

KITE PLAN

Crafts/Conn Genki

by Simon Crafts



This is a superb flying kite. It will handle a wide range of winds, is very stable and efficient, and – if built with lightweight materials – is often the only kite in the sky during those lulls at the festival. Adrian Conn and I put our heads together, and actually each developed this “improved” genki plan at the same time and separate from each other, yet we ended up with the same thing. Funny how that works sometimes!

It is important to note the relationship of the width of the wings to the center panel, and that the aspect ratio of the kite has been slightly reduced from that of popular plans (2.75:1 vs 3:1). This, combined with the clipped wing corners, provides an extraordinarily stable and efficient kite.

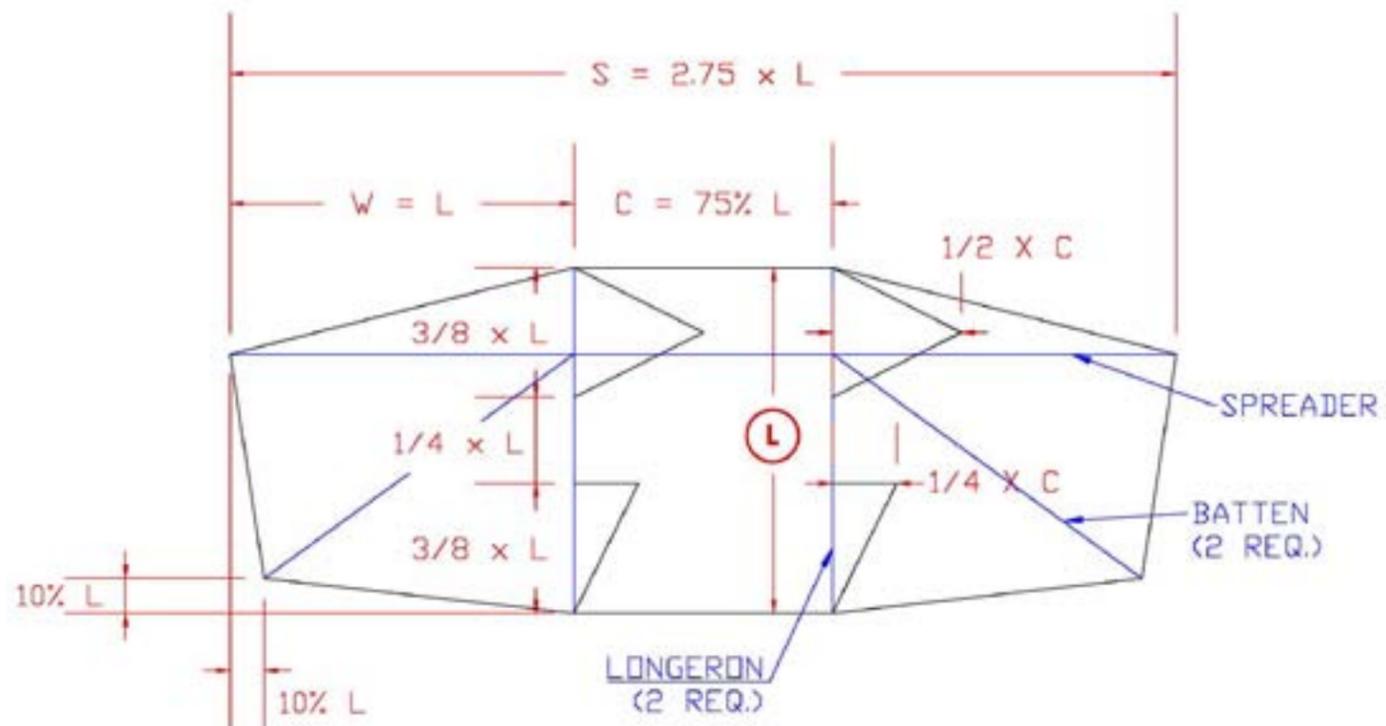
Construction is simple, and the details can be copied or transferred from most other kites that are commonly built. Use light spar pockets at the bottom wing corners for the wing battens to land in. Sleeve the longerons and use your preferred tensioning method. For fastening the spreader to the wing tips, Adrian and I both prefer to use arrow nocks and a tension line with a knot tied fast to the sail and pulled over the nock. Don't forget a bow line; a good rule-of-thumb is to set the depth of the bow (or the distance from the line to the back of the sail in the center when set) at 10% of the wingspan. So a 10' kite would have 1' of bow depth, for example.

A couple of important details for improved performance:

- If using lightweight spars for light wind capability, use a sleeve or put some loops on the backs of the wings for the spreader to pass

through. I have a tightly fitting sleeve going across the entire wing. This helps stabilize the spreader (and the kite!) under heavier wind loading.

- Do NOT – I repeat – do NOT use a pocket at the top end of the battens, nearest the longerons and the spreader! Use an APA leading edge fitting, like for the spreader on a delta kite. Attach the fitting to the spreader where it stays. Insert the batten in to this fitting and then into the pocket at the wing corner. Then, slide the fitting itself on the spreader as needed to tighten up the entire wing; sliding towards the wing tip will put the batten in compression and improve performance. Sliding towards the center of the kite will loosen the fit.



- Build light! Use appropriate reinforcements without building an armored vehicle. Choose ½ ounce poly sail cloth if available. Use wrapped carbon spars or carbon as the budget allows.

The sketch is a base drawing for the overall kite that can be scaled to whatever size the builder chooses, as the dimensions shown are relative to each other. For instance, if a base dimension (L) is chosen to be 52", as I have done, the kite will be 143" wide, or right at 12' wingspan. Of course, Adrian has to one-up me all the time, and his genkis are a little larger.



My 12' genki is framed with wrapped carbon and sewn from ½ ounce poly. I used tapered SkyShark 7PT tubes on the wings (full length, each) with SkyShark 8P tubing in the center (about 50"). I used SkyShark P300 tubing in the longerons, and I used full-length tapered SkyShark 2PT for the wing battens. The battens needed about 2" of scrap tube on the upper end to make up the total length. ☒



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