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Bokontonian News Service

This issue focuses on 'Ephemera' and 'Intermicronational Relations'.

Warning. *These views are the columnist's own and are intended to offend no-one. Contains minor profanity and major satire, sarcasm and use of brackets, hyphens and confusing methods of address.*

Ephemera

Having received some wonderful feedback about our previous Special Issue, we're happy to carry on with the second of the series- and this time, we're focusing on some of the issues that we're tackling in our "Complete How-to" guide.

Now, as some of you *may* have guessed, we've decided to use the Rainbow Tiger Nation as our example, which unfortunately puts *us* in the position of flagmakers. Yes, the things we do for the good of others. Maybe I'll make myself a medal for it (and document the process for everyone, too)!

One of the two biggest mistakes I feel I've made in the years are;

Not getting my micronation out to the general public early enough
and not getting the support of family and friends.

Benefits- extra support and interest. Who needs another one-man-kingdom? Also, dedicated citizens interested in your micronation before its begun will offer extra talents to the pot- insight, which can be extra useful. "Many hands make light work" is especially true in these cases!

Also, one of your 'Ministers' may have a useful skill you yourself don't possess. Use them.

Get the word out.

So, Le Tigre (official title) has recruited his friends as ministers. His Form Tutor at his school has sewn them all white flags (after becoming a Citizen themselves), and in class he and all his Citizens had a competition to design a flag- with the rainbow-coloured tiger design winning.

But as Le Tigre has already found out (but may not have realised), having friends 'in high

So in this issue, we're going to give the Rainbow Tiger Nation some advice. I'm using our special example to try to avoid confusion- and I'm sure you're all intelligent enough to substitute titles, names and crests where needed.

In regard to King Tigre getting support for the RTN, he should:

Gather Feedback.

If possible, try to get your citizens involved from the start. As said before, 'moulding' the customs, culture etc. of your fledgling nation is regarded by some as 'the best bit'- and people who help shape your nation prove invaluable.

If you don't have any friends interested in 'shaping a nation' for the sake of it- and some aren't, we aren't all cut out to be micronationalists- starting out by stating your ideal and then involving people by, say, appointing them as your government or awarding them lands or titles is also a stellar idea.

places' and positions of authority- namely, adults in specific jobs and positions- is very useful. He didn't possess any skills with a sewing machine, which would have proven a large problem when it came to the production of patches, flags, sashes etcetera.

Now, he has the luxury of being able to choose Option 1 (delegate the task, in this case to the teacher and rest of the class), but not everyone is so lucky. I myself had to sew both of my first flags, and the loss of sewing machine access meant that my flag was not ready to be sent to PoliNation 2010- a great loss, as this was a wonderful event that was covered by national press. These are some of the consequences that can be faced.

We'll have more on Option 2 (Go it alone) on Page 3.

So, my main advice for you is to tell everyone you can about your micronation, whilst it is still 'young' and new. Adults, friends, family- most will be completely supportive of this (admittedly) novel idea. Like I said, extra hands and heads means more insight, support, talent and infrastructure. Your micronation will be well on its way!

We're looking for

P R O O F

R E A D E R S





If you're interested, we can be contacted at:
BNScomments@bokonton.org

The 'Physical' tutorials

So, Le Tigre's Prime Minister wants a flag for *his* garden. Unfortunately, he doesn't have a big sister, brother or parent willing to make him one, whereas the King does.

So, after agreeing to make a second flag, the Le Tigre's in a fair bit of trouble. He has no idea how to make a flag, and he has to have it done by Friday.

But fear not!

If the hypothetical Rainbow Tiger Nation's leader was reading this, he'd be in luck.

Below is included a tutorial for flag making – so simple, all that's needed is the ability to sew straight lines, which can be done either by hand or on a sewing machine.

First up, we'll be showing how to sew a simple white flag. Then, we'll show how to add symbols (applique) and sew stripes, which are a common feature in flags. You can then combine these techniques to create any flag under the sun!

Disclaimer: If you have no need of flag-related tutorials, flip through to page 6.

How to sew a basic flag

Here are two methods for sewing a flag.

The first method will create a one-sided flag so will only work with certain designs (e.g. solid colour with maybe a small symbol if necessary).

The second method is suitable for stripes, symbols- anything. It makes 2 sides and is extremely easy, but uses twice as much fabric (fabric conservation is pretty much the only reason to use Method 1).

