

KITE PLAN

NO-SEW SEAMS

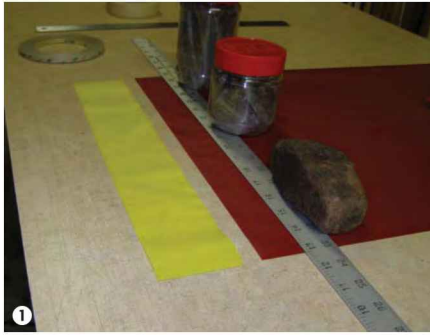
BY DICK MACIEL



Dick Maciel's 2nd place bowed kite

Dick Maciel's recent kitemaking success at Gettysburg all came without a single stitch. Here he offers his technique for making a no-sew seam on ripstop nylon, without introducing stretch and wrinkles.

First, cut your pieces with straight edges. Choose one to put on the bottom of the seam and weigh it down with a straight edge and weights. The more weights the better. Don't stretch the edge. Just let it lie and trap it under the yardstick.



Tape that edge. With the paper on the tape, it stretches very little. Keep just enough pull to get a good, straight line.

Position the second piece of cloth exactly where you want it to end up. Carefully put down the straight edge and weights. It may take a couple of tries to get the cloth smooth and positioned. Don't try to pull it into position. You'll stretch or deform it.



Fold back the second cloth and pull off the paper. Let the first cloth settle back into its original position.



Let the second cloth fall onto the first. Don't try to place it. Support the edges and then let it fall.

Make sure it landed correctly. Rarely, it will not but you can usually lift it and try again. Rub gently starting at several places. Don't go from end to end. That can build up a ridge of cloth and produce a wrinkle. Then, iron or rub hard.



I use 3M's 9460 VHB tape. I've tried the various dressmaker's tape available at fabric stores, but none hold up to the stresses of kites. Same with double sided cellophane tape like Scotch brand.



Dick Maciel's 2nd place flat kite