

In keeping with our promise to feature plans and people that are at the hub of fighter kiting, please allow me introduce Dennis Ische. Dennis is a member of that strong fighter kite gang to our north in Canada. Some of you may be familiar with Dennis' work which can be found on various Websites around the world. His first attempt at building was the Dot-01. That plan rapidly became a standard for other first-time builders. We are proud to feature his second generation Dot-02, or Little Sister on our pages. The mention in his commentary of the Richard Gareau Patang fighter strikes home; this kite was the one that helped spark the renewed interest in fighter kites in the 90's, as did the Grandmaster in the 80's.

Tom Brailey

## The Dot-02 or "Little Sister" Fighter Kite

A few years back my family and I moved to Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. It was then that I took up the sport of kiteflying again after what turned out to be a decade of time off. I came to fly fighter kites quite literally by the luck of the draw. We had a raffle at the local K-W Wind Climbers Ice Fly and I won a donated prize which turned out to be a Richard Gareau Patang fighter kite. As I recall at the time, I thought it looked nice but had no idea how to fly it!

Not knowing wasn't good enough so I started reading books, visiting Websites, and asking everyone I knew about fighters. So much kite, so little talent!

Things progressed quickly and I learned to build and fly fighters. After building designs by others, I took the bull by the horns and tried my hand at designing my own. The Dot-01 was the result. It is now being built by fighter enthusiasts around the world.

### Dot-02 — The Idea

With one going well, I figured — twice lucky? So for fun, I decided to shrink my idea of fighter kites. Thus came about Big Dot's Little Sister, the Dot-02. Pretty original name, eh? I figured that in a low wind with a very flexible bow, it would respond properly and with a stiffer bow would handle high winds well. At least that was the theory at the time.

After building a few and testing the design with a buddy, I threw it out there into the big

wide world. It is early yet, but I think it will be a fun fighter for those brave few who can tame it.

### Materials

There's only one rule for this kite — keep it light. It's a small kite by fighter standards so keeping the materials very light is a key to making it fly successfully.

For the sail, I recommend light Mylar gift wrap or space blanket for low winds. For high winds, try ultralight Orcon, which is a very light-weight but durable sail material.

For the bow, I use either a .04 micro carbon rod or .05 fiberglass rod for low wind and a .05 micro carbon rod for high winds.

The spine is bamboo; approx. 3/32"x1/16" or a skinny Indonesian bamboo spine. Use one a bit more stout for the high wind version.

### Bridle

The bridle is a typical 3-point with the front two legs no longer than 2 1/2" and the rear leg just long enough that when the bridle is pulled to one wing tip it is approx. 3/4" from it. This prevents the bridle getting caught on the wing tip and causing damage and/or making the kite unflyable.

### Construction

I build the Little Sister exactly the same way I build all my other fighters. First I make a template out of box card and decide on the sail material and hot cut it. From there, it's a matter of making a bow to the proper length using the pattern and bow setter. I add the bridle stops to the bow at this time.

### Assembly

I use a water sprayer to adhere the sail to the work surface and then squeegee it flat. I add the bow setter and re-check the bow against the sail. Next add the two 1/4" wide pieces of overhead acetate glued to the leading edge. Then I apply contact cement to all the areas needing it and then proceed to glue the bow in place. Next, press the spine into its final position.

Trim the spine to the kite and apply reinforcing tape to nose, tail, shoulders and wingtips. I also add small patches to the bridle points where they come through the sail. Balancing the kite is crucial now. Next add the bridle and you're done.

Take it out and finish tuning the bridle and you're off to a day full of grins. This is a fun little kite and possibly a great little competitor. Enjoy and continue experimenting — I do!

Dennis Ische  
a.k.a. "the mad scientist"