Method 1

Take your piece of fabric and draw onto it the size, shape and dimensions that you want the finished flag to have onto it. If you want somewhere to add a pole/flagpole through, you need to add enough to the length of the flag to have a tube on the end of the flag and not end up with a short, squat square.

Then, roughly cut this out leaving a 5cm margin around the lines you've drawn. Now, fold over the sides of the flag so that on one side you cannot see any rough edges. This will be your side that you display.

Now, iron the folds (or sew them very loosely together) so that they stay.

Flip back to the 'ugly' side of the flag and then fold over the edges again, so that the original rough edges are completely hidden on both sides.

Iron these again, and then (properly, with a sewing machine) sew over the double-folded edges so that they stay in place. You should now have a flag that on one side is 'framed' by fold, and on the other completely plain. If you have a small symbol to add, add it now to the plain, 'display side' (see below for help). If you wanted somewhere to add a pole/flagpole through, take the extra fabric (see above) and fold it over, leaving enough room in the fold/tube for the size of pole you want. Sew this extremely strongly, and your flag is finished.

Method 2

This method will work with any number of colours, stripes and design added onto it. It is two-sided, so whatever you want to add on beyond the basic horizontal/vertical stripes (stripes of other angles must be added using a different method) or symbols must be duplicated and possibly mirrored.

Again, draw out your desired flag size, and again, add extra length to sew a tube if you wish to add a pole to your flag. This time however, duplicate your 'template', so that you end up with two pieces of

soon-to-be flag drawn onto your larger, original piece of fabric. Roughly cut out these pieces, this time leaving a 1.5 cm margin around the whole thing. Make sure you can see the lines on which you've drawn the size, as we will be sewing these in a minute.

Quick tip:
Iron all fabric before cutting and sewing it. This ensures you don't end up with wonky edges.

Now, add the design onto each piece of fabric. Mirror if needed. Make sure to add the design on the side of the fabric which **does not** have the sewing guidelines on (see below for advice).

After this, place the two pieces of fabric with the design together, so that the lines you drew earlier are facing outward. Then, sew the pieces of fabric together using these lines (you may wish to loosely sew or 'tack' the fabric together in a different colour to stop the flag fabric sliding). You may use a machine or do it by hand.

HOWEVER

Leave the design-less strip of fabric (which will form the tube for the pole) and do not sew that side closed. If you aren't leaving fabric for a tube, just leave one of the shorter edges unsewn.

Now, you should have your unsewn margin with rough edges. Trim this closer so that you

Now, turn it inside-out. You should have a flag have only a 5mm margin.

Here is how to deal with the corners:



Cut on the red line to ensure crisp flag edges. The lighter grey is the fabric outside the sewn line and the darker fabric is inside

Now, take your unsewn edge and fold it over once (Like in Method 1, above). Tack or iron the edge. Instead of the second fold in Method 1, we are going to create the tube for the flag. Sew it up and then it's finished. Voila!

Images (for reference): Method 1



Here's my piece of fabric (Method 1) ready to be drawn on.



Diagram to show where to draw the end flag size and how large to estimate the margins.

Turn the flag inside-out again so that the rough edges are again visible, and then take care of the edges. Turn inside-out again.

Adding Symbols

There are 3 main methods of adding symbols to fabric that we could use:

- Applique- which can be used in a variety of ways, such as transferring an image onto fabric and then adding the fabric onto the flag, embroidering a symbol (i.e. flag patches or scout patches) or simply layering fabric together.
- 'Drawing on' the image (with fabric paints or plain old marker)

Image Transfer

Today, I'm transferring the image of my personal crest onto a piece of black fabric to add to a piece of clothing. For this, you'll need an image, a printer, some fabric transfer paper (craft stockists and computer paper stockists sell this) and the fabric you want to transfer to. First off, look at the instructions on your paper. Does it call for you to print a mirror image? Does the image air-dry, or need to be ironed onto the fabric? Does it need to be washed? Soaked? Sponged? Take care to follow instructions. The paper I use doesn't need a mirror image.

After printing the image as per instructions, cut it out. Again, follow instructions. When adding to your fabric, again, follow the instructions. Now, your symbol's all ready to be used- to be appliqued onto a flag, added onto clothing, or made into a badge.



Here is the image I've printed out (using fabric transfer paper) ready to be ironed on the fabric.

