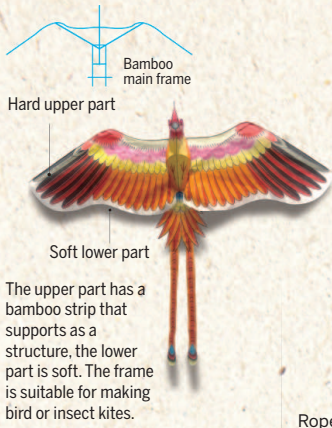


THE FIVE KITES

SOFT-WINGED KITE



Editor's Note:
Using a blend of words and visuals, this series explores unique communities and reveals the heart of China through food, architecture, craftsmanship, landscapes and traditions.

BUNCH-SHAPED KITE

It is made up of several kites of the same or different kinds connected one by one by string.

HARD-WINGED KITE



The wing-shaped frame is made up of two strips of bamboo placed horizontally, leaving a hole in the middle for the wind to pass through. Wings, both top and bottom, have bamboo supports.

PLANK-SHAPED KITE



In the shape of a plank, it has a flat structure with a frame around it. Its assembly is simpler and it's easier to fly, which makes it one of the most used kites.

TUBE-SHAPED KITE



This kind of kite, composed of several connected wind receiving sides or "tubes", has a structure of distinct dimensions.

BEHIND WEIFANG KITES

CARNIVAL OF COLORS

Kite festival in Weifang promotes Sino-foreign exchanges

By ZHAO RUIXUE and TIAN CHI in Weifang, Shandong

The skies over Weifang burst into a carnival of colors this week as the 42nd International Kite Festival took flight on April 19 in the coastal city in Shandong province. Imagine looking up to see a 200-meter-long dragon-head

kite, a dancing octopus, a floating carot, or even a flying car — this is where creativity literally soars. A total of 257 teams from 51 countries and regions turned the sky into their playground, with visitors cheering as everything from traditional designs to wacky modern creations took to the air.

The event this year featured 58 activities, ranging from kite competitions and cultural tourism promotions to sports events and economic and trade collaborations.

Weifang is using its global influence in kiting to establish friendship all over the world, realizing "ancient and modern dialogue" and "Sino-foreign exchanges", Hans Peter Boehme, vice-president of the International Kite Federation, said at the festival's opening ceremony.

"Kiting in general is promoting

the integration and development between different cultures in the world," he said.

Over the past four decades, Weifang's kite industry has soared to new heights, evolving into a vital economic driver. In 1984, when the first festival was held, the city had just over 20 small kite manufacturers with limited varieties.

Today, Weifang boasts more than 700 kite businesses, employing nearly 100,000 people and generating annual sales exceeding 2 billion yuan (\$278 million).

The city now dominates 85 percent of the global kite market, exporting to over 60 countries and regions including the United States, Europe and Southeast Asia, said the city government. As kites continue to weave stories in Weifang's skies, the event cements its status as a world-renowned celebration of tradition and innovation.

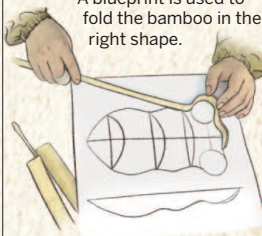
Contact the writers at zhaoruihue@chinadaily.com.cn

MAKING A KITE

Detailed steps on the traditional design and making of a Chinese kite

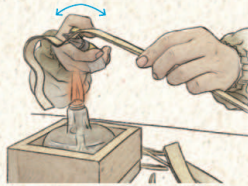
01 PLANNING

A blueprint is used to fold the bamboo in the right shape.



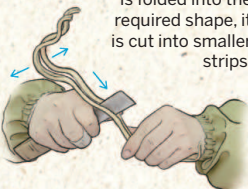
02 SHAPING

To bend the bamboo strip is used fire to prevent the bamboo from breaking.



03 CUTTING

Once the bamboo is folded into the required shape, it is cut into smaller strips.



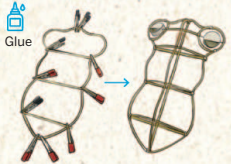
04 POLISHING

The edges are polished to give uniformity to the strips.



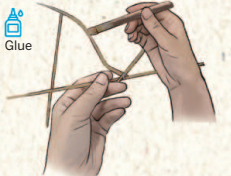
05 JOINING

The strips are attached as indicated in the sketch and fixed with glue and tweezers.



06 STICKING

The bamboo structure is covered with glue and then glued to the paper.



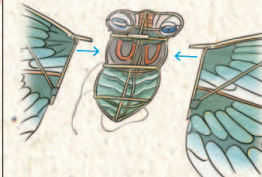
07 PAINTING

Drawing and painting on the pattern designed previously.

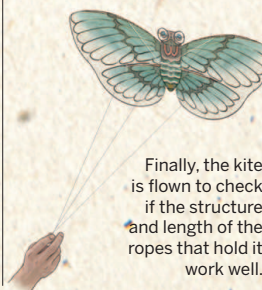


08 ASSEMBLING

All parts of the kite are assembled.

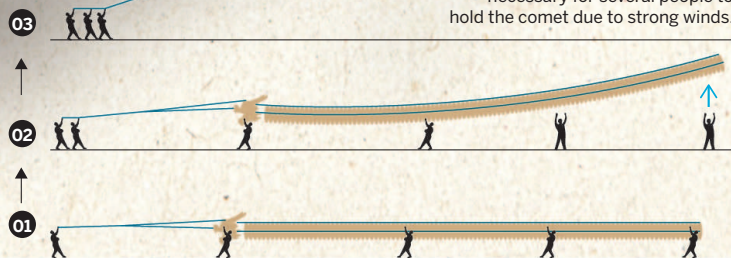


09 FLYING



Finally, the kite is flown to check if the structure and length of the ropes that hold it work well.

RELEASE THE DRAGON



Depending on the length of the dragon, it takes several people to hold the head and body on the ground. Once released, it may be necessary for several people to hold the comet due to strong winds.

WEIFANG

People in Weifang have kept the customs of making kites held high for generations. Host of the world's largest kite festival, the city is sometimes referred to as the "kite capital of the world".



WORLD KITES

Flying kites is something that has taken hold in many countries in the world throughout history. Various countries have different customs and traditions around kites, making each uniquely distinct.



The culture of kites is spread all over the world, these are samples from some countries exhibited in the Weifang Kite Museum.