

KITE PLAN

This trapezoidal variation of the dellaporta was taught by Deb Cooley at the 2006 Fort Worden Kitemakers Retreat. She credits John Gabby with the design. The kite is a steady flyer in light to medium winds, but prefers to rise under its own power without having its line tugged.

Cut out a sail from $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce nylon with an upper edge 15", a trailing edge 45", and a top-to-bottom vertical length of 54". Decorate the sail as you will. Next, cut out a



pie-wedge-shaped reinforcement for each corner, out of the same color fabric as the sail. Match the reinforcements to the sail and sew along the curved edge only.

Cut a dacron triangle for each corner. Both are 3.25" on a side, but

with different angles. Cut another set like the first, only slightly larger. Sew the smaller set of triangles onto the corners, along the top edge (hypotenuse) only. Then line up the bottom edge of the larger triangle to the kite. Sew along one side to the corner of the kite. The extra fabric leaves enough to make the pocket. Try to match up the edge, and finish sewing. Do not sew across the top edge! Repeat this for all four corners.

Once the corners are sewn in, you can edge bind the kite. Use 1" slit tape, folded in half. A progressive zig-zag or any other decorative stitch will work.

Using a long ruler, mark from the top corners to the opposite corners. Draw a line on the pockets. Sew a seam $\frac{3}{8}$ " to either side of it, making sure that you gather the extra fabric so that the spars will fit into the pocket. On the bottom corners only, burn a small hole on either side of the pocket seam for the bridles.

Also mark where the two long lines cross (approximately 14" from the top edge). Cut out a small square of fabric, two layers thick, the same

color as where the X marks the spot. Sew the square onto the back of the sail.

You should add tail attachments. A small loop of gros-grain ribbon or a short piece of line with a knot at the end will work. Sew them onto the trailing edge at the corners.

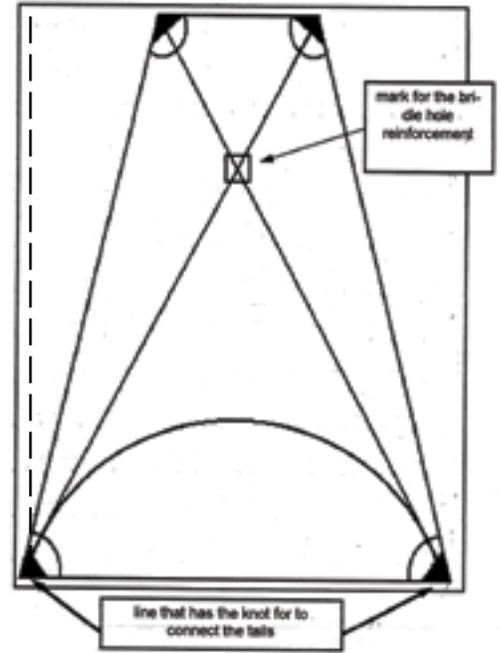
You will need four spars (.2600 carbon) with two ferules, making two longer spars. Put one end into the top pocket and measure the length for the spar. It should be cut long enough to make the kite bow! Cut the other long spar to match, put on vinyl caps, and assemble the kite.

Tranadella

With the spars in, you can burn a small hole for the upper bridle attachment, at the reinforced point where the spars cross.

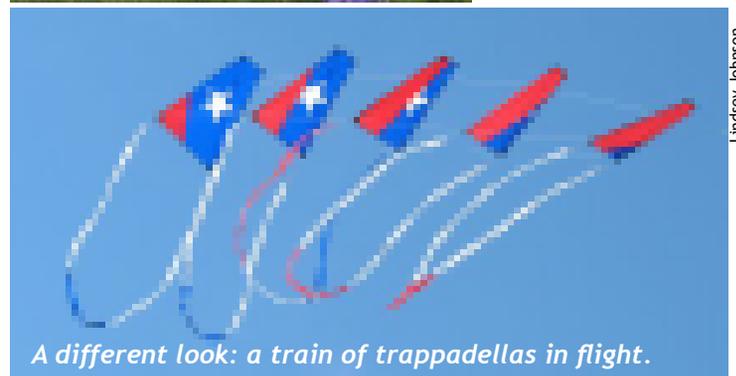
You also need a $\frac{1}{8}$ " fiberglass or carbon rod for the arched spar on the trailing edge. This should be about 48" long with end caps. Fit it right into the lower pockets, alongside the main spars.

Cut two pieces of line – 86" and 94" – for the bridle. Take the shorter piece and tie it through the holes on the bottom corners. Tie a loop in the longer piece, put it through the upper bridle hole, and larkshead it around the spars. Tie the opposite end to the lower bridle



leg to complete the three-point bridle. Attach a split ring to the upper leg to make an adjustable tow point.

Don't forget a tail! You can use two separate tails, a loop, or a Y.



A different look: a train of trappadellas in flight.

Lindsey Johnson