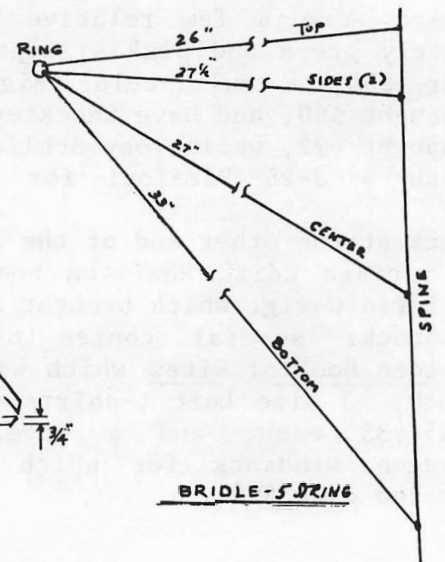
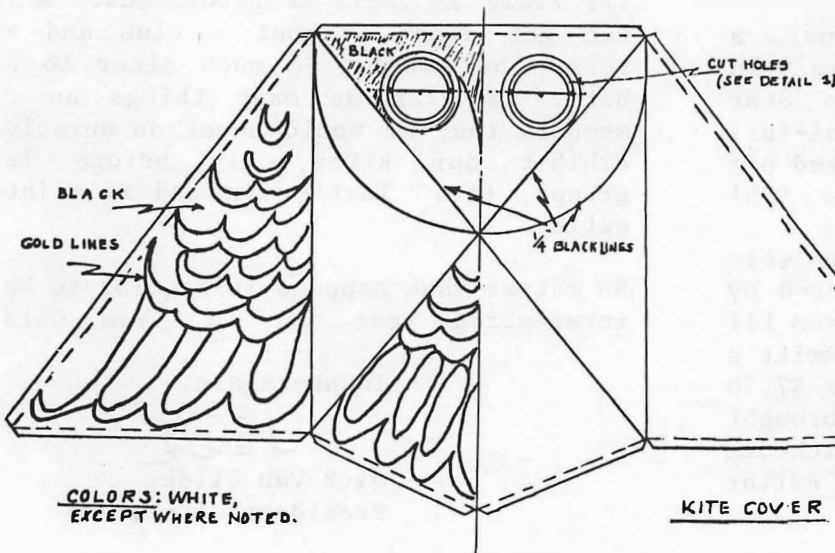
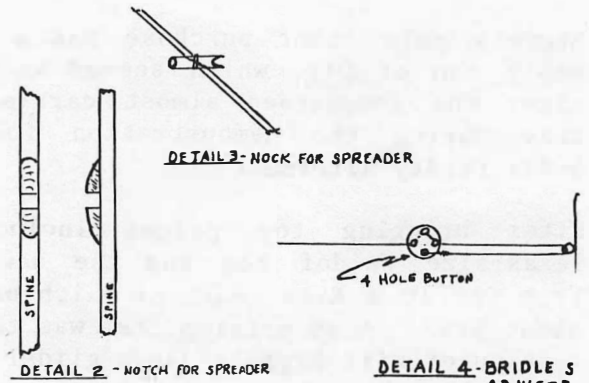
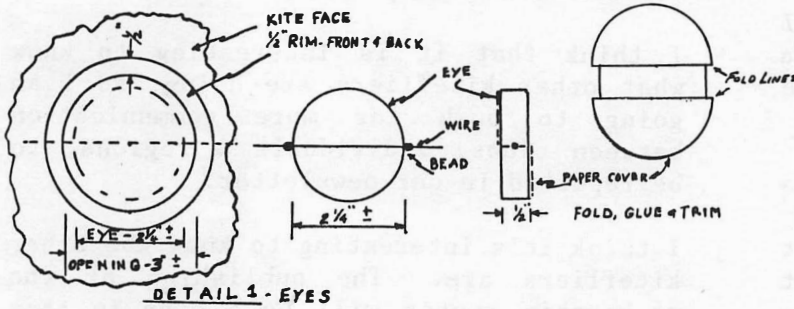
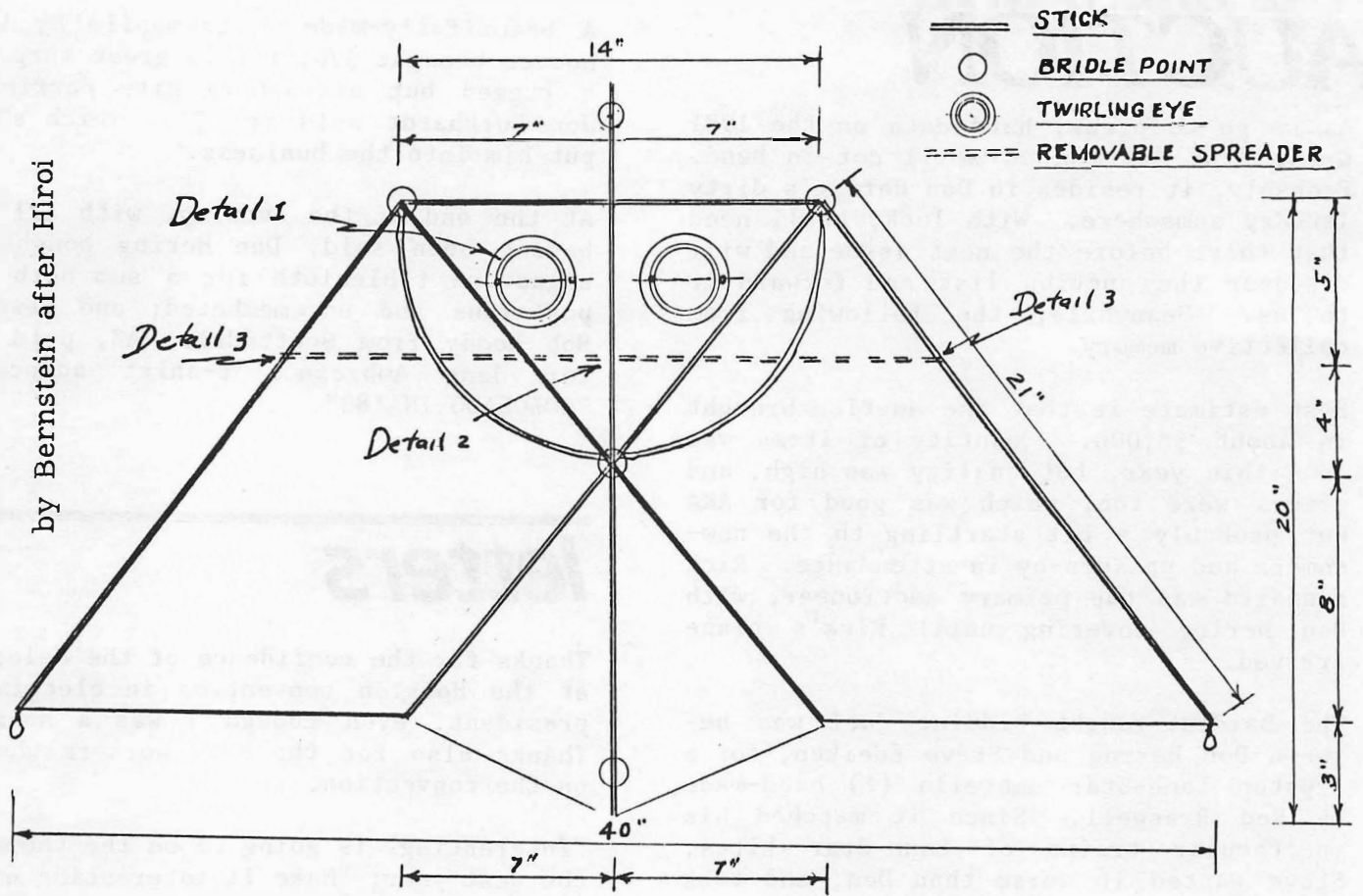


