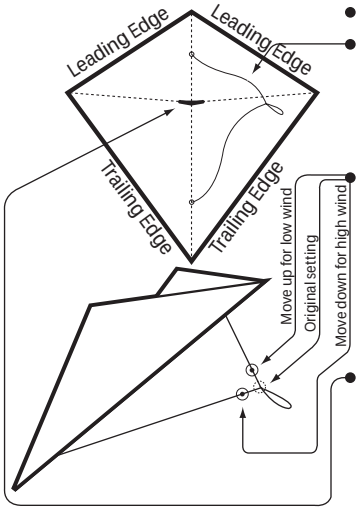
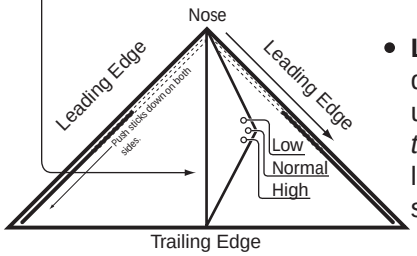
Kite flying 101 - By World Wind Kites - www.worldwindkites.com - support@worldwindkites.com - (512) 250-9454

Introduction To Kite Flying: You say you're an awful kite flyer? We don't believe you. We are certain there is a kite flying expert hiding inside of you. Perhaps you just missed a simple idea or technique that will make your kite sail into the sky. Keep reading, and we are sure you will find the answers to your questions. **Over the years, we have found the most common cause of a failed flight is a kite that is set up improperly. In fact, that was the original purpose of this tutorial . If your kite came with instructions, please refer to those first.**



- **Construction/Assembly:** Proper set up of your kite is crucial to proper flying.
- **Bridles:** The bridle is the string that is attached permanently to your kite and adjusts the kite to the proper angle to fly. *DO NOT CUT OR MODIFY YOUR BRIDLE* if you are unfamiliar with these adjustments. Most bridles have a loop tied in them; this is where your kite string attaches to the kite.
- **Adjusting bridles:** If you are feeling adventurous you can adjust your bridle to make your kite fly in higher or lower winds. If you move the bridle's loop "down" toward the trailing edge of the kite, the kite will fly better in high winds. If you move the bridle's loop "up" toward the leading edge, the kite will fly better in light winds. The bridle loop should only be moved in very small increments. Half an inch can make a big difference. *Make sure you mark the original point for reference before you adjust anything.*
- **Dihedrals:** Many kites have a plastic fitting on the back of the kite that is on the spine of the kite. This piece is shaped somewhat like a shallow "V" and is called the dihedral. The dihedral is used to purposely create an angle or backward sweep in the kite's shape. The dihedral should make the kites wings sweep away from you. One of our customers had the best description: "The kite should be sticking its chest out at you and not hugging you."

- **Keels:** Many styles of kites, including deltas, have keels instead of bridles. The keel is the "flap" of fabric that is on the front of many kites. The keel takes the place of the bridle and is where you will tie your flying string to your kite. Like bridles, many keels allow you to adjust your kite's angle so it can fly better in high or low winds. If your kite's keel has two or more holes, you can adjust it. If you move your kite string to the bottomhole, the kite will fly in lighter winds. If you move your kite string to the top hole, it will fly in higher winds. If your kite has three holes, you will usually want to attach your kite string in the center hole. Your string only needs to attach to *one* hole on the keel at any time.



- **Leading Edge of Deltas:** The leading edge of the delta kite is the "front" of the kite. Most deltas have a stick in the leading edge's sleeve that stiffens the leading edge. This stick is usually only about 3/4 the total length of the leading edge. This is intentional. *You must move the leading edge sticks all the way to the wingtips to properly fly the kite.* This will create some loose fabric at the nose. Trust us on this one, Otherwise your kite will spin around in circles in a sometimes beautiful, but often unwanted, manner.

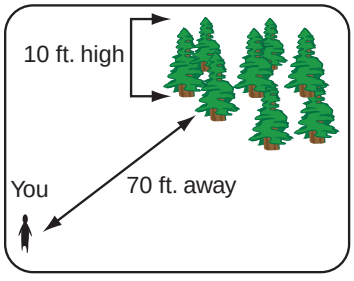
Tails: Tails can add stability to a kite-especially in high winds. Experiment with using a tail on your kite and find the method that works best to you. Remember that the tail always goes on the trailing edge of the kite. In light winds, try removing the tail if your kite doesn't seem to have enough lift or "oompff."

Wind: How does it affect your kite?

Too Much Wind: Yes, there is such a thing as too much wind for kite flying. Usually anything above 20-25mph will be tough on your kites and they won't last as long. Think about it this way; if the wind is strong enough to blow your 3000lb. car around on the road, imagine what it does to a 12oz. kite.

Too Little Wind: Most well made kites perform beautifully in a medium breeze. 8 mph is generally considered perfect.

The Beaufort [bo'furt] Scale is an easy way to approximate wind speed by observing your environment. Grab some grass from the ground and drop it to help gauge the wind.



Wind Speed:	Effect observed on Land:	Should I fly:
0-1 mph	Chimney smoke rises straight up. Grass falls straight down.	Go swimming.
1-3 mph	Chimney smoke drifts gently.	Most kites have trouble.
4-7 mph	Leaves rustle, slight wind. Grass fall at an angle.	Many kites perform well.
8-12 mph	Leaves and twigs on trees move. Grass blows away from you.	Most kites fly perfect.
13-18 mph	Dust, paper, and leaves blow on the ground.	Most kites will fly decently.
19-24 mph	Smoke and grass blows sideways.	Many kites have trouble.
24-31 mph		DO NOT FLY!

Obstructions: *Your kites will fly best in a steady wind with no obstructions to create turbulence. This means that an open field or a beach will almost always be best for your kites.* Rule of thumb, you shoud be 7 times the distance away from the objects that are upwind from you as illustrated. If you don't have such an area available, you can try flying anywhere, but be aware of how the wind "feels." Is it constantly changing direction or speed? City streets with houses, buildings, and trees are notorious for creating these types of wind. If so, you might want to find another location.