- Image Transfer (printing an image onto special paper and transferring it on).

Of course, these methods aren't set in stone, and you can again combine each method with others how you choose.

Today, I'm going to take you through;

- Transferring images onto fabric (for complicated or very colourful images- e.g. the rainbow-coloured tiger)
- Drawing and painting on fabric
- and adding plain fabric onto your first fabric (in this case, a flag).

Drawing or painting onto fabric

Acrylic fabric paints are perfect for flags, as they are waterproof once dry and- because of the acrylic, plastic nature- work more as a dye than a surface coat of paint. However, they can be expensive, and so I recommend only purchasing the primary colours. Mixing can achieve a wide spectrum of these colours, and with the addition of white and black paints, you can have a variety of tints and tones as well.

First off, draw the design onto the fabric with pencil (white fabric) or chalk/tailor's chalk (black fabric). This will help you to decide the design boundaries and lines. Next, taking a thin brush, start painting.

Make sure to divide the design into small areas whilst painting. Acrylic fabric paint (again, due to its dye-like nature) is hard to spread, so don't start with a big blob of paint on the flag and work outwards.

Once it's done, leave it to dry.

Finished!



Now that the image has transferred onto the fabric, I've roughly cut it out ready to sew it on.

How to sew the transferred/painted fabric onto your flag



Here's the finished image added onto the garment. I stuck this to the blazer fabric using Bondaweb, but I also sewed loosely ('tacked') it first for placement. I now only need to remove the loose stitches and then it's all done.

After leaving your fabric with the transferred image to dry for a few minutes, roughly cut it out from the main piece of fabric, leaving at least a 2cm border around it.

Then, tuck the edges of the rest of the roughly-cut fabric under the fabric with the transferred image on it. You can either tuck the fabric completely under, or leave a thin border (see Figure 3), which is recommended. Sew this lightly and then afterward cut off excess fabric.

Take the image to an iron, and lay the fabric with the transferred image facing upward. Cover this with a cloth and then iron.

You can now affix with Bondaweb, fabric glue, or sewing (if you wish to sew it, make sure to do the loose sewing or 'tacking' in a different colour to the stitching you use to attach the transfer so as not to get mixed up when you cut the tacking off later).

This technique can be used for adding designs to other garments (flag patches, etc) or just for adding complicated, many-coloured designs to flags. For those not handy with a paintbrush or embroidery, this is a brilliant solution.

Government and Diplomacy; Interviews with an informal ruler

Interview with Kyng Fyrst

Kyng Fyrst (of the Slinky Empyre) has never been one to follow the rules. From conversing almost exclusively in Slin-English, to only forming informal friendships between their nation and others instead of using formal treaties in diplomacy, Kyng Fyrst has always done things his way- and done them well.

Kyng Fyrst- what inspired your stance on Foreign Relations and Diplomacy?

Do you feel that your Governmental choice- Slinky Parliamentary Monarchy- works well for

I believed that if one was to start a micronation, it should be likeable and be a friend of other likeable micronations. I remembered an ancient proverb: "A man that has friends must show himself friendly." Once the Slinky Empyre went public, I sent friendship requests to as many nice micronations (including the lovely Bokonton) as I could find. I chose to make Slinky diplomacy informal because I wouldn't want nations to feel required to help each other in times of need just because they signed a piece of paper; rather, they should want to help each other.

And the Slin-English language- where did that come from?

Actually, it's spelled with a *y*: "Slin-Englysh". Don't worry; it happens all the *tyme*. ;)

To make the Slinky Empyre unique, I decided to do something that hadn't been done in micronationalism before. "There's American English, British English, and Australian English," I thought. "Why not Slin-Englysh?" I first changed all the *i*'s to *y*'s, then made a few exceptions, which are still in use today, to make it easier to read; for example, leaving the *i* after an *l*. Leaving the pronunciation the same was another great quality.

Why did you decide to make it so different to the usual, conlang-based micronational languages?

When gathering ideas for my new micronation, I did not want the task of constructing a new language. Thousands of words would have to be created, along with learning how to speak it and read it. I also considered designing an alphabet, but it would have been terribly difficult to produce on documents or a website.

I understand that it's one of the most used micronational languages (apart from maybe Talossan), mostly due to the ease of use. How does this make you feel?

you?

