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## Kites

David Pelham

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**David Pelham : Kites** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kites:

61 of 64 people found the following review helpful. Great book for both beginner and seasoned enthusiast! By Kindle Customer I am basing this review on an edition of this book (published by Penguin and previously called the Penguin Book of Kites) which I have owned for more than twenty years. This is a wonderful book for both the beginning kite flyer/maker and for those with more experience. It starts with the basics: types of kites, how to launch and fly them (like why you SHOULDN'T run with a kite to launch it), and continues on to materials, methods and many plans for kites. From your basic diamond-shaped kite to deltas to dragons (long-tailed) to box kites to fighting kites to stunt kites to multi-celled "snowflake" and parafoil kites, it has enough to keep you busy for many years. In a word, this book is COMPREHENSIVE, and if you only own one kite book (and I own many) this is an excellent choice. My old edition is falling apart at the seams from overuse, and I am truly thankful that this book has finally been re-issued (after 24 years). I'm getting a new one right away! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice history of kites, nothing here to teach construction. By JEMcI bought this book thinking it would be helpful for kite building. It has some very nice history, lots of general pictures/diagrams of various kinds of kites that help to identify differences in various types. It has no useful information regarding dimensions, ratios, etc that one needs to construct a kite. The few things it has on construction are basically so generic as to be useless. 10 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Oh boy! The perfect kite book for adults! By Charles Hall Wow, this book is really neat. It starts out with a

fascinating history of kites and winds up with actual kite plans. The history section includes lots of interesting facts I've never heard before. It begins with the ancient origins but includes the 19th and early 20th century inventors (Cody, Bell, etc.) in enough detail to understand what they were really doing. The history section winds up with the inventors of the hang glider (1948) and parafoil (60's). Lots of rare photos and drawing are used to illustrate their work. After that there are sections on kite flying, kite construction, materials, plans, etc. The text here is terse and to the point, with sufficient detail and scaling information to build the kites whose plans are included (or so it appears, I didn't try to build one). A wide variety of kite plans are included, from traditional designs to unique ones; with enough airflow theory thrown in here and there to make you think you could design your own. It's lavishly illustrated, but the small format prevents this from being a "coffee table" book. I can't recommend this book highly enough for adults or inventive teens.

Book contains virtually every fact about kites, kite flying and kite history. Includes over 100 diagrams for designing, building and flying kites from any scale.