stick in place.
3. The points of the kite pieces are quite difficult to fold away. It's best to fold these in first.
4. Cut some of the extra fabric away across sharp points, leaving between $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 cm.
5. Fold the trimmed end up first, and then fold the sides in one at a time.



6. If you can't make the seam allowance stay folded in place, put a few stitches in to hold them down.
7. These can be big tacking stitches right through the card - it doesn't matter if they show, because you can take them out at the end.
8. Tacking means big stitches that just hold things together quickly while you sew it properly.
9. To tack, thread a hand sewing needle with any colour.
10. Double the last 2cm of the thread, and tie a double overhand knot (this just means an ordinary knot tied with double thread).

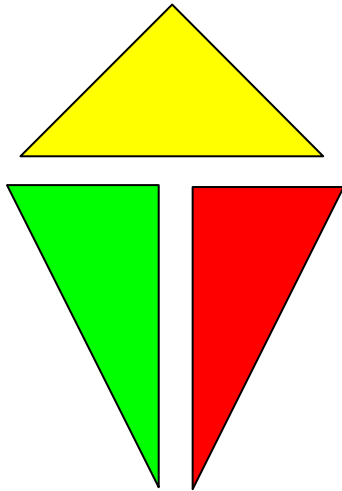


11. Now sew big stitches wherever you need them. Finish by taking two big stitches in the same place.
12. If you weren't using the spray glue, you would need to tack the seam allowance down all round the shape.
13. Turn the seam allowances in on all the triangle shapes for your kite.



Fitting the triangles together

1. Lay out the kite sections, to see how they fit together.

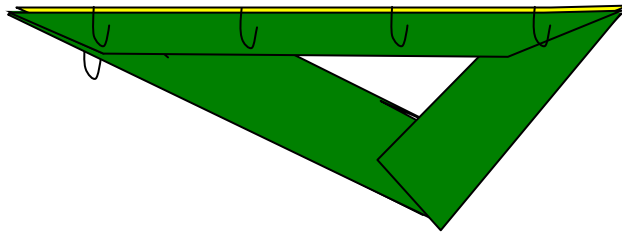


2. Put the first two pieces fabric sides together.
3. Line them up carefully, so the points meet at both ends.

- For Kite A place Triangle 1 and Triangle 1 R together.
- For Kite B place Triangle 2 and Triangle 3 together.
- For Kite C place Triangle 4 and Triangle 4 R together. Stitch Triangle 2 on afterwards.
- For Kite D place both Triangle 5s together. Triangle 4 and Triangle 4 R will need to be stitched together next, and finally the 5s will be stitched to the 4s.
- Kite E is the Easy kite, and doesn't need any triangles stitching together. Jump to the "[Stitching the two kite sides together](#)" section.