I believe the fruit of the "parliamentary monarchy" will be seen more as the nation grows, which is why I am looking into ways to help the Slinky Empyre mature.

Why?

Without going too far into politics, the Empyre's government is a mix of what I think are the best parts of democracy, monarchy, socialism, anarchy, and a federal republic. The result, a "parliamentary monarchy", has the goal of letting one person, the Kyng or Queen, rule the nation in a way that is acceptable to the people. This way, candidates for Kyng or Queen must keep their promises, reducing corruption. The Slinky Empyre (when it is older) would then be a nation that has a good government along with happy citizens: the ideal country.

Last few Questions...

What are your goals for the coming year?

My main goal is finding people who are interested in joining the Empyre, and then inviting them to get involved. The way I'm planning to work towards this goal in 2010 is by better publicity of the Slinky Empyre, mainly through widely-used websites such as MicroWiki, Twitter, and YouTube. Another main goal is continuing friendly diplomacy with other micronations. Also, another macronational friendship request is planned for June, probably a smaller nation. Denmark didn't reply last year.

What are you working on at the moment?

Right now, a new database section is being added to our official website. Hopefully, it will provide visitors with plenty of interesting and useful information about our country, such as royal and viceroial activities, facts about the departments, and Slinky law.

Thanks for taking the time to let us interview you, Kyng Fyrst.

Yes! Slin-Englysh is probably now one of the easiest micronational languages to learn, read, and use. It has even inspired another micronation's own dialect. When I heard that the Kingdom of Marshall and Nicolas built their own dialect, Kingdom English (it replaces the *s*'s with *m*'s), I was confident that I had made a successful and creative choice in choosing the Empyre's language.

You are most welcome! It has been a pleasure. *Valetido!* :)

And now for some “Proper News”

After clearing up the confusion, we have been accepted into the Organisation for Active Micronations with open arms.

Our thoughts on the OAM:

a brilliant organisation that, although flawed, does what it says on the tin in the fact that it's a healthily active organisation with lots of new members, new blood, and a very active forum. Ideal for somewhat informal relations with other micronations, for discussion and general 'showing-off', too- although the listofmicronations forum that I frequent is very prestigious, with micronations such as Atlantium and Molossia joining in with the conversations, it has the feel almost of “We're big fish, and you're not. You're very mature for someone so awfully small, so you can stay. But- we talk about big fish stuff here. Capiisce?” and so certain discussions and ideas I feel are too much like 'small fish' to be talked (or fried, geddit?) about there. The OAM on the other hand, is a wonderful platform for that sort of thing- and I feel like many ideas can be given free reign with almost instant feedback and gratification in the form of responses to my ideas. For example, I've sent of a new propaganda/informational poster to a member who is participating in a sort of micronational expo. If that isn't useful, I don't know what is! More on this all soon.

On Conference Calls and Other Micronationalists

Last night, I was introduced to the wonders of conference-calling other micronationalists through Skype.

Old people have discovered it (if you don't believe me, look at the Skype ad) yuppies, children, surgeons, boring old farts- the rest of the 'microsphere'.. Everyone but the ruler of Bokonton. For shame.

I must say, I would recommend it purely for the 'real' connections you gain from real-time communication. Chat rooms and forums are wonderful (after all, safety and convenience are big factors), but getting a better sense of who other micronationalists are helps you get a feel of... Not the opposition, but people who are micronationally similar. Instead of having identical angles (forgive me for yet another laboured metaphor, it's late and maths homework calls) we have much the same ideals and values.

The Other BNS

As some people may be members of the popular site Twitter, they may (possibly) know about the Other BNS, the bulletin-sized updates about Bokonton that are delivered via the BNS's account on Twitter.

(if you didn't, we don't blame you – but here's the link.

<http://www.twitter.com/Bokonton>)

We've overhauled the design of the page and are also updating news that is more micronation-based than just site-of-micronation based.

We're hoping that the renovation of all areas of the BNS will help intermicronational relations develop and grow further and further as time goes on.

That's it for the serious stuff this issue, folks!

Quick Note/Shameless Self Promotion: Check my interview in the Egtavian Star, coming up soon.

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T H I S I S S U E S E A S T E R E G G

Which real-world nation was I referring to last issue when I made my Examples?

Answer:

that bollocking has well and truly been delivered, trolls will not be tolerated;

as for declaring war on the entire world;