

# KITEMAKING THE ART AND THE SCIENCE

by Carl Poehler, Jr.

## Fillet of Fugu

**The fugu, or blowfish is a choice seafood delicacy in Japan where it is often eaten raw.**

The filleting preparation takes careful training and a developed expertise as certain parts must be scrupulously avoided for they are poisonous. Several deaths a year occur to adventurous gourmets from eating the fish after careless preparations. Perhaps our little fugu kite, with its puckish mouth and startled eyes demonstrates a successful digestion of some ancestors swimming a fluttering flight to heavenly gastronomical realms.

In making the kite, I chose a Tyvek sail for durability, in lieu of the traditional washi paper. Stick to bamboo for the frame—the woods flexibility works to your advantage, and dowels are overly

stiff and brittle. Felt-tip markers with permanent ink work well for the facial decoration, and shredded tufts of crepe paper add a finishing touch to the stick extension. My bamboo came from a window shade and was quite thin—maybe a bit too flexible. It still flies well in a wide range of winds, giving a deep bow, or dihedral, in wind gusts, or when responding to sharp tugs on the line. Use a three-point bridle, and be careful to set the frame accurately to the positions and angles shown on the drawing.

**Construction Tip:** When cutting the bamboo, have it straight and of even size. *Balance the growth nodes* at matching locations, and the distance from the vertical center line of the kite on similar sticks. This corrects both weight distribution and uneven flexure or bending of the frame.

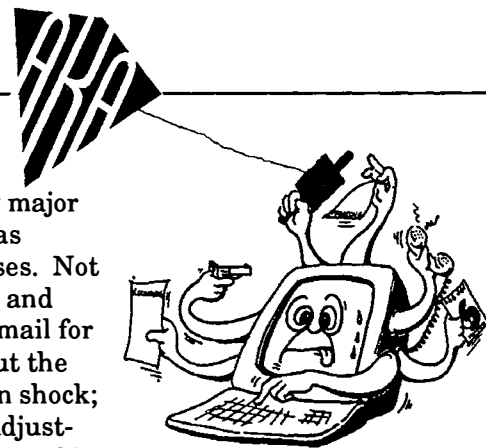
Please see page 15 for illustration.

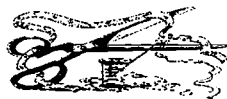
### Editor's Line

As you well know the Bay Area was hit with a devastating major earthquake on October 17. It was the first time I truly felt I was running for my life; luckily, my family and I had no major losses. Not so, for many others. Of course, it has effected my business, life and attitude greatly. Please understand why this issue is late: no mail for days, business associates adjusting to a new way of life without the Bay Bridge and freeway system. People have generally been in shock; these are trying times. It was necessary to make quite a few adjustments in the production of the issue; equipment was damaged, buildings were rendered unusable, and people I dealt with in the East Bay are now not easily reached. The delay is but a small inconvenience relative to this great tragedy.

Life goes on... with that in mind, I'm sure you'll enjoy the beautiful color cover and insert. Next year *Kiting* would like to have a CLASSIFIED AD section for members to advertise: sell, buy, get information, you name it. There will be a small charge. Type or print your copy and mail to us by the 1st of the month preceding the issue.

Thanks for the pictures sent after the convention. I received many photos, but was unable to use all of them — some may be used in the future. Please continue sending articles, pictures, calendar listings, etc. to *Kiting*. The next deadline is December 1st for the January issue. Happy Holidays to all! *Kiting*, (c/o Patrice McFadden) 75 Holly Park Circle, San Francisco, CA 94110