4. Put paper clips along the edge that needs to be joined, to hold it while you sew.

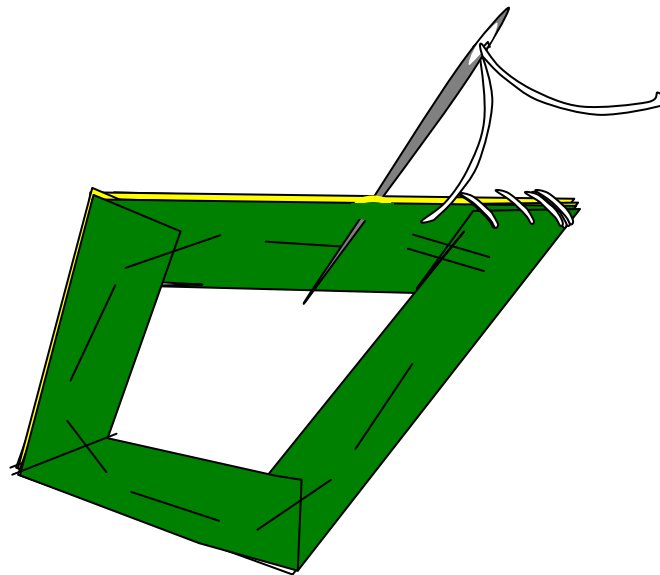


5. Open out just a little. Have you joined the right edges to make a kite shape?



Oversewing the triangles together

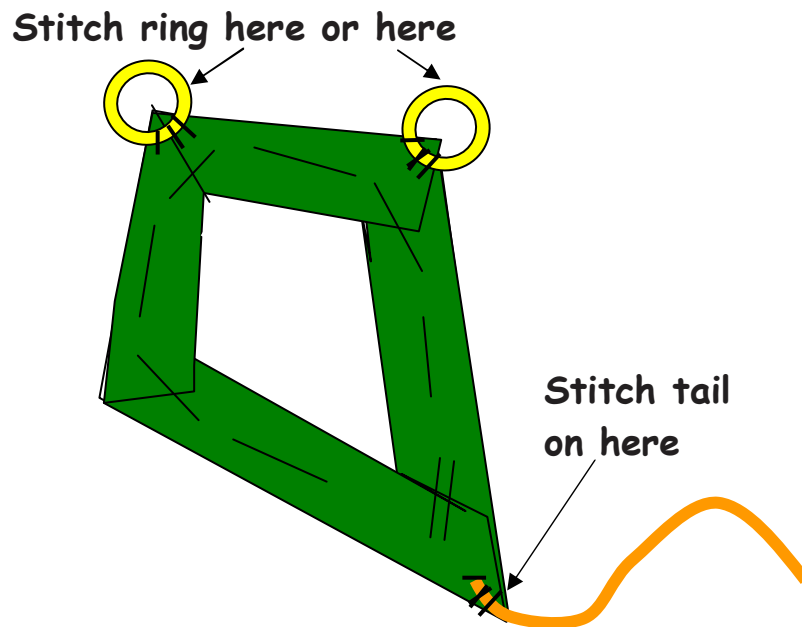
1. Now sew the triangles together properly by oversewing the edge.
2. Thread a needle with a new piece of quilting thread.
3. Choose a "sludgy" coloured thread that doesn't show up much against either colour fabric.
4. Don't tie a knot to start this time. Just take the first few stitches all in the same place, and this will stop it coming undone.
5. Don't sew in and out this time. Always push the needle in from the back to the front. Then lift the needle over the top again, ready to take another stitch.



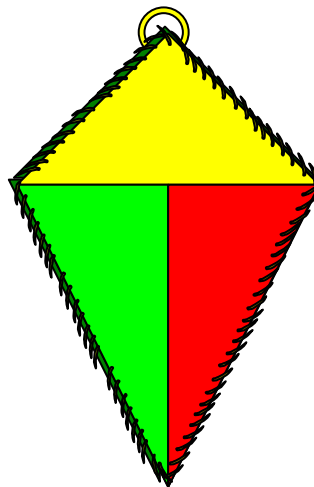
6. Try to take small stitches, close together.
7. When you put the needle in, just pick up a little bit of fabric on each side, right at the folded edge.
8. At the end, take several small stitches in the same place. This will fasten the end off securely, so that it won't come undone when you cut the thread.
9. For Kite C or Kite D, stitch the other triangles on in the same way until the whole kite is done
10. When you have made one side of the kite, make the other side in the same way.
11. Remember that you could just do the Easy kite for the back if you haven't got much time left.

Stitching the two kite sides together.

1. Stitch a brass ring to the inside of one of the top corners of one side of your kite.
2. This will be used to hang up your finished kite.



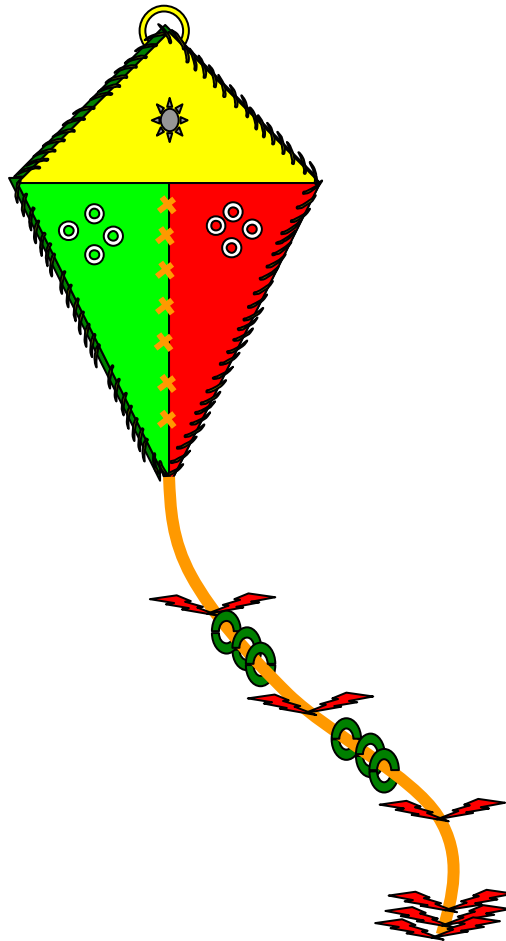
3. Try to take the stitches just through the fabric seam allowance, so they don't show on the other side.
4. Stitch a ribbon or tape onto the bottom end of the kite for the tail.
5. Now place the two completed kite sides together, with the card inside.
6. Pin, and then tack together.
7. Oversew all round the outside edge.



