

PINEY MOUNTAIN AIR FORCE

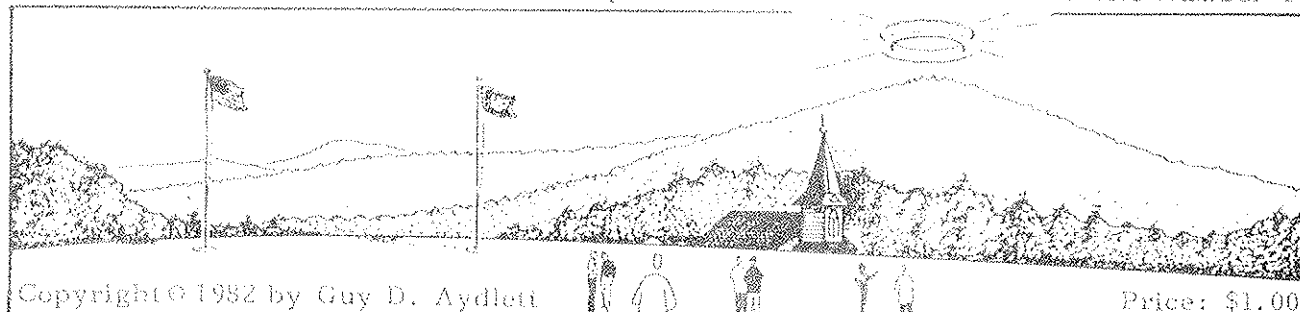
Box 7304, Charlottesville, VA 22906

DATA - LETTER

VOLUME II, No. 4

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Whole Number 17



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Price: \$1.00

Dear Kiteflier:

DATA-LETTER readers tend to have their own colorful—sometimes pungent—definitions of units of measurement. Concerning the *cubit* of antiquity, consider these gems:

BRAIDY LYONS, Short Pump, VA: ". . . A cubit is less than a furlong. . . ."

YGG DRASILIUS, Fimnforsfollett, Sweden: ". . . A cubit equals seventeen to twenty= two of the *engelska lumme*. . . ."

FIORIELLO BONACCI from Bolzano, Tirol: ". . . If one cubit is divided by the number 1.61803398875. . . , the quotient will be precisely 0.61803398875. . . cubit. . . ."

SCOTT SPENCER, Palmyra, NJ: ". . . A cubit is only 20".

"Keep up the good work."

[Here are two more: "forpet" and "trone." Three readers who send us the best definitions before Bastille Day will each receive a small gift packet from Nisse, the Troll.]

And we have these:

BROOKS G. LEEFLER, Silver Spring, MD: ". . . Watch out for rhomboid boxes!" [?]

THEODORE GENSFLEISCH, Mineral, VA: ". . . Why do you call yourselves Pinkey Mountain Air Force?" [Mainly because our trolls just hate to be called "Brownies."]

THOMAS DORTMANN, Bonn, West Germany: ". . . I have just finished a Hornbeam Sled Mark I in silver mylar, which has a good angle and is a stable flier. Maybe there is time to try a train of them. Good winds!"

STEPHEN HOBBS of Lancashire, England: ". . . I look forward to receiving my first *DATA-LETTER*. Best wishes for 1982."

REDEYR WHEELER, H.V., Southbury, CT: ". . . I'm glad the two big poles [flagpoles] were available after they were taken down to make room for the Christmas star. We were pleased to see a Bear Flag flying merrily from the south one in the January *DL*.

"Some of the Wit & Spittle members were pleased, too, though they questioned Cannery Row as being anywhere near. I thought [The Top Troll] might be kidding about the legibility of 'California Republic' until I counted the fifty stars on the other flag, or at any rate counted most of them. Wondrous. With skinnier ink perhaps Cal Rep would be readable. Thanks for supplying extra copies of January *LETTER*. I'll have to think up some worthy recipient, but nobody that has a gerbil cage. . . ."

From another Wheeler letter: ". . . I've perused two-three times the fusee explanation on p. 3 of Jan. *DL* and I must say I don't believe you left out a thing pertinent to the paradox. . . . I hope you will let me know about comments from [the other] subscribers." [They've prudently kept mum.]

