

How to Make Your Own Kite

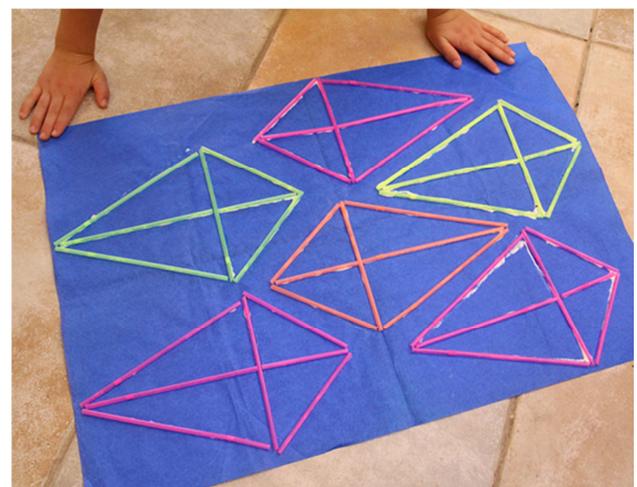
By Lizzie Mitchell

Summer is the perfect time to get creative! These super easy to make kites look adorable as they happily float around in the sunshine. Picnic anyone? We've certainly had plenty of beautiful weather recently and this lovely summer breeze is just perfect for these little kites. Did you know that you can make a kite using drinking straws and brightly coloured tissue paper?

All that you will need for this craft is some glue, some brightly coloured tissue paper, scissors and some plastic straws. Let's go fly a kite!

Step 1: Cut pieces of straws and glue them to your tissue paper base to form kite shapes. As shown in the photo, make the horizontal cross bar from one uncut length of straw, as you'll use this portion to hang (or fly?) your little kites. The vertical cross-bar is then made from two pieces. You can make kites of any size - for the largest size possible, use complete straws for your outside border and then fill in the inside framework with pieces cut to size as necessary.

Step 2: After the glue has dried somewhat or better yet, completely (we couldn't wait that long!) cut out your kites by cutting the tissue paper just along the border formed by the straws. To stabilize the kite, run a wooden skewer down through both of the vertical cross bar straw pieces. Phew, fortunately this solves a little technical problem I hadn't thought of, and it turns out that round wooden bamboo barbecue skewers are exactly the right size for our largest kite!



Step 3: Apply designs to the front of your kite with mod podge, or a mixture of white glue and water, and make small tassels from crepe paper. We simply cut small widths of crepe paper from the flat roll it came in, cut off one end, and tied a string around the other end. Attach your tassels to the kite with small dabs of hot glue, applied by an adult. Make bows from crepe paper—we used a small stack to give our bows some weight. Simply cut a stack of small rectangles and then cut two triangular notches in the middle of the rectangle, around which you tie a small length of string. Tie your bows to a length of string, and then attach that resulting kite tail to the underside of the kite with hot glue. Always remember to get an adult to help you with the hot glue!