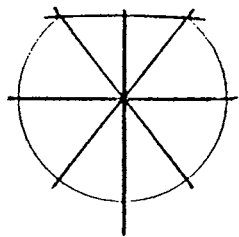
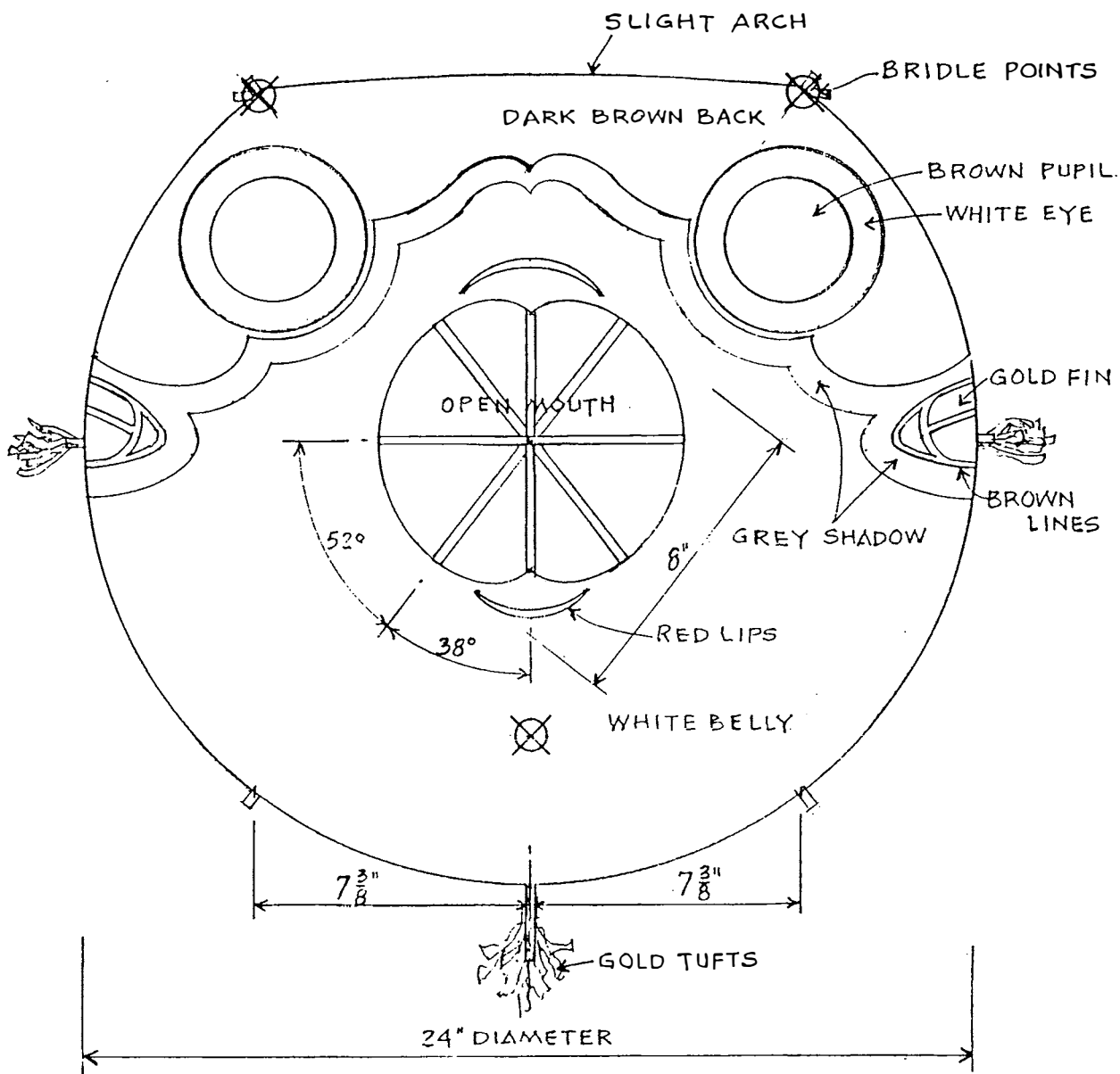




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(continued from page 10)

## FILLET OF FUGU



FRAME

### MATERIALS

- 1 PC. TYVEK 24"  $\phi$
- 1 STICK 16" LONG
- 4 STICKS 25" LONG
- GLUE AND PAINTS