8. Pull out any tacking stitches.

Decorating the Kite.

1. Decorate the kite with sequins, beads, buttons, embroidery stitches or fabric crayons.
2. Decorate the kite tail with small, tied pieces of ribbon, beads or lengths of plaited Scoubidou.

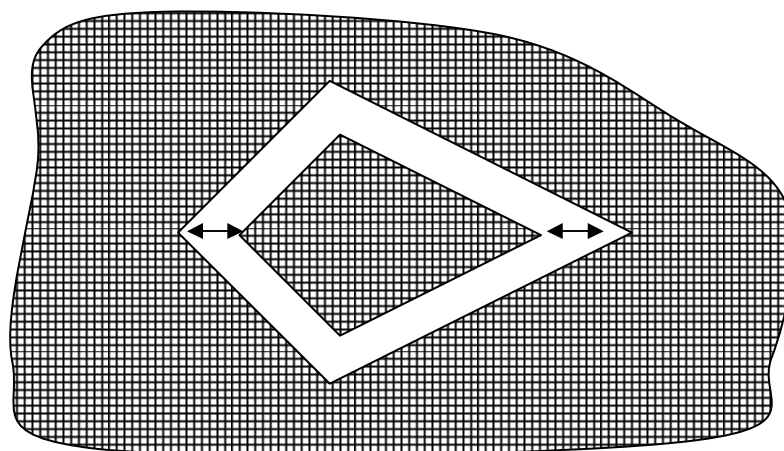


Well done! You've finished! Now you can choose where you are going to hang your kite. What are you going to peg on it?

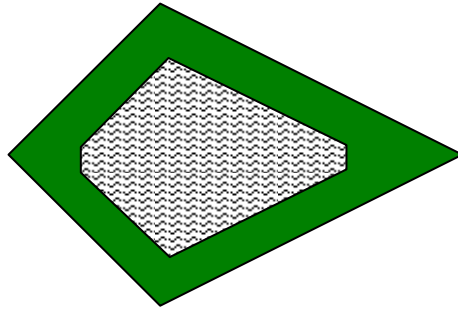
A few useful hints!!!

- This project can only be done in two hours if you choose the Easy Kite option, and decorate using fabric crayons. This is the recommended choice for primary aged children.
- If you have more time or have older or more experienced stitchers, you can choose one of the other kites, and will also have time to decorate more adventurously. Embroidery, sequins, beads or buttons are more easily sewn on *before* the two kite sides are stitched together - but make sure you leave about half an hour to do the final stitching, if you have a time deadline.
- If you don't have time to make the back of the kite, just cut a piece of coloured paper slightly smaller than template 6, and stick onto the back of the first side of the kite.
- Paper can blunt scissors so please encourage children to use the right scissors for the job.
- Iron fabrics first, if creased.
- The 505 spray is not essential, but it makes the project easier and quicker by avoiding the traditional tacking.
- The straight grain of the fabric is the direction that the threads run from which it was woven. If you look carefully at the fabric, you can see these fine threads - some running up and down the fabric, and some running across.

