

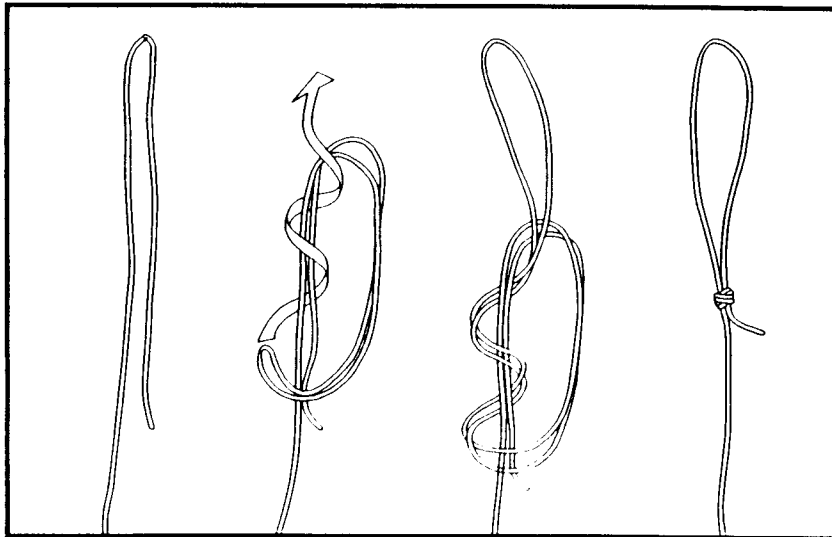
A Lineset for your Kite

Flying a sport kite requires two low-stretch flying lines of equal length, with loops in each end for attaching the line to the kite and to the control handles. Pure Spectra fiber is the best material for these lines, though other good quality lines such as 'sport grade' spectra blends are also popular for their lower cost.

It's very important that the two lines that make up a lineset be of equal length. It's possible to fly on uneven lines by compensating with your hands, but you'll learn faster by flying on carefully matched lines. Take the time to re-tie an uneven lineset. It's worth the effort.

The loops on the ends of the flying lines are the points at which the lines are most likely to wear and break. Adding a tied loop made from a stronger, more wear-resistant cord at each end of your lines will give your lineset a longer life. Some manufacturers of 'sport grade' blends claim that protecting the ends of the lineset is not necessary when using their blended line. The following set of instructions will show you a quick and convenient method for making a simple lineset with or without protected ends.

Start with a single roll or spool of line that is at least twice as long as the finished lineset that you want to make. Make a loop in one end using the double overhand knot shown below. This knot provides maximum strength and will not allow the Spectra line to slip.

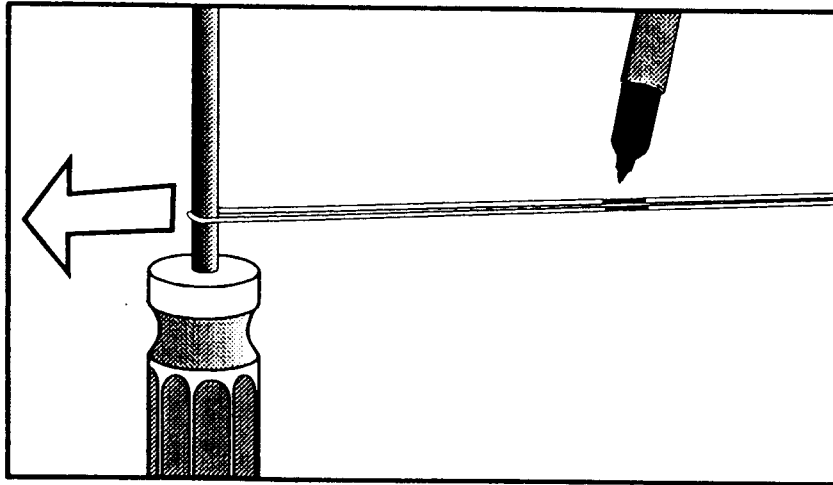


Now go outside and hang the loop over a nail or any kind of secure hook that is free from burrs or sharp edges. Walk away, unrolling the line as you go. When you reach the length that you want your lines to be, pass your line around another secure hook (you can use almost anything that is convenient, a fencepost, a nail in a building, whatever's handy) **Don't cut your line at this point!** Simply walk back to your starting point, trailing out the rest of the line as you go. When you reach your starting point, tie another loop just like the first one and hang it on the same hook. Cut off any excess line.

Now walk back out to where your line doubles back.

The next step is to pre-stretch your lines. This is important. Without it, you may make what looks like a perfect lineset only to find that the two lines stretch unevenly the first time you go flying. Take a screwdriver and loop the line around the shaft at the point where the line doubles back. Now, holding the screwdriver, pull evenly on the line. You should pull hard enough to feel some give as the line stretches. When the line no longer has much give to it, the pre-stretching is done.

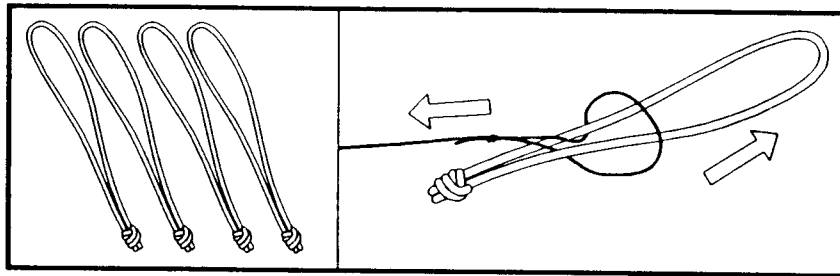
Keeping tension on the line, make a mark using a permanent marker across both lines at once about 5" away from the shaft. Now you can cut the line at the point where it was wrapped around the screwdriver.



Next, select either line end and fold it back exactly on the center of the mark. While carefully maintaining this fold, tie another double overhand knot to form a loop in this marked end. Now repeat this procedure for the other marked end. You should now have two perfectly equal lengths of pre-stretched line with loops at both ends.

Your neighbors may have decided by this point that you have lost your mind. Walking around outdoors with long lengths of string can be difficult to explain to those uninitiated to the thrill of sport kiting. If anyone asks you what you are doing, offer to take them flying!

If you are using pure Spectra, protect the ends of your lines by tying four equal "pigtails" from a heavier stronger cord (150-200 lb. Dacron works well) and attach one to each line end using the knot shown below.



Now lark's head your lines onto your wrist straps or handles, wind them up on your winder, and head for the field.

Tip:

Designate a right and left flying line and mark the flying lines accordingly at both ends, either by using different colors of pigtails, or by coloring one line's pigtails with a permanent marker. This will avoid confusion on the field over which line is which, even if the lines are twisted.