(more on p. 4)

HORNBEAM MARK I IN SEWN RIPSTOP OR IN STAPLED PAPER

(Excerpted from *Simple Fabric Kites*, 1982, by permission of author Margaret Greger)

HORNBEAM MARK I

Developed and named by Guy Aylett, publisher of the Piney Mountain Air Force Data-Letter, the Hornbeam is a new face in the family of kites commonly called sleds. William M. Allison patented his Flexible Kite in 1955, and kites all over the world have been delighted by its descendants.

This is a modular pattern. Multiply every module by the same number and the resulting kite will be in scale. To make a 44" (height) Hornbeam--the largest which can be cut from unpleated 45"-wide material--multiply all figures by 11.

Make a pattern for half of the kite, with the vertical center line on the fold of the material and both sides cut at once for symmetry. Split the pattern at the spar line for the casing extension. Casing should be four times the width of the spar. Allow 1" for a 1/4" dowel.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FABRIC HORNBEAM

Materials:

The amount of material and binding needed depends on the size of the kite.

Two dowels, 3/16" for a 36" kite, 1/4" for 44"48".

30# to 50#-test line for bridle, the length of the bridle six times the height of the kite.

1. Cut out kite, marking casing lines.
2. Bind all edges.
3. Bring casing lines together (right sides together, so casing will be on the back of the kite) and stitch from top to bottom of kite, closing the top of the casing.
4. Reinforce tips at bridle points and insert eyelets as shown.
5. Cut dowels to fit. Sand the tips and insert in casings. Close casings.
6. Tie the ends of the bridle through the eyelets. Tie loop in the center of the bridle.

STAPLED HORNBEAM

Even though this is a book of fabric kites, I cannot resist including a stapled version of the Hornbeam. The Stapled Sled is a living-off-the-land kite--inexpensive, instant, a delight to fly. Make it of lightweight brown wrapping paper, which takes on a warm character in the sky. Fancy wrapping paper makes fine kites if the edges are reinforced with tape. Sheets of sumi rice paper can be glued together.

Kites 18" to 36" (height) fly well in light to medium winds. I store and transport them in a cardboard portfolio, folding them once in the center.

Multiply all figures by 6 for a 24" kite. Cut the pattern on the spar line and extend for the folded paper spars--2" for an 18" kite, 3" for 24", and 4" for 36".

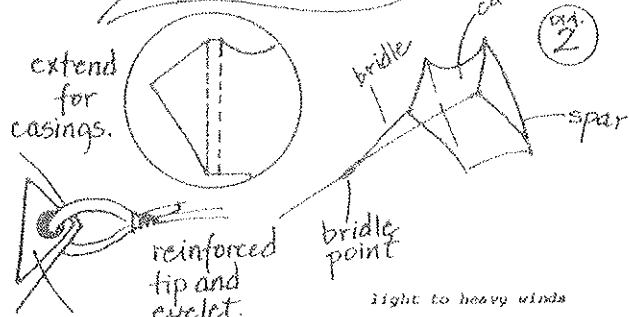
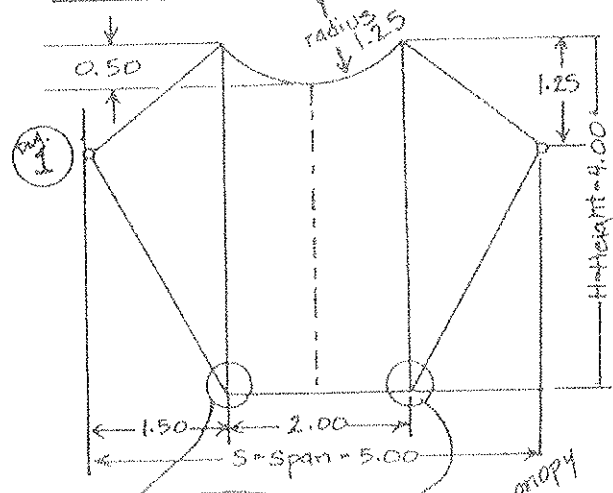
INSTRUCTIONS FOR STAPLED HORNBEAM

Materials: tough, lightweight paper; strapping tape, string six height of kite.

