

July, 2005. Bruce Lambert.

Introducing the \$5 FUSION FIGHTER. A NORTH AMERICAN STYLE FIGHTER KITE.

HOW DID IT COME TO BE ?

Many times when I've been flying fighter kites I have been asked by on-lookers "where can I buy a fighter kite like that ?" . This is the same question almost all fighter kite flyers are asked by on-lookers. I have always answered this question with "you make them; they are not available in stores". And I think most other North American fighter kite flyers answer with a similar answer.

With that answer most of the on-lookers just walk away. This is not the way to expand the number of fighter kite flyers. And as we all know flying fighter kites is a ton of fun and is even more fun when shared with more folks !

There have been many discussions about this issue among fighter kite flyers over the years that boil down to this : if an inexpensive, durable, good flying, easy to fly, competitive fighter kite was readily available, the number of fighter kite enthusiasts may expand more quickly. I'm one that believes this to be true. That's the reason for my efforts in developing a low cost good performing North American style fighter kite.

HOW CAN THEY BE GOOD PERFORMING KITES AT SUCH A LOW PRICE ?

Many fighter kite makers have experimented extensively with many different possible ways of making an inexpensive good flying kite. None have come up with a viable solution.

What I did was to use a highly successful existing kite and modify it. The existing kite was an Indian Bamboo/ Mylar fighter kite. After all, these kites are proven, readily available and inexpensive. I wanted to know whether a Mylar/Bamboo Indian fighter kite could be made to fly like a North American style competition fighter kite. I was pleasantly surprised with the results.

The final design I emailed to kite makers in India and ordered samples made to the plan I created. During my communication with various kite makers in India, I contacted Kirti L. Shah who owns www.oneworldkites.com and currently sells Indian fighter kites, manjha, cotton line etc. Kirti, was eager to contribute to this project because he too, wanted to expand the interest in fighter kites in North America.

THE NAME.

The name FUSION FIGHTER, comes from the fact that this kite is a Fusion of Indian and North American fighter kite design with Indian fighter kite building know how and efficiency. Kirti L. Shah, thought of the name, which I thought was a perfect name for this kite.

WHAT ARE THEY MADE OF ?

Here's the specs about the FUSION FIGHTER : Hand split and shaped bamboo spine, hand split and shaped bamboo bow, bamboo battens and a Mylar skin. The kites are about 21" from wingtip to wingtip, and about 17 " from nose to the tail end.

Instructions for installing the 3-point bridle and basic tuning and flying information will be available on line both at www.nafka.net and at www.oneworldkites.com for downloading.

Remember, in India no new kite is made with a bridle attached; in India if a kite has a bridle it indicates the kite is used. These \$5 kites need to be bridled by the buyer.

I think this may be good because it gets the buyer directly involved with the kite. However, I also know some folks will not want to 'mess with the bridle'. For those people who can't or don't want to install a bridle, maybe one of the experienced flyers they know will bridle the kite for them or at least assist them. Bridle line will be included with each kite and clear instructions for installing the bridle will be downloadable on line at www.oneworldkites.com and www.nafka.net as well as basic fighter kite flying and tuning information.

HOW DO THEY FLY ?

They fly great in most winds. They are not successful flying in zero - 2 mph winds. The approximate optimum wind range is from about 4 mph to 12 mph.

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Generally low cost kites are considered only for beginning flyers, not so with the - FUSION FIGHTER. It's a great kite for beginning fighter kite flyers, mainly because of its low cost, and is great for experienced competition flyers because they'll be able to put through its paces. It is a full performance fighter kite capable of any fighter kite maneuver, competition flyers because they'll be able to put through its paces. It is a full performance fighter kite capable of any fighter kite maneuver.

How fast are they ? FUSION FIGHTERS are not speed racing kites and they are NOT slow either. I would call them 'medium' speed. And I'm eager to fly them in line touch competitions to see how they perform against the very best line touch kites available. I think they will be competitive in both line touch and precision/skills competitions.

In my experience only the 'best' custom designed and custom made North American style fighter kites are noticeably better flying than FUSION FIGHTER KITES. I invite you to fly them and see for yourself.

WHERE DO YOU BUY THEM ?

NAFKA would be a natural place to buy them, but NAFKA is not set up to sell things other than pins. And since Kirti Shah is already in the kite selling business and sells Indian Fighter Kites, Cotton Lines, Gator Reels, Waxed Cotton Line etc. already on his web site, www.oneworldkites.com it would be a natural for him to add this North American style kite to his line up. I asked him if it was something he'd be interested in and with great enthusiasm he said yes and he will keep the kites in stock.

If you'd like your favorite kite store to stock these kites also, please have them contact Kirti, at www.oneworldkites.com.

WHO'S THE AUDIENCE FOR THESE KITES ?

The potential customer is anyone interested in flying a good performing North American style fighter kite; new flyers as well as experienced flyers. Because the price is low, you may conclude the kite is only a 'beginners' kite. WRONG. It's a kite any experienced flyer would enjoy flying. In fact it flies better than many kites line touch competitors have flown in competitions, that I've participated in.

These are kites every fighter kite flyer should have in their kite box. Not only to fly them yourself, but also to introduce new people to fighter kite flying. And after experiencing the fun of flying the FUSION FIGHTER, then the new flyer can order his own FUSION FIGHTERS, on line from www.oneworldkites.com along with Waxed Cotton Flying Line and Gator Reels.

FUN GRIN-PASTING ONE- DESIGN COMPETITIONS.

One other aspect this kite provides is the development of true 'One-Design' competitions. It is true that not each kite performs exactly the same as each other kite, but they are surprisingly close. In my opinion they are uniform enough to make a One-Design competition truly fun and competitive.

**BigFusionFighterGrins,
Bruce.**