Japanese Owl kite

by Bernstein after Hiroi



a Japanese Owl kite

by Stephen John Bernstein

The basic owl kite described herein appeared in a 1969 Japanese booklet, published by Bitjusu Shuppan-sha, Tokyo, titled "Pleasure Creating". The author is Tsutomu Hiroi. My apologies to the author if the title and the spelling are not precise, since the interpretations from the Japanese were made by a friend. The entire booklet is in Japanese, with the exception of the publisher's name. Consequently, all dimensions shown in my sketches are approximately gleaned from the pictures in the booklet.

I have made changes and added innovations as follows:

- (1) I use a 5 line bridle with the top bridle point above the top of the kite--spine extended as shown. I find this provides for a more stable flight by extending the bridle point farther from the center of rotation.
- (2) The removable spreader stick allows for folding the wings for easier transportation. Archery arrow nocks are used as pockets for the stick ends. They also provide good fastening points for the bow string. (Bow about 3").
- (3) The 4-hole buttons on the bridle lines make for good and rapid adjustments. (Thanks, Paul Garber!)
- (4) I now use 2 tails of light cloth material. Each tail is approximately 15 feet in length, attached to the bottom wing tips. A single, longer tail would do, but the twin tail is more interesting and stabilizing.
- (5) The twirling eyes are most easily made by cutting 1/2" rings from lightweight cardboard tubing, 2" to 2 1/2" in diameter. The eye covering is made from stiff writing paper, cut to shape shown and glued to the ring. A wire shaft is inserted through the rings that have small holes made for this purpose. When ready to install the eyes in the cover of the kite, string a bead on each end of the wire as shown, and fasten the wire shaft to the back of the cover with tape.

Make the frame first. I use bamboo sticks, approximately 1/8" X 3/8". Tie and glue all terminal and crossing points except the top ends of the diagonal wing sticks. These should be adequately tied but not glued, to permit wing folding. I use Tyvek for the cover. This should be cut to shape as shown, eye holes cut, eye rims attached, and decorated. Glue to frame, using good old Elmer's. Then you are ready to make the bridle points. These consist of loops made from light-weight wire and fastened to the sticks where shown. Fasten the tails to the bottom tips of the wings.

By proper adjustment of the bridle strings, this kite has performed well in 5 to 15 knot winds. The dimensions on the bridle strings shown will provide a good starting point. If you need additional info, my number is 703-521-3875. Happy "OWLING!"

that PMAF contest

Richard Wohlert of Buffalo, NY, is the AKA winner of one-year subscriptions to AKA NEWS and Piney Mountain Air Force Data Letter for correctly identifying more elements than other AKA readers did in the Great Antiques Identification Contest on page 13 of AKA NEWS for June.

Contestants were asked to identify the aircraft, the engine, and the pilot in archival photo. The same picture appeared in 2 or 3 other kite newsletters as well as this one, with winners for each readership. Only one of the 30 contestants, Gary Hinze of San Jose, CA, identified all three items correctly.

PMAF Commander Guy Aydlett is playing it coy, though, about what the right answers are. Under questioning, he would divulge that the aircraft is a Consolidated Fleet, vintage 1925, and that the engine is a Warner Scarab. Guy is not ready yet to reveal the identify of the jovial fellow in the leather hat, but we have a hint that his pseudonymic initials are "H. T."