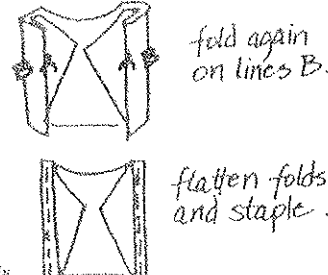
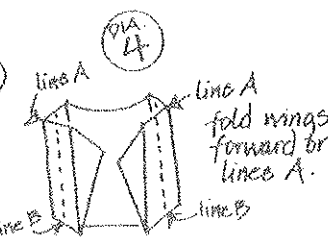
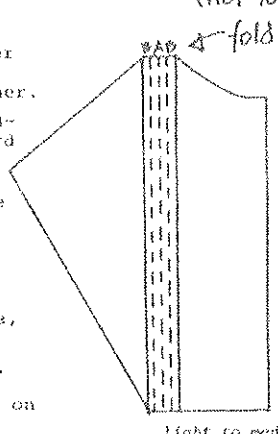
Tools: scissors, yardstick, pencil, stapler, punch.

1. Cut out kite. Mark fold lines (dotted lines on diagram).
2. Fold as shown. With staples about 2" apart, staple folds close to the edge. Crease the wings and center of the canopy away from the spars.
3. Tie a secure loop in each end of the bridle line and tape in place as shown. Tie a loop in the center of the bridle. The flying line ties through this loop.

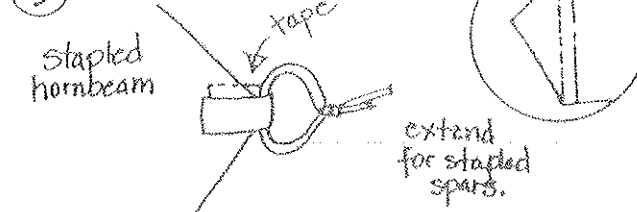
BASIC HORNBEAM SLED KITE



DIA. 3 stapled hornbeam (not to scale)



DIA. 5 bridle attachments:



[More about *Simple Fabric Kites* on page 4]



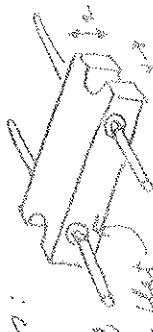
American Kitefliers Association

Sat 12/5

Dear Guy -

Thought I'd indicate my new stationery with a comment re your item in the issue about ~~the~~ winders.

I used to use a frame winder until I cranked 3/4" dowel with 160# line. Then I saw Len Connor's version made out of a length of 2"x4" pine, thus:



He uses 3/8" dowel thru 3/4" holes for handles, securing them with a flat washer and a thick strip of filament tape. He also likes the double-sided handle arrangement, but I found it got in the way.

I then tried to minimize weight while increasing length of wrap per revolution, and ended up with one made of 1"x6" cedar with fixed handles, like so:



This is a much lighter, simpler, more effective arrangement, I've found. The width of the 1"x6" allows "blind" -- eyes-up -- winding; the cedar is strong longitudinally but light in weight; the lack of "korns" allows fast dumping of a lot of line on launch by turning the rig perpendicular to the line; the manufacture is simplicity itself: nail or peg ~~a~~ lengths of dowel on each end of a board; the cedar when oiled is lovely wood.

BUT — The CONSOLID Thing is bulky. So now I use, almost exclusively, the so-called Cuban yo-yo hoops (just winds in Seattle markets smaller and larger versions which are equally satisfactory). I can carry eight of them in a small duffel, with line from 20 to 400 lbs.; they will wind 16" to 20" of line per revolution; and they cost about \$3.00 per.

So here. Best wishes for the holidays!

Brooks Leffler

REEL PHILOSOPHY FROM OLE BABBLING BROOKS—Brooks Leffler, AKA editorial honcho, inscribed the holograph reproduced above; permitted its use, provided we left out cuss-words and amended his Cuban Yo-Yo endorsement: "... Halo is as good, new on the market, same price, same price, and available in 2 diameters [from Kites Aweigh, Annapolis]."

