

## Required Modifications

I am not going to make excuses for any of the manufacturers but with the exception of a few that I know of, like Benson kites, and Kite Related Designs (good old made in Britain!), we always carry out a bit of *safety first* before flying a new kite, even for the very first time.

I know, believe me, that it doesn't feel good to be making alterations to a brand new purchase before you have even tried it out but if you don't, it could all very easily end in tears!

If you try out any of the following please be careful that you don't damage your kite whilst you are doing it. As you know, I don't do fiddly, but I'm OK so far!

There are three main areas that we look at.....

### **Stand Offs:**

Give them a tug to make sure that they don't come out - if they do then glue is the answer!

### **Bottom Spreaders:**

I think if you look on most of our kites you see that we have done this one. You should never tape the spreaders in. They must be able to move, or even pop out in heavy crashes or they are much more likely to do damage! If they are very loose at the point where they meet the leading edges, then, maybe, one wrap of tape around the end of the rod but don't tape the spar to the connector. At the centre T we link the two spreaders (as shown) with a heavy rubber band.



These are larks headed on the rods and prevented from slipping either by a 'C' clip or tape wrapped round and around the rod. This allows movement but nearly always ensures that the spreaders stay where

they are supposed to. We have had some kites that fall apart with just a half axle, a heavy landing or ground work in turning the kite over.

This does rather complicate the assembly/breaking down of the kite and more care must be taken to avoid putting the rod through the sail.

Make sure too that the bridle lines are not caught up under the band or it may affect the flight behavior (see photo).

### **Wing Tips:**

Even if a kite has a cap on the end of the leading edge we still tape it over - lessons learned after leaving them stuck in soft ground after take-off. Some kites need a bit of adjustment in setting up for the first time, particularly with the leach line if it has one, so we are very watchful until the taping is done.



## Selling Feathers

The idea was to get Roy from *Kites Up* to print us some feathers, save some money by doing the cutting out and sewing ourselves, have feathers for us and for our helpers, and sell some for a quid each towards the costs!

.....so far we've sold four!