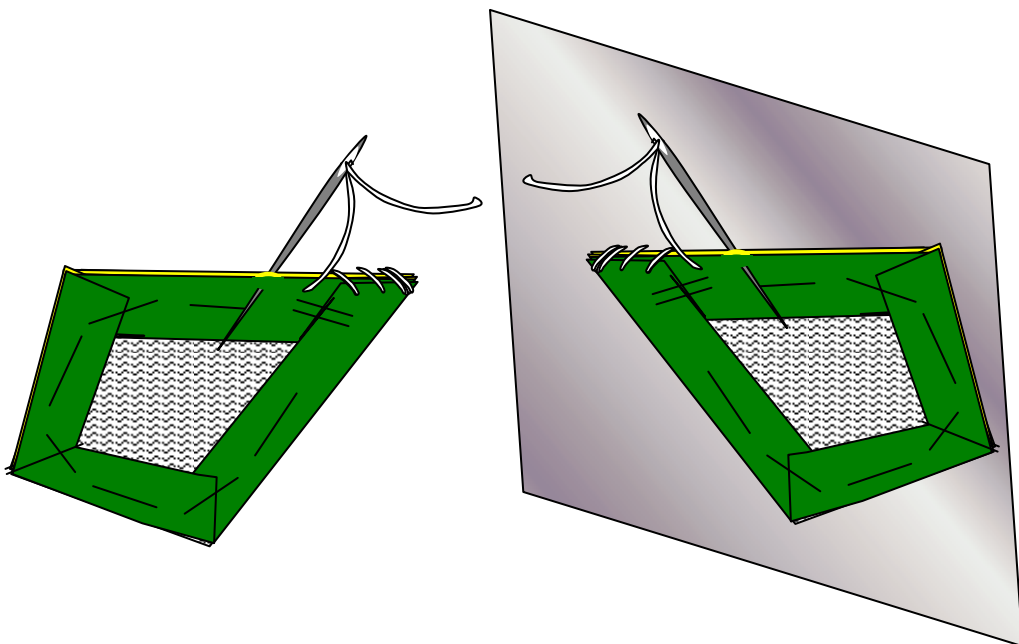
Try to line up the templates so that the straight grain of the fabric is in line with the arrow line on the template.



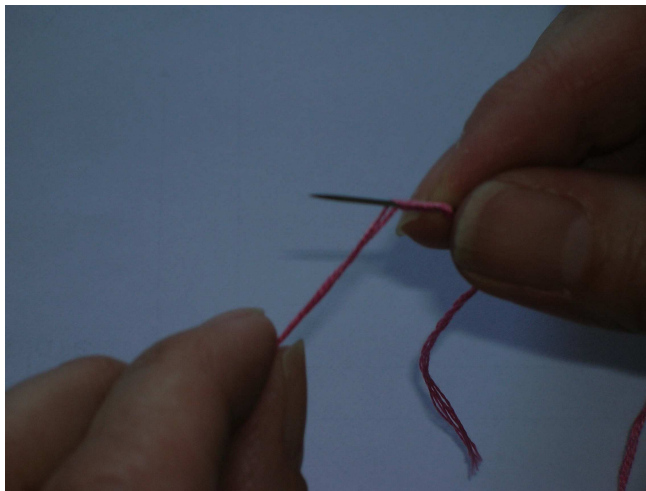
- Younger children may find it too difficult to turn the fabric back neatly at the sharp points. If this is the case, peel the end of the card away from the fabric, and cut off the point. This blunt point will be much easier to manage.



- Quilting thread cannot be used on a sewing machine, but is very good for hand stitching, as it does not knot easily - and if it does, it is more easily untangled than most other machine threads.
- It is important to start and fasten off threads securely; otherwise the stitching will come undone.
- Younger children may find it easier to use thread doubled when hand sewing, as the needle cannot then become unthreaded.
- Encourage older children to use thread that is only singly threaded. The needle will need to be moved along the thread gradually when the doubled part is in danger of being caught in the stitches.
- All the stitching diagrams are drawn for right handers. If you are left handed, look at the diagram in a mirror, and it should be easy to follow.



- Strictly speaking, each template should be reversed on the card when drawing on the smooth side, as it will be turned over onto the fabric when ironed on. As each non-symmetrical template comes paired with its reverse for this project, the desired effect is achieved without having to bother with this. Just make sure that *a//* the card pieces are cut out before ironing any of them onto the fabric - or you may get confused when things don't seem to fit.
- If children find fastening on for the oversewing difficult, allow them to use a knot. A good way to tie a knot in the end of a threaded needle is as follows:
 1. Hold the needle in your right hand, and hold near the "tail" of the thread in your left hand (reverse for left handers).
 2. Bring your hands together, and without letting go of anything, grasp the very end of the thread with the finger and thumb of the right hand, so that it is held against the needle.
 3. With the left hand, wind the thread several times around the needle.



4. Slide this coil of thread down the needle until it also can be grasped by the right finger and thumb.
5. Holding this coil against the needle with the right hand, pull the needle through using the left hand.
6. You will find that the coil forms a neat but substantial knot at the end of the thread.