MORE FROM READERS:

MARGARET GREGER, author of *Blown Sky High and More Simple Kites*: ". . .I'm having such fine results with Old Hornbeam. . . .Have you considered that this kite [Hornbeam Mark I] may be the final word on Allisons? [Yes.] . . .I never worked with anything as simple and satisfying as your module system for the Hornbeam. What I especially like is that I don't come out. . . with any silly little fractions in my dimensions. . . ."

[Editorial Note: Margaret Greger's newest book, "SIMPLE FABRIC KITES," arrived as a review copy during the preparation of this issue of DATA-LETTER. The forty-five page, softbound book neatly stitches the jargon of the kiteflier to the logollables of the needle wielder. Margaret's lucid text combines well with the clear step-by-step Joan Newcomb graphics to lead beginner or expert through the construction of seven kites that are graded according to the complexity of their fabrication. Our own Hornbeam Mark I—sled, or Alliflex—leads the list as being the most elegantly simple to stitch together and fly in "light to heavy winds." —"Simple Fabric Kites"; \$4.00 from booksellers, or \$4.70 packaged and mailed from: Margaret Greger, 1425 Marshall Ave., Richland, Washington 99352.]

MARTY SHIGEO SASAKI, Brookline, MA: ". . . The foam cutter [mentioned in DL No. 15, p. 12] is called the Snow Foam Wonder Cutter. . . manufactured by Snow Foam Products, Inc., El Monte, CA 91734. . . . Stock number 601. I paid \$3.25 for it at my local artist supply store.

". . .Winter in New England has kept me indoors busily making kites of all kinds. Along with the rotor kites, I've made a few more Hornbeam sleds, a Star Victory, and have started a Rokkaku, all of the plans coming from PMAF DATA-LETTER.

"The appearance of the January DATA-LETTER before January 1 was quite exciting. Thanks for the good work. I enjoy every issue and look forward eagerly to the beginning of each month when the next issue will arrive."

ALEX G. DUNTON JR., Richmond, VA: ". . .Keep up the good work! The DL is getting better and better!"

ROBERT THOMAS ESKRIDGE, Miami, FL:

Page 4, PMAF DATA-LETTER—April 1982

". . .Hearty good wishes for your continued perseverance!"

FRANK A. LIESE, Lakehurst, NJ: ". . .A very fine data letter.

". . .I donated an antique autogyro. . . kite to the Smithsonian Institution this past summer, to fill a vacancy for that type of kite. It was about thirty-five years old.

"Your fine effort to boost experimental kite research is greatly appreciated. . . ."

TOM CHRISTENSEN, Sprague, WA: ". . .I have blessed [the author] many times for the 'Green Jeanne' article [*Kite Tales*, Vol. 10, No. 1, May 1976: "A Rotor Kite of the Spool Type"]. It was very informative. I very soon gave up model aeroplane type construction for 'styrofoam,' 'blue board,' and white glue. With good results. . . .

"Normally I use a two string reel, because I like to rotate the kite in a vertical plane right and left and return it to its horizontal position.

". . .Keep up the good work. . . ."

JACK VAN GILDER, Seattle, WA: ". . .You must have an extensive correspondence! Loved your last publication [No. 15]—enjoyed your excerpts—" [Excerpts like the ones that follow?]

PERUNA PRATT, Piney Mountain: ". . .Are Leonard Conover and The Trolls for real?" [*H-m-m, well-I-I, . . .let's put it this way: Trolls are for real; kitefliers are figments of their imaginations.*]

CLYDE CHIDDLETT, Bacon Hollow, VA: ". . .That Hornbeam 'Quintessence' kite is of poor design and a dismal flyer.

"P.S.: I haven't built one yet. . . ."

GURNEY GOODWILL, Bird-In-Hand, PA: ". . .That Hornbeam 'Quintessence' kite is exquisitely designed and a splendid flyer.

"P.S.: I haven't built one yet. . . ."

Want to fly kites in a lovely, historical setting? You can be a kiteflying guest at President Monroe's Ash Lawn home near legendary Charlottesville and Mr. Jefferson's Monticello if you attend Ash Lawn's third annual Kite Day on 2 May. Laid-back, informal flying; prizes. . . . Call (804) 293-9539 for more information.