

## A Brief Introduction to North American Fighter Kites and the Line Touch Game

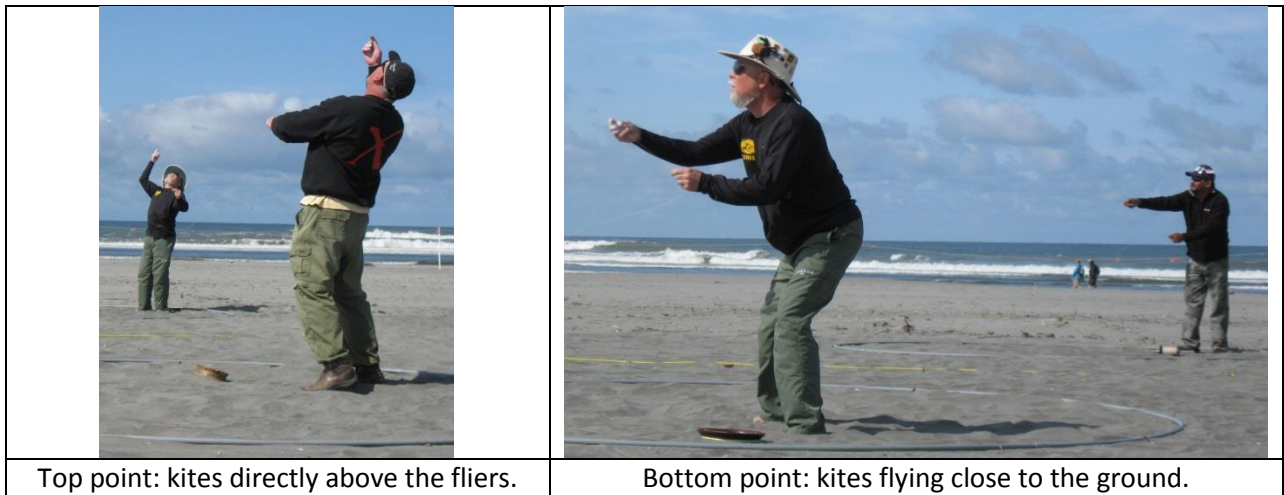
“North American style” fighter kites are small (~ 20” x 18”) single-line kites that you can maneuver by controlling the line tension. They are a smaller, faster, high-tech version of the traditional fighter kite flown in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and many other places.

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| <p>Traditional Indian fighter kite (back side). Bamboo spine and bow, tissue paper sail.</p> | <p>North American fighter kite (front side). Carbon fiber spine, bow and stays; polyfilm sail.</p> |

Flying a fighter kite is simple, but it takes practice to get good at it. When you pull on the line, the kite flies forward in a straight line. The harder you pull, the faster the kite goes. When releasing line, the kite spins. So, to make the kite go to the right, you wait while releasing line until the nose is pointing right. Then, start pulling. It’s all about the timing and knowing how your kite behaves when given slack.

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| <p>Pulling line into a pile at the flier’s feet. The kite will be moving, perhaps to a high position.</p> | <p>Slipping line. The kite will be spinning, perhaps hovering low over the sand.</p> | <p>Kite in a low, horizontal pass. Attacking a kite to the left? Escaping from one to the right?</p> |

North American fighters have evolved to perform well in the line touch game. Fliers start ~10' apart with kites in the air, away from each other in a neutral position, with about 100' of line out. The starter (who may well be one of the two fliers) starts the point by yelling "Top" or "Bottom". If "Top", both fliers try to get their line over their opponent's line and touch it from above. In top points, both kites are usually very high in the sky, sometimes pulled upwind from the fliers. If "Bottom", both fliers try to get their line under their opponent's line and touch it from below. In bottom points, the kites are usually flown precariously close to the ground, either hovering or engaged in sweeping horizontal attacks. In any fight, a flier loses the point if their kite touches the ground. Bottom points often end that